

October 2023 updates from FASD-CAN

The FASD-CAN Hui 2023



The FASD-CAN Hui on September 9 was a chance for caregivers, whānau, professionals and individuals with FASD to upskill and connect with others. The overwhelming majority reported feeling better informed, inspired, more connected with others and better able to support those with FASD within their own lives, whether personal or professional. [Click here](#) to access the recordings of sessions, to take a look back at the Hui and read some recent feedback.

Caregiver training in Whakatū / Nelson

FASD-CAN has a new 'Life with FASD: Understand and Connect with Aroha' caregiver training coming up in Whakatū / Nelson, in association with Whakatū Te Korowai Manaakitanga Trust. The training will run over Friday and Saturday, November 10/11 at the Greenmeadows Centre in Stoke. As with other trainings, spaces are limited to 25, so if you're in the area, be quick to find out more and [register here](#).

'Kete into Practice' 2024 – expressions of interest

FASD-CAN's educator training course has now wound up for the year, and they are now asking for expressions of interest for this training to run again in 2024. They had extremely positive feedback, but one said it all: "If only I knew what I know now years ago..." [Click here](#) for more information and to register your interest.

FASD wallet cards



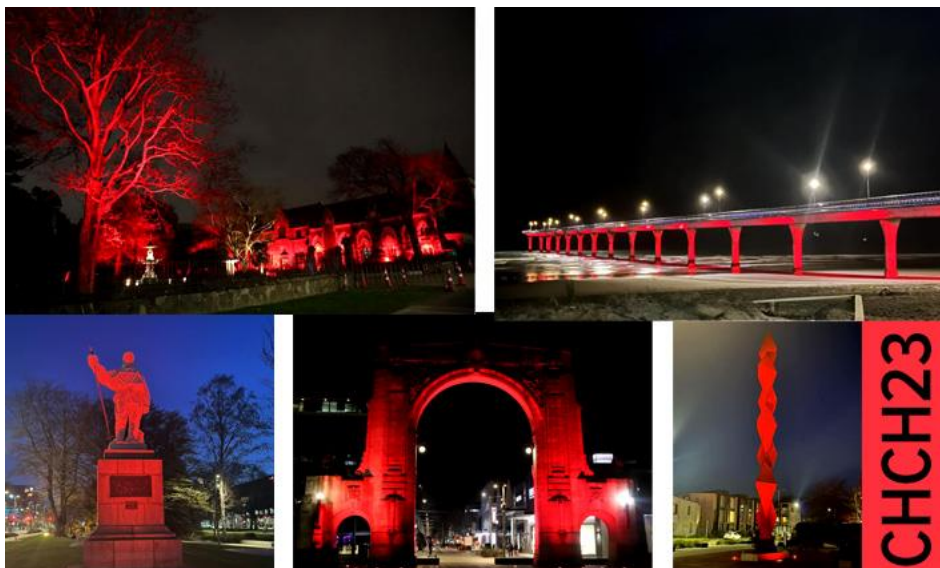
FASD-CAN has launched some new wallet cards. There are two sets of cards, for people with FASD and their caregivers or whānau.

People with FASD may find themselves in situations where it's hard to communicate clearly and being able to hand a card to someone nearby could be helpful. There's one for general public scenarios, one for medical situations and one for possible interactions with police.

For caregivers and whānau there are two cards for potential public meltdowns – one asking people to avoid well-meaning interventions that could make things worse, and one asking for help. A third card gives some basic information about FASD and directs interested people to the FASD-CAN website to find out more.

[Click here](#) for further info and to download and print the cards.

FASD Awareness Month 2023



FASD had a wonderful win with Ōtautahi / Christchurch being the first city in Aotearoa to mark FASD Awareness Day by lighting up city landmarks in red over Friday and Saturday 8/9 September (thanks to FASD-CAN member Rachel Bannister for these pics). In Te Tai Tokerau / Northland, four FASD wananga were run across the region, and around the motu, many other initiatives were run in offices, schools – and around dinner tables.

FASDmonth.nz ran a special 'I wish' campaign for 2023. The results are now online on the [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#) – and you can still [submit your wishes here](#) on the FASDmonth.nz website.

However, there's one more thing you can still do before the election to raise awareness for FASD – write a letter to your MP! FASD-CAN has an email template and easy instructions on finding your local MPs and their email addresses. Give it a go [on this link](#).

IHC Inclusive Education Campaign

On September 19, IHC launched a national campaign about the importance of inclusive education. They rallied 65 other organisations, to stand beside them. [Read more about this campaign here.](#)

This Friday October 6, from 6pm-7pm, IHC will host a political forum for education leaders of the main parties. Each party will speak for five minutes on their plans to build an education system that works for all ākongā.

[Click here](#) for the flyer about the forum, and to attend via Zoom.

Update: Eligibility for Disability Support Services

The exclusion from eligibility for Disability Support Services (DSS) for most of those with FASD in Aotearoa (apart from those with an intellectual disability) has been a source of considerable grievance for whānau. It's long been a focus of advocacy by FASD-CAN and others to redress this inequity.

With the formation of Whaikaha, the Ministry for Disabled People, it looked hopeful that this situation would change. And indeed, the review of eligibility for DSS is on the agenda at Whaikaha and currently at the scoping stage. Their current approach is to review the eligibility of a range of disabilities and health conditions by identifying gaps in groups who are unable to access DSS, and considering the impact that accessing DSS would have on those with these disabilities.

The review work is expected to take at least 18 months to complete. FASD-CAN is participating in this mahi, whilst continuing to stress that this timescale will leave many families in distress and without support.

Mauri ora
The FASD-CAN Team