



## **FASD-CAN**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder  
Care Action Network

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### **AUGUST NEWS**

#### **Latest updates from FASD-CAN**

Kia ora Kath

FASD Awareness Day on September 9 is now just over one month away! I'm hearing of events being planned across the motu – from gatherings of caregivers sharing time together, to health professionals wanting to spread the word about being FASD-informed in health practice. However you will acknowledge the day, please join us for two special online FASD-CAN events, one in the morning and one in the evening on 09/09. More details are below – along with our FASD Awareness Day resources.

We are enormously grateful to all of you who have contributed to our recent focus groups, whether online or kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face). It has been an honour to hear your stories, views, needs and wishes for lessening your daily challenges, as well as witnessing the inspiring potential of our rangatahi with FASD. It's also been heartening meeting the champions amongst you, who have shared your passion for better support for all those with FASD.

There are a few final opportunities to contribute to this mahi – including a new online feedback session for professionals, too (from requests), so check out the new date below. Once the meetings are done, we'll be working to combine all your insights into a report, due at the end of August, for Manatū Hauora, the Ministry of Health – you'll hear more about this at our FASD Awareness Day webinar on September 9.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Stephanie**

**FASD-CAN CEO**

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## Last chances to have your say on the future of FASD in Aotearoa



We still have a few discussion sessions left – we want to know what you think has to happen now and in the future so people with FASD, their caregivers and whānau can be better recognised and supported.

- **Thursday August 8**, 7pm – tomorrow! – our last ONLINE caregiver session – [Zoom link](#)
- **Tuesday August 13**, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland from 7pm, in-person session – join us for dessert and discussion.
- **Thursday August 15**, 7pm – our last ONLINE professionals session – [Zoom link](#)

[Click here](#) for all information, including some background reading.

NOTE: As an alternative (or in addition) to attending any of the above sessions, you could fill in the Ministry of Health's Survey online – [click here](#).

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**FASD Awareness Day 09/09**



There's just a month to go until FASD Awareness Day on September 9 – and we have news of two special FASD-CAN events to mark the day (see below).

[Head over to our FASD Awareness Day resources page](#) to download a list of other great events happening around the motu, along with our 'I Hope' social media tiles and our [FASD quiz](#) with lots of FASD facts – why not make a plan to run this at your workplace or event on the 9th?

There's also a list of buildings and monuments lighting up in red around the country, (with a template letter to ask your own council if they will light something up), a link to our graphic info sheets, and a template letter to your MP.

### **NEW! FASD-CAN'S SPECIAL FASD AWARENESS DAY EVENTS – 09/09**

#### **• Action for FASD – ONLINE 10am**

Join Russell Wills (paediatrician and previous Children's Commissioner) facilitating a panel discussion with a group of FASD champions from various sectors who will share their hopes for the revitalised FASD Action Plan mahi. We'll find out how the team from the Ministry of Health have been contributing to this work – and Minister Shane Reti will open our time together. This event will be a full and frank conversation of great interest to caregivers, whānau, individuals, and professionals.

[Click here](#) to register for your Zoom link.

#### **• The Importance of Hope – ONLINE 7:30pm**

A number of our members have recorded video messages of hope for the future of FASD in Aotearoa. Join us to watch to them in a shorter session as we reflect on this important day. Our Patron Judge Tony Fitzgerald, Kelly Peterson-Teariki (Tumu Whakarae/CEO) of Mana Inc. and our Board Chair Dr Leigh Henderson will share some of their insights.

[Click here](#) to register for your Zoom link.

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### **FASD-CAN on film: boot camps and the police**



In July, FASD-CAN was involved in a documentary on why the government's boot camps for young offenders will not work for those with FASD. With input from Dr Leigh Henderson (FASD-CAN Chair), Teowai Te Moana-Clayton (a rangatahi with FASD) and her whānau, it looks at the evidence of previous bootcamps, alongside the mahi of community organisations working with young offenders – many of which have better rates of avoiding youth re-offending.

Read the [RNZ article here](#), watch the trailer and find the full doco on TVNZ+.

- FASD-CAN is also currently working with the NZ Police to produce a short video for their intranet for FASD Awareness Day. It'll feature the words of some of our people with FASD on what they would like people to know about FASD – as always, we know lived experience is all important.

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### **Changes to our Constitution**

As an Incorporated Society, our Constitution is our rulebook – it lays out how we must go about our mahi in all kinds of circumstances. But now, due to a law change, we are required to change some of the content – and our Board must consult with you, our members, about our new draft Constitution.

