



**FASD-CAN**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder  
Care Action Network

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**APRIL 2024**

# Latest updates from FASD-CAN

*A message from our CEO, Stephanie James-Sadler.*

Kia ora koutou

I'm looking forward to attending The FASD Forum 2024 coming up on May 3/4 – it's a great programme and I love that they have reduced the cost hugely for caregivers, too. It's online, so I can watch it from the comfort of my own home.

A number of upcoming FASD-CAN events and learning opportunities are online, too. Do you know about our webinars? They occur every second month in 2024 – check out the info below about our May webinar with Anna.

We have you at the forefront of our minds when planning content for these. We hope they provide some support, learning and connection for you, because of the amazing role you play in improving the lives of those living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Aotearoa.

In a world where technology has helped us access the global sharing of information, I hope you gain benefit from these learning opportunities, in the comfort of *your* own home.

I've been drawn to this whakatauki (saying) throughout the learning journeys in my life and hope it might guide you as it has me: 'Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou'. Seek knowledge for the sake of your wellbeing.

*Ngā manaakitanga*  
*Stephanie*



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## **New Caregiver Support Groups: Central North and Deep South**

We have two brand-new kanohi ki te kanohi / face to face Caregiver Support Groups ready to go this month. Ebony Wood and Morvern Duncan will be hosting one for the Reitihi-Ruapehu-Ohakune region, and Margaret Hemopo is hosting in Ōtepoti / Dunedin. All three are caregivers with living experience of caring for tamariki and rangatahi with FASD.

[Click here](#) to find out more about these new groups – and get in touch if you're keen to catch up with others in your area who 'get it' .

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## **FASD-CAN's youth leaders – a weekend of confidence-building**



In early March, some of our rangatahi / young people with FASD attended a weekend in Pōneke / Wellington as part of our ongoing mahi to help them find their own voices for self-advocacy. First was a [PATH \(Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope\)](#) facilitation day, which helped them to map their strengths and hopes for the future, then a creative day, screen-printing our logos onto tee shirts and bags (their idea, to raise awareness of FASD). The weekend gave our

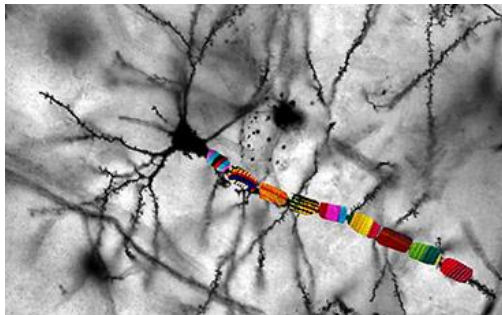
budding FASD leaders a chance to try out their organisational and mentoring skills. We're very proud of them all. Read more [here](#).

### **Our youth leader in Seattle**

One of our youth leaders, Byron, has appeared in the last week in a short virtual presentation for the [9<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD](#) in Seattle. He was speaking about the development of the voices of those with FASD in Aotearoa. It has been a privilege to support Byron's mahi in this area.

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### **Webinar: Trying Differently Rather Than Harder – May 7**



Registrants for this webinar are now nearing 200, and it's easy to see why. Anna Gundesen will be sharing a brain-based approach to enable parents and professionals to understand why traditional behavioural techniques don't work for tamariki and rangatahi with FASD. It also addresses the stresses and frustration which can occur in this scenario – and offers new approaches for everyone.

[Click here](#) to find out more and register.

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### **FASD-CAN at the FASD Forum Australia**

Our Chairperson, Leigh Henderson, will be a presenter at the upcoming FASD Forum hosted by NOFASD Australia as part of 'Around the World in 40 minutes – a Showcase of Global FASD Developments'.

Do you have your tickets yet? The special early bird price is no longer available, but for caregivers it's still just \$70AUD. All sessions are recorded, and your registration gets you access to these for 90 days. Check it out [here](#).

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## Excellence in Foster Care Awards winners



We'd like to celebrate our wonderful FASD-CAN members Margaret and Phillip Hemopo, who were one of ten winners at these awards held by Caring Families Aotearoa last month – [click here](#) to find out more. And as previously mentioned, if you are in Dunedin, Margaret (left) will be facilitating one of our new [Caregiver Support Groups](#) in the Green Island area...

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## Life with FASD: Understand and Connect with Aroha – Friday and Saturday 17/18 May



A free, two-day wananga / training course for parents and caregivers, whānau and grandparents caring for someone with FASD (diagnosis not required).

The Papakura Marae, south of Tāmaki Makaurau, are extending their wonderful manaakitanga / hospitality in supporting this training, and it includes an opportunity to take part in a noho marae (staying the night on the marae). Only a few places are still available, so be quick!

[Click here](#) to find out more and register for this special training event.

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## Part-time admin star required at FASD-CAN!



Would you like to come and work for FASD-CAN? We have a fixed-term, part-time administrator contract available – and you can work from home.

We're looking to cover six-months of maternity leave for our fabulous administrator Paige – 13 hours a week, from mid-June to 20th December 2024. We'll need you to do a bit of everything, from general secretarial support for our busy executives, to booking flights and running Zoom webinars. You'll learn about the role from Paige – and you'll be enormously appreciated by our friendly team!

[Click here](#) to find out more about the role and apply.

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### **FASD-CAN online group dates coming up**

- LANSAS (Support Workers and Social Workers Group) – 30 April at 4pm
- Online Caregiver Support Group – 2 May at 12.30 pm
- Kete into Practice (Online Educators 12-module training) – 9 May at 3.30pm. You are still welcome to register for this
- Ngā Tupu Rau (Online Educators Group) – 14 May 4pm

All information and registration for these groups are on our [events page](#).

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### **UNCRPD in Aotearoa**

The recent review of New Zealand's compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is a complex subject – but it's important. Luckily, our Principal Advisor Kim Milne has unpacked it for us and written a round-up of how it may specifically affect those with FASD and their whānau.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Thanks for reading – as you can see, there's a lot happening. There's always more we'd love to bring you however, but haven't the funding to do

so. If you are able, we're grateful for any donation. [Click here](#) to help us in our mahi of helping others!

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.

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