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Winemakers already moving on pregnancy warnings

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia welcomes today's tabling of the House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee's report into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and its focus on the need to provide pregnant women with appropriate information and support.

However, the recommendation for mandatory pregnancy warning labels on alcohol is unnecessary as winemakers are already committed to adopting such labels voluntarily.

"With Government support we have a two-year time frame for adopting appropriate voluntary warnings and most of our larger companies are well advanced," said WFA chief executive Paul Evans.

"In September we also announced a partnership with DrinkWise Australia to combine pregnancy warnings with broader consumer information messages and more than 100 companies have already come on board.

"We recognise that FASD is a serious issue and acknowledge the NHMRC advice that it is safest not to drink alcohol while pregnant."

Mr Evans said he questioned the need for new inquiries into the impacts of current pricing, availability and marketing of alcohol, as recommended by the committee, as much of this work had already been done or was being carried out by the Australian National Preventative Health Agency.

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