



FASD-CAN

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Care Action Network

MAY 2024

Latest updates from FASD-CAN



Kia ora Kath

Leigh Henderson (Chair of FASD-CAN) and I have recently had opportunities to be more visible in our advocacy. We've met with Members of Parliament, senior officials and others of influence to advocate for better awareness of FASD. These are the people who have the potential to change policy.

We also met with the Children's Commissioner who, along with her team and Byron (our Changemaker, above centre) had a good discussion on how she may be able to help us remove barriers so children and rangatahi with FASD can flourish.

Our hui with Health Minister Dr Shane Reti was productive and was followed by the well-documented announcements to the media at Papakura Marae on April 26. Dr Reti announced his government's five-point plan to a group at Papakura Marae – Leigh, FASD-CAN board member Gilbert Taurua and Navigator Anna Gundesen were there, as well as some of our members. It was good to see Leigh on TVNZ One News that evening. [Read more here](#) about the announcements and media coverage.

After our meeting with National MP James Meager (Chair of the Justice Select Committee currently considering the 'Ram Raiders' bill), he posted a

photo (above right) to his Facebook page. He was very interested in the disproportionate number of rangatahi in the criminal justice system with FASD.

Side note: James Meager had FASD brought to his attention by a FASD-CAN member in his constituency. This shows we can all be advocates for FASD, and we'd love to see all influential MPs within Cabinet or select committees become more aware of it. Please consider use our easy [email template](#) to get in touch with your own MPs.

Finally, this Sunday is Mother's Day. For all of you who have taken on the mothering role in your whānau, I hope you're able to have some time filling your own cup. Thanks for all the wonderful things you do to make your whānau and homes be the best they can be.

Ngā manaakitanga
Stephanie

New Webinar: Caregivers Coping with Violence and Abuse

16 July, 7.30pm

Our July webinar has a sobering subject but a necessary one – research shows these challenges are widespread but often hidden within whānau.

Professor Anita Gibbs (fresh from presenting a similar session at the NOFASD Conference last week) will present definitions of child to parent violence and abuse, discuss the impacts and strategies for caregivers, then drawing from her own living experience, look at what caregivers would like professionals to know. Lee Tempest will talk about the systemic failure of policies and services for rangatahi with FASD and her search for interventions.

There will be time for questions at the end of the webinar. [Click here](#) to find out more and register.

New Pizza Club Friday 21 June



The next Friday Pizza Club event in Auckland for over 16-year-olds with FASD is on the way in June, hosted by the FASD Centre Aotearoa and FASD-CAN. Pizza is provided and after dinner the group will go bowling nearby – it's all free! Caregivers or support people are welcome. Our Pizza Club has been building up a group of great friends who are very keen to welcome others.

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

Launching our new rangatahi video series



We asked some of our rangatahi / young people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder a question:



'What's one thing you wish people knew about FASD?'



The beginning of Pizza Club over a year ago was the spark for FASD-CAN's Individuals Development Programme (IDP) – our rangatahi wanted help to begin advocating for themselves.

The first step for them was getting together, finding others who they could relate to and making friends, and now we have a growing group of young people who are keen to raise awareness about FASD. At a weekend in Wellington in March, we filmed some of them taking that first step.

[Click here](#) to see the first video where they'll answer the question: "What's one thing you wish people knew about FASD?"

Whāraurau Training: FASD and Mental Health, Substance Use and Addictions – June 6

FASD-CAN has been requested by Whāraurau (the national centre for Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ICAMH) to facilitate an online FASD National Training Day for their mental health and addictions workforce.

This important Zui will be essential for all professionals working in the mental health and addiction sectors, as well as individuals and whānau affected by these issues. We'll hear from international and local experts, and from young people in Aotearoa with FASD and their whānau who have living experience of mental health and addictions.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights into challenges which affect so many of our FASD whānau. [Click here](#) to register directly with Whāraurau.

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.

Common Messaging Update



The language we use is important!

Subtle differences in wording can make a big difference to those with FASD. For example, replacing the words 'social cost' with 'social investment' turns supporting those with FASD into the positive contribution it should be, rather than a burden. Canada's 'Common Messaging Guide' endeavours to give some global continuity to the language used around FASD, especially for professionals. See the updated 2024 Guide [here](#).

FASD-CAN online group dates coming up

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

- Online Caregiver Support Group – 30 May at 12.30 pm
- Ngā Tupu Rau (Online Educators Group) – 14 May at 4pm

Don't forget our in-person, kānohi ke te kanohi [caregiver groups around the motu](#), especially our brand new ones in Ōhakune and Ōtepoti/Dunedin!

Would you like to donate to FASD-CAN?

If you'd like to support us in our mahi, it's easy! Help our training, education, advocacy and support go further by making a tax-deductible donation – one-off or even monthly. If you can please [donate here](#).

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.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#)! You can also apply to join our [Professionals](#) or [Caregivers](#) Facebook Support Groups (you'll need to become a member first).

[JOIN FASD-CAN](#)

