Embedding Drug and Alcohol Screening into Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Care
Raphael Services

Raphael Services were first established in 2003 and are now available at 18 locations across Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

They provide:

• secondary level specialised mental health (including psychiatric) services to families in the perinatal and

• counselling and support to parents mental health problems in to infertility, prenatal testing or pregnancy loss

• education and support to other relevant services and organisations, including to face-to-face and telehealth consultation
Project Background

Studies of screening and brief intervention for women in the perinatal period who use alcohol and other drugs is very limited in Australia.

Research shows in Australia:

- Approximately 1/3 of pregnant alcohol
- 12% of women smoke during
- 2% of women use illicit drugs when breastfeeding
Why screen

- World Health Organisation recommendations

We can positively influence women's choices about substance use in pregnancy

Inform possible risks

Access to appropriate services

Provide education
Implementation

• Ascertained caregiver knowledge and attitudes
• Developed and delivered a perinatal AoD training program
• Identified referral pathways and develop resources
• Rolled out new enhanced model
• Provided caregiver supervision
• Evaluated client, caregiver and experience
• Built sustainability
The reality
Other Activities

• Health professional capacity building
• Developed an interactive perinatal AoD pathway
• Developed an interactive perinatal AoD resource
• Developed a video for GP’s clients about substance period
• Developed an online learning
• Facilitated a national case study review
Questions??