



November 2022

Tēnā koe

Our second-to-last newsletter of the year has some important things for our members and friends to get involved in. We know it feels like things are ramping up towards Christmas already, but these really are worth putting a bit of your precious time into – they will have an important effect on the futures of those impacted by FASD in Aotearoa! But first, a quick look back at our Hui just over a week ago...

Hui 2022



It was wonderful to see many of you at our Hui this year in Auckland – 130! The day was valuable in so many ways. We'll let you know when the session recordings are on our website.

Meanwhile, the desktop education resource (launched at the Hui) developed especially for learning support teachers is now available for download from our Resources page [here](#). This

was put together by RTLBN Trish Porter and our education sub-committee and is a helpful collection of the best of what's online for learning support.



A speech given at the Hui by one of our rangatahi with FASD is now up on the Individual's page on our website. Teowai's words received a standing ovation – they were courageous

and insightful, and she's keen to do more to grow awareness of FASD in Aotearoa. Our young people were much inspired by the Changemakers and we hope to bring you more from them. It just goes to show how much we need their voices in our advocacy. Click [here](#) to read Teowai's story.

Oranga Tamariki – Disability Strategy Focus Groups

This is an opportunity for anyone who has had any kind of experience with Oranga Tamariki to give feedback about what they think could have been done better, and provide input into OT's vision and strategy for the future. This will be important for caregivers who have had tamariki placed in their care, for tamariki currently in OT care and protection, for rangatahi in youth justice, and for caregivers and whānau.

Oranga Tamariki want to become an inclusive and accessible organisation for people with a disability or neurodisability – including within a te Ao Māori context. To do this they need a vision and a strategy and for this they need your feedback. OT know that this might involve having some hard conversations, so they want to make sure this work is safe and respectful – and they would appreciate your help to do it right.

They are holding two online focus groups specifically for FASD on these dates:

Wednesday 30 November 7:00pm – 9:00pm OR

Thursday 8 December 10:00am – 12:00pm

If you'd like to attend one of these focus groups, please email us here at FASD-CAN at admin@fasd-can.org.nz letting us know which one, and confirming you're happy for us to give your contact details to OT. If so, Oranga Tamariki will send you a Zoom link and a consent form, as well as some reading material they'll use in the hui. If you want to stay anonymous, but you'd still like to give your feedback, we can work with you to ensure this happens in a confidential way.

There's more information about the Disability Strategy on the OT website [here](#).

Remember: this is your chance to have your say – for the sake of those in the future, we encourage you to take it, and we're happy to help in any way we can.

Diagnostic Guidelines hui now online

Throughout September 2022, whānau, community, iwi organisations and professionals were invited to contribute in person to a document that will reflect Aotearoa's ongoing needs around early diagnosis of FASD. Hāpai te Hauori, the Māori Health Authority, hosted four wananga asking for input in Auckland, Whangarei, Ōtautahi and Palmerston North.

If you've had an experience with FASD diagnosis, you now have an opportunity to input into this project in two online evening hui, on 22 and 28 November. Some of the questions they'll ask might include: 'What could the doctor or psychologist have done to improve your experience of the FASD assessment?' and 'What else would you like to know after you've been told that your child, or a member of your whānau, has FASD?'

Click [here](#) to register for either of these. Your input will be much appreciated!

Te Pou online webinars for profs

Te Pou has just announced three free kanohi ki te kanohi / face to face, full-day FASD workshops for frontline professionals – one each in Tāmaki Makaurau, Pōnaki/Wellington and Ōtautahi /Christchurch.

The workshops will provide introductory information to better recognise the signs of FASD and impact across the lifespan as well as practical advice for developing an FASD-informed practice within your professional role.

Each workshop runs from 9am-4pm, and participation is limited to only 25 people, so book soon on the following links:

[Te Aro, Wellington – 22 November](#)

[Parnell, Auckland – 24 November](#)

[Riccarton, Christchurch – 29 November](#)

Auckland University – Health Sector Research survey



Finally for this newsletter: they've spoken to educators and lawyers, and now researchers from the University of Auckland want to talk to healthcare professionals.

They're researching knowledge, attitudes and awareness of FASD with doctors, nurses, allied health and mental health professionals.

If you're a health professional, they'd love you to respond to a short (5-10 mins) survey – your responses are crucial to

informing guidelines and national policy for addressing FASD in the health sector. Please click [here](#) to go to the survey, and for more information please contact fasdresearch@auckland.ac.nz

Again, your input is so much appreciated and will benefit so many!

Mauri ora

The FASD-CAN team

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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