**From:** Christine Rogan   
**Sent:** 3 March 2015 3:54 p.m.  
**To:** fannz  
**Subject:** FASD Update 2015

Kia ora FANNZ

I hope you all managed to get a break away to relax and enjoy summer.  Here is the latest FANNZ FASD update

**Events**

**Privy Council Decision for Taina Pora Due today**

At 10pm NZ time (9.00am in London), the Privy Council will make public their decision in the Taina Pora appeal against his murder conviction that saw him imprisoned for 20 years.  His appeal to the Privy Council was on the basis of a substantial miscarriage of justice and new evidence including that Mr Pora suffers from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.  The proceedings will be streamed live tonight on the internet.  Click <https://www.jcpc.uk/live/court-03.html> to view.

**FASD Caregiver Support Group**

*FASD-CAN* in conjunction with, *aDapt* Family Solutions, are hosting a regional FASD Carer Support Group which will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month in 2015.  The purpose is to build connections and information for those living with FASD or suspect their child has FASD but may not have a formal diagnosis.

Details for the meeting are:

**Venue**: Hibiscus Coast Youth Centre

**Time:** 7-9pm every third Tues of the month

**Cost: FREE** – Tea/Coffee/Biscuits provided.

For further information please contact  Lee Tempest 021 176 8220  or Paula Atherley-Downing 021318879.

**Nelson Bays RTLBs Presents**

***Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Why the need to understand the disability?***

Guest presenters are Neuropsychologist Dr Valerie McGinn, FANNZ Coordinator Christine Rogan and RTLB and FASD-CAN Secretary Tracey Jongens

**Time/Venue:** *9-4 Fri 27 March 2015 @ Saxton Sports Stadium.*

**Cost:** *$80.00 per person with morning tea and finger food lunch included -* RSVP ESSENTIAL

**To register**:  [lgordon@motuekasouth.school.nz](mailto:lgordon@motuekasouth.school.nz) or Phone:03 528 7533.

**FASD Justice Forum May 2015**

Planning is underway for an**FASD Justice Forum on the morning of  Tuesday 19th May in Auckland and Friday 22 May in Whangarei**.  Invited guest speaker is West Australian Children’s Magistrate, Judge Catherine Crawford.  Coming directly from visiting services in the USA and Canada, Judge Crawford will share aspects of her investigations into advances being made in this field as well as in Australia and NZ.  She will be joined by local FASD experts.  The Forums will be of particular interest to those working with vulnerable children and adolescents at increased risk of being in trouble with the law.  The time, venue and any cost will be announced shortly.  Meantime you are welcome to forward your expressions of interest in attending to [christine@ahw.org.nz](mailto:christine@ahw.org.nz)

**Today is the Inaugural World Birth Defects Awareness Day**

A network of 12 leading global health organizations had announced the first annual *World Birth Defects Day*, to be observed ***March 3, 2015***. The purpose is to raise awareness about the occurrence of birth defects, develop and implement primary prevention programs, and expand referral and care services for all persons with birth defects. Birth defects, also called congenital anomalies, include conditions such as spina bifida, cleft lip, congenital heart disease, Down Syndrome, hypothyroidism, sickle cell anaemia and many others.  They are present at birth, but may be diagnosed later. Birth defects can be caused by genetic or environmental factors, or by their interaction. Birth defects are a common, costly, and a critical public health challenge.  Birth defects are the leading cause of death in infants and young children and for babies who survive and live with these conditions, birth defects increase their risk for long-term disabilities.

**International FASD Research Action and Resource**

**ADHD referrals turned out to be FASD**

A USA study of 156 children referred to a Paediatric service found that 80% that were referred for ADHD assessment had not been screened for prenatal alcohol exposure.  Several of the children were on inappropriate medications or receiving therapies they didn’t need according to Study’s lead author Dr Ira Chasnoff. <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/01/when-adhd-isnt-what-it-seems/384537/>

**Executive functioning deficits in preschool children with FASD**

Executive function (EF) deficit is a hallmark of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), but the vast majority of available evidence comes from school-age children and adolescents. Very little is known about EF during the critical developmental period prior to 6 years of age in FASD. A study that evaluated EF data in 39 children with FASD and a comparison group of 50 age-matched, revealed that EF deficits manifest well before the age of 6 years in children with FASD, that they occur across the fetal alcohol spectrum.  Read Full Article, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25011516>

**Improving executive functioning in children with FASD**

An extensive body of literature has documented executive function (EF) impairments in children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD); however, few studies have aimed specifically at improving EF. One treatment program that shows promise for children with FASD is the Alert Program for Self-Regulation®, which is a 12-week treatment specifically designed to target self-regulation, a component of EF.  Evaluation of EF at baseline and upon completing therapy showed that those receiving the treatment programme, displayed significant improvements in inhibitory control and social cognition and parents reported improved behavioral and emotional regulation and externalizing behavior that were maintained at the 6-month follow-up. Read Full Article, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25010354>

**Yukon FASD clinic for Adults**

The Yukon is going to train a team of doctors and psychologists to diagnose adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Yukon already has FASD diagnostic teams for children and youth, but the new team will replace experts who currently have to travel from southern Canada to diagnose adults.

[Canada to Create FASD Diagnostic Team for Adults](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TomDonaldson/20905835e2/cf80664233/9a840ae78b)

**Funding to house youth with FASD in the Justice System**

A Calgary social agency is receiving $500,000 from the federal government for a program to house youths involved with the justice system and who may be affected by FASD… The group will fund a new FASD housing coordinator, whose goal is to find community housing for youth who might have had issues with the law and with the disorder. – [Housing for People with FASD Funded in Canada](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TomDonaldson/3ba722727c/cf80664233/fd555bec73)News Talk 770

**Practical strategies and support for families affected by FASD**

Mary Berube (MSW, RSW) provides practical suggestions about what parents can do to strengthen their relationships with their children affected by FASD to give the children the best start in life. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG\_-Kc7FFTw#t=20](http://t.ymlp336.net/uqqeafauqqewadauuyafabjj/click.php)

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Christine Rogan

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