



FASD-CAN Inc

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder-Care Action Network

There has been significant development in diagnostic capacity of FASD in New Zealand in recent years. After many years of handling phone calls from frustrated families, Christine Rogan from Alcohol Healthwatch spearheaded an initiative to train several multi-disciplinary assessment teams throughout the country. Of course, the outcome of providing a diagnostic service means that there are a growing number of families and caregivers who now know what they are dealing with. From this ground-swell came the idea to form a parent network to provide support for those caring for and living with this disability.

In June 2013, with the energy of a few passionate parents and professionals behind it, FASD-CAN Inc was born. FASD-CAN is a non-profit organisation with the primary objective to unite caregivers, strengthen families, support individuals and educate about FASD across our communities.

FASD-CAN aims to provide an informed circle of care and although the organisation is still in its infancy, its long term vision includes things such as:

- Development of a web site and online communication.
- Development of New Zealand based FASD resources.
- Provide training by specialists and parents across the community including focus areas such as education, justice, health, independent living and employment.
- Provide parent workshops/seminars.
- Strengthen international connections and learning opportunities.

These ideas all require funding, some of which will come from the nominal annual membership fee of \$30.00, donations and fund raising efforts. We are hopeful of also securing funding for specific events through grants.

The symbol chosen to represent FASD-CAN is a Manaia Koru, signifying strength and wisdom, hope and growth. To raise funds a hand carved pendant as depicted can be purchased for \$55.00.

We welcome parents of all descriptions be they foster parents, adoptive parents, guardians, birth parents, grandparents, caregivers and extended family/whanau. Those families who suspect their loved one is affected by FASD but are undiagnosed are welcome. FASD-CAN also encourages the membership and input of professionals working with children and youth – Paediatricians, Psychologists, Therapists, Social Workers, Police, Teachers, Special Educators – this list is limitless.

If you would like to join our organisation and help contribute to its success, then send your request for an application form through to Tracey Jongens, Secretary: mtna@clear.net.nz.

If you require more information then please contact Claire Gyde, Chairperson: gyde4@xtra.co.nz.

With shared strength, guidance and wisdom those with FASD CAN grow and achieve