**From:** Christine Rogan   
**Sent:** 6 May 2016 4:25 p.m.  
**To:** Fannz . <fannz@ahw.org.nz>  
**Subject:** FASD Update 6 May 2016

Kia ora FANNZ

A mixed bag of FASD news and opportunities for you from Aotearoa and beyond!

**Aotearoa  
Join the Conversation**

**Until 24th May**, you can help build a new disability strategy for New Zealand. Tell the Government Office for Disability Issues the most important things are for you and your whanau to live a good life. People can join the conversation by attending an event, holding a workshop, recording a video or filling out a survey. The Office of Disability Services will release a draft in August 2016.  [**http://jointheconversation.nz/**](http://jointheconversation.nz/)

**‘SAVE THE DATE’ notice for service provider FASD workshop**

An FASD Informed Practice workshop is planned for Hamilton on **Wed June 22nd June**.  This will be of interest to anyone working with vulnerable children and their families and caregivers.  A panui with details will follow shortly.

**‘SAVE THE DATE’ notice for families living with FASD**

A workshop for parents and caregivers of a child adolescent or adult with FASD (with or without a formal diagnosis) will be held in Wellington on **Saturday 6th August**. Further details plus a travel scholarship opportunity will shortly be disseminated.

**Auckland FASD Caregiver Support Group**

**Venue**: **The FASD Centre** 2nd Floor, YES Disability, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany, North Shore City, Auckland.

Wednesday 11th May 2016

Wednesday 8th June 2016

Wednesday 13th July 2016

**Time:** 7-9pm (no cost to attend)

The purpose of the group is to build connections between parents and caregivers by sharing our experiences, learning and expertise of supporting those living with FASD – with our without a formal diagnosis.  Madeleine Manning will be in attendance @ the May 2016 meeting to offer any support people might find useful. Madeleine is completing her Counselling Psychology registration through AUT as a placement intern with the FASD Centre Aotearoa. She completed her dissertation on families experiences of diagnosis, support and services - which gave her a good understanding of how FASD presents and some of the challenges faced by families.

For further information please contact:  Graham Smith  Ph. (09) 426 4458; Mob. (027) 458 8440;  Email [ggnsmith@gmail.com](mailto:ggnsmith@gmail.com)

**Inside Influence**

Maori Television this month featured a [Native Affairs](http://www.maoritelevision.com/tv/shows/native-affairs/S10E005/native-affairs) programme highlighting the story of a Northland mum Talia and her issues with drugs and alcohol during her pregnancies.  Mother of 7, Talia discussed how drug and alcohol use was a normal part of everyday life during pregnancy with her first 5 children. Whilst she admits she has not had her children officially assessed for FASD, she says she has no doubts that her children from those pregnancies were definitely affected.  Talia has been attending the [Tikanga Matua Parenting Programme](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503450&objectid=11510201), facilitated by Dale Johnson and Tania Henderson and run by the [Far North REAP](http://farnorthreap.org.nz/services/parenting/).  "We discuss openly the effects and harm that alcohol and other drugs have on the developing baby and its brain, and the potential behaviours that tamariki can display”, says Ms Henderson. “It is through these discussions that mums realise that the behaviours their tamariki are as a direct result of their alcohol or substance abuse during pregnancy. For some, even though they knew they shouldn't be drinking or drugging, they did not fully understand the effect their choices would have on their tamariki."

Watch the Native Affairs episode [HERE](http://www.maoritelevision.com/tv/shows/native-affairs/S10E005/native-affairs) – Talia’s story starts 8 minutes 40 seconds into the feature. (Source: Dave Hookway NDHB)

[**Medical bodies get behind FASD**](http://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/pa-racp-ranzcp-alcohol-policy.pdf)

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists have included recommendations for the prevention and treatment of FASD (chapter 8) in its just released Alcohol Policy. [View the pdf document here](http://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/pa-racp-ranzcp-alcohol-policy.pdf)

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**International news**

**Government announces $10 million for FASD**

The Commonweath Government of Australia announced in the 2016/17 Budget an additional $10.5 million over four years to address FASD in high risk remote and rural communities with a focus on prevention. [Catch up on FARE’s summary of the Aussie Budget outcomes here](http://foundationforalcoholresearchandeducation.cmail20.com/t/r-l-sblyll-dydupekh-t/)