Please [click here to find out why](#), and to compare our current and draft new Constitution. We'd love it if you could find a moment to let us know your

thoughts – email us at [admin@fasd-can.org.nz](mailto:admin@fasd-can.org.nz) – you can say as much or as little as you like. We'll need to ratify the new constitution at our Annual General Meeting. **Deadline: 26 August.**

### **FASD-CAN Annual General Meeting 2024**

This is our first notice that our AGM will be online on **November 9** (a Saturday afternoon) at 4pm – we're aiming to stick to just 30 minutes. We hope all kids sports will have finished for the day by 4pm, so you might have time to join us! We do require a minimum number of members to attend, so please [click here to register](#).

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### **Upcoming events**

Some essential events are stacking up for the rest of 2024.

- **FASD Diagnostic Guidelines webinar – Hapai te Hauora**

*Wednesday 14 August, 6pm ONLINE / FREE*

Join Hapai te Hauora on August 14 at 6pm online, for a webinar to learn about the Whakakotahitanga [FASD Diagnostic Guidelines for Aotearoa](#). Meet the team who helped design the guidelines, understand the purpose of them, and find out who will benefit.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

- **IDP3 for our rangatahi and adults with FASD (16+)**

*Friday 13 – Sunday 15 September 2024*

Are you a parent, caregiver or whānau member with a teen or young adult at home? Could they do with a boost to their self-confidence with a group of new friends who really understand them? Then bring them to a weekend event on the beautiful Waikanae coast north of Wellington, with lots of fun activities planned where they (and you) will engage with others who 'get it'. All expenses paid, and no FASD diagnosis needed. It's an opportunity to build self-worth, skills and connections which, for some of our rangatahi, have been life-changing.

[Click here](#) for more info and to register – strictly limited places available.

- **FASD Symposium 2024, Tāmaki Makaurau**

*Wednesday / Thursday 25 & 26 September – FREE*

The flagship September event: a two-day FASD Symposium which will aim to present the latest global research to an audience of policy advisors, decision-makers and health leaders working in FASD. Caregivers, parents and whānau will also find plenty to interest them in the fantastic programme, which will capitalise on the energy in the sector since the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti's announcement in April outlining upcoming action on FASD.

[Click here](#) for more info and to register.

- **FASD Hub Australia Webinar for Social Workers**

*Tuesday 27 August, 12pm-1pm ONLINE / FREE*

Social workers play a critical role in supporting people with FASD and their whānau. In this webinar from Australia's FASD Hub, you will hear from three experts in FASD and the role that social workers play in the assessment, diagnosis and ongoing management of FASD. This webinar is a must for social workers looking to become more FASD-informed.

[Click here](#) to register.

- **FASD PD for the Disability and Mental Health Workforce**

**Hosted by Te Pou, presented by FASD-CAN**

*November 14, 10am-12pm ONLINE / FREE*

This interactive workshop presented by FASD-CAN's Kim Milne and Dr Leigh Henderson will be aimed at professionals in the disability and mental health workforce. Essential knowledge about FASD, best-practice approaches and strategies to support individuals with FASD achieve healthy life outcomes.

[Click here](#) to register.

And finally...

- **FASD-CAN's regular online groups – upcoming meeting dates**

- [Ngā Tupu Rau](#) online group for educators – 4pm, 13 August

The learning that's happening in our educator training course often finds its way into our online educators group, Ngā Tupu Rau. In our last training session, we heard from kaiako / teachers who are actually doing the mahi with FASD ākonga, sharing their tips and tricks for success. Come along to NTR to join in this learning opportunity. Join us at any time!

- [LANSAS](#) online group for social workers and support workers – 4pm, August 27

This month we have two wonderful FASD-informed social workers discussing the subject 'When it all goes wrong, where do you start?!' You'll want to hear what Jayne King and Cat Ward have to say... [click here](#) to download a pānui to share with colleagues. Join this great group at any time – nau mai, haere mai!

- [Online Caregiver Support Group](#) – 12:30pm, September 5

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If you feel like we're doing a good job please do consider [donating](#) to FASD-CAN if you're able to. Whether a one-off or small monthly payment – every bit helps!

**Mauri ora**

**Your FASD-CAN Team**

Stay in the know about FASD in Aotearoa. If you've been sent this email by someone else, please join us as a member to receive newsletters!

If you would like to donate to FASD-CAN, to help us in our mahi, [click here](#) to go to our donation page.

[JOIN FASD-CAN](#)



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