



FASD-CAN

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Care Action Network

JULY 2025 NEWS

Latest updates from FASD-CAN

Kia ora koutou

We hope you were able to celebrate Matariki in your own unique way. I had the opportunity to celebrate with family, reflect on loved ones passed, plan new adventures and opportunities, and find joy in relationships. Even in challenging times, I have a lot to be grateful for. As the cold winter months settle in, we hope you can stay warm and dry. Grab a cuppa and take a few minutes to read our jam-packed newsletter below.

Noho ora mai

Stephanie

Introducing Matthew (Matt) Evans – FASD-CAN's new youth worker!

We're excited to have Matt on board to help out with our expanding programme for rangatahi with FASD. He's a Tāmