

FACT SHEET - Health Care Professionals -

It is important that complete information is shared with prospective parents throughout the prenatal screening process, and what is complete information will differ from patient to patient.





Research has shown that the way in which parents receive news about unexpected findings can have implications for their immediate and longerterm psychological wellbeing.

Where communication is poor or there are delays in receiving information, a sense of mistrust can develop towards the health system and the relationship between the prospective parent and health care provider can be undermined (ASUM, 2020).

Possible Phrases and Terminology:

- When discussing results use terminology such as anomaly, difference and variation.
- We've just received your prenatal screening results and there have been some unexpected findings. I was hoping you could come into the clinic so we could talk about what the results mean.
 Would you like to bring in a support person?



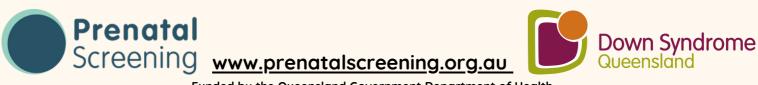
- I am here to make sure you have the information and the care you need. I will support you and give you the time you need to make decisions that are right for you and your family.
- The results of these tests alone indicate the probability or chance of some fetal chromosomal conditions but nothing else.
- I can give you information from a clinical perspective about Down syndrome (or another condition) but my understanding of the lived experience of people with Down syndrome is limited.
- People often find it useful to connect with people who have lived experience of Down syndrome (or another condition). If this is something you are interested in, I can refer you to Down Syndrome Queensland (or another diagnosis specific group).

https://prenatalscreening.org.au/support/

References

Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine. (2022). Parent-centred communication in obstetric ultrasound – ASUM Guidelines. <u>http://www.asum.com.au/files/public/SoP/curver/ObsGynae/Parent-</u> <u>centred-communication-in-obstetricultrasound.pdf</u>

Down Syndrome Queensland. (2022). Practice Resource – Prenatal Screening for Chromosomal Conditions including Down syndrome. <u>https://prenatalscreening.org.au/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2022/08/Prenatal-Screening-Practice-Resource.pdf</u>



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