FASD-CAN
Aotearoa New Zealand

April 2022

Tēnā koe

Having launched our new website in February, the FASD-Care Action Network team has been working on new webinars and training, finishing our new Handbook, advocating for individuals impacted by FASD – and planning what to do with some new funding!

2022 Webinar Programme

We're happy to announce the first of our free programme of webinars in 2022. All are welcome, nau mai, haere mai!

- **FASD at School: What Works for Students – Monday May 9, 8pm-9pm**

In this free webinar we'll hear from caregivers Karen Irving in Auckland and Tracey Blunn in Wellington as they share the lessons they've learned through years of supporting their kids through the NZ education system. They're followed by Kiri Key sharing her experiences as a teacher around what works for neurodiverse tamariki and rangatahi at school.

Register here.

- **Online Workshop: "Can't you just be good?!"**

How to understand and respond to challenging behaviour while keeping your cool
Saturday May 28, 9.30-11.30am

Join Cristina Fon, a locally-trained clinical psychologist, in this workshop as she presents a round-up of the knowledge she has developed from both her years of experience working in the Justice, Forensic and Disability areas, and her extensive FASD research and training.

Register here.

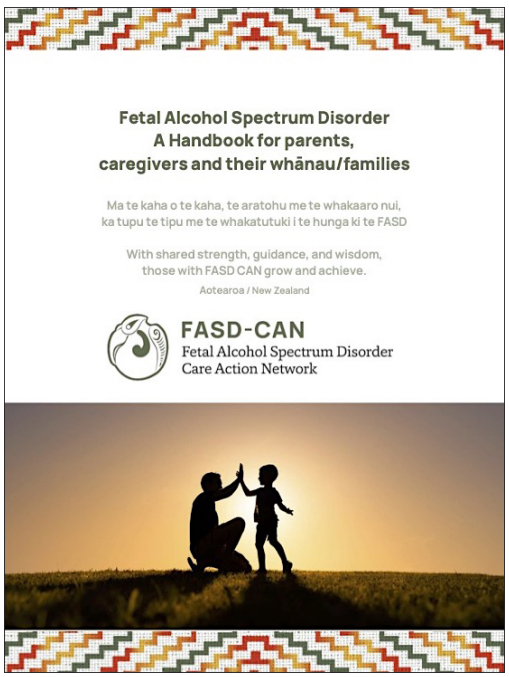
Whānau Direct grants available

We have only received a small number of Whānau Direct grants – so please apply! We can now offer lump-sum payments of up to $500 per annum for individuals with FASD, their caregivers and whānau. The grant can be used to improve life in some way for an individual or whānau living with FASD.

Need some ideas? How about fees or accommodation for training or hui, wellbeing pursuits such as gym membership, sports, arts or dance classes; riding for the disabled, diagnosis or counselling costs, alternatives therapies, extra tutoring, FASD-specific equipment such as sensory toys or blankets – or simply a respite trip away!

Please note: to be eligible you must have been a member of FASD-CAN for a minimum of three months. For more details, head to the **Whānau Direct page** on our website – and to become a member, click **here**.

Updated FASD Handbook on the way



We're excited to say our new FASD-CAN Handbook has just been printed and a hardcopy will be sent to all members in the coming weeks (you should have received an email recently asking to confirm your address and membership – please check your junk folder if not, or **get in touch**).

The Handbook is a valuable toolkit that's packed with Aotearoa-specific information, advice, strategies and tips. Because it's been developed by those with lived experience, we know it will help make life easier for caregivers, whānau or frontline professionals supporting an individual with FASD.

The printed edition of the Handbook is helpful to keep by your bed, take along to your kura/school, or show your whānau – but we also have a digital edition you can download for free. Click **here** for more info.

Highest Needs Review

Our advocacy team has been working hard in recent weeks to submit a response to the Ministry of Education's Highest Needs Review – helping students with the greatest requirement for learning support to achieve their best within the NZ education system. In February we worked with 22 whānau to hear their 'school stories' and the results were very sobering. You can read our full submission **here.**

Ministry of Health funding

We're happy to report the Ministry of Health have committed to providing funding to FASD-CAN for the next two years to extend our support of caregivers and whānau who have loved ones with FASD. This funding will enable us to extend our outreach, strengthen regional support activities and retain our staff as we work towards becoming a sustainably-funded organisation.

It also goes some of the way towards meeting Action Point 9 of the government's FASD-Action plan 2016-2019 to develop a coordinated, consistent, accessible and appropriately resourced pathway for supporting those with FASD, as well as their whānau and caregivers.

Thanks for reading! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and family – and do let them know about signing up for membership with FASD-CAN.

It's a troubled world right now, with extra stresses in all directions. We hope you have a wonderful Easter break,

including some quality time with whānau and friends.

Ngā mihi nui

Leigh Henderson
FASD-CAN Chair

Want to join FASD-CAN?

We have a lot of exciting initiatives that are currently in development. Many of these will be specifically created for our members, so there's never been a better time to become part of the FASD-CAN whānau.
It's easy to join us and membership is free.

Become a member

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Care Action Network

Learn more about our work
fasd-can.org.nz
admin@fasd-can.org.nz

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