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Australia injects $6M to establish Centres of Research Excellence

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Probing the impacts of alcohol exposure while pregnant and the use of AI in healthcare



The Australian Government has awarded $6 million to two Centres of Research Excellence (CREs) led by the University of Sydney that will investigate ways to prevent, identify and better manage foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and artificial intelligence-enabled clinical decision support.

Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is a devastating but potentially preventable disorder, resulting from exposure of the unborn child to alcohol. It causes learning, development and behaviour problems with lifelong consequences, including with education, the law, independent living and substance use.

Professor Elizabeth Elliott from the Faculty of Medicine and Health will lead the Centre of Research Excellence in Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD-CRE), while Professor Melissa Baysari from the Faculty of Medicine and Health will lead the Centre of Research Excellence in Human Factors and artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled Clinical Decision Support.

“The CRE in Human Factors and AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support (CDS) will create a paradigm shift in the way AI-enabled CDS is designed, implemented and evaluated, ensuring CDS systems are designed around the capabilities, limitations, needs and preferences of users,” said Professor Baysari.