[**Why do women drink when pregnant**](http://www.neurodevnet.ca/news/fasd-stigma-why-do-women-drink-when-pregnant)

Increased awareness of FASD, has meant a woman's decision to consume alcohol during pregnancy has become highly stigmatized, and as a result, individual circumstances that surround their choice to drink are rarely explored or understood. "This is unfortunate before alcohol use in pregnancy is a highly complex issue, complicated by the fact that many women consume alcohol prior to finding out they are pregnant," says Sue Kobus, a research associate within NeuroDevNet's FASD Research Group. Kobus has produced a new video that addresses stigma through the lens of Colette Philcox, the birth mother of a boy with FASD whose partner coerced her into drinking with him when she was pregnant.

<http://www.neurodevnet.ca/news/fasd-stigma-why-do-women-drink-when-pregnant>

[**The Four Letters More Dangerous Than Zika**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001KvOKSW6YERilwlSeM65db691a5c-vKW3acpU3mUkekQS3p9ZZ-6pbkgDxfFGtT3Lvm3TvllhhzVQL6GJ5_ko0EGzDb0UNic8joWvV-GRewPkWi9XYOZnZh2hq3k8mF4barRCrgx2X-6SgesHoalH30RJmcPqoEFEvVhElnaeQgV2S5zx-g1itAQzS7luoyrjFpfNYqREhbFrjU-TW-7Ku7mV8gJJsUNfzK445uq-HlxvwjgUPSGkYMTD9j8REd81Tewf2rJ7G8IjNiJ9QvmYDg==&c=M-bKmTdY9HLmatUBbqWAdaYV4AVO1nOx81JrZ3gzAzDpzJQehpkGCA==&ch=lE7t69nRnTlebYgWoLMM8Ffwv7vMzJNwQHX7zkHnDqZh8e_I17ikgg==)

A current and topical conversation every country should be having!  (Source: NTI Upstream Spring 2016 Newsletter [http://www.ntiupstream.com](http://www.ntiupstream.com/)).

[**Europe FASD Conference**](http://www.eufasd.org/)

The European FASD Alliance is holding their 4th European Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders at the Royal Holloway University in London, England September 12-15, 2016. The conference will consist of a research symposium and an accredited Professional Training Day. Abstracts can be submitted [by April 30, 2016](http://www.eufasd.org/EUFASD_2016/home.php).

[**New FASD Guidelines for USA Juvenile Justice**](http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ%20FASD%20Guide%20Final.pdf)

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges created a guide with input from juvenile and family court judges and experts from around the country to increase judicial awareness and knowledge of FASD, including their implications for court proceedings and case dispositions involving children and families affected by FASD; and, provide guidance on judicial leadership. The ultimate goal of the guide is to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities affected by FASD. [[**64 page PDF**](http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ%20FASD%20Guide%20Final.pdf)]

[**Scottish Newborns tested for alcohol exposure**](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14460210.Newborn_babies_tested_for_alcohol_while_in_hospital/)

Early results of a mums and newborn babies study conducted by the Princes Royal Maternity Hospital in Glasgow suggest up to 42 per cent of mothers consume some alcohol while pregnant, with around 15 per cent drinking more than one or two small glasses of wine a week. It found evidence of significant alcohol use in 44 per cent of the mothers who had used other substances as well as 23 per cent of a control group who had no addiction history, although the number of participants was small. When completing questionnaires all denied alcohol misuse in pregnancy.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14460210.Newborn_babies_tested_for_alcohol_while_in_hospital/>

[**Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Factors Associated with Positive Outcomes and Contact with the Criminal Justice System**](http://www.nofasd.org.au/CampaignProcess.aspx?A=Link&VID=27364465&KID=256027&LID=1312326)  
Currie et al, J*ournal of population therapeutics and clinical pharmacology*,9 March 2016  
Adults with FASD are at increased risk for contact with the criminal justice system (CJS). This study examines the services and supports experienced by a small group of adults with FASD living in rural and urban Ontario, and their contact with the CJS. Early diagnosis of FASD is associated with more positive outcomes including reduced amount of contact with the CJS likely due to the receipt of more supports throughout childhood and better understanding of FASD by family and caregivers.

Noho ora mai

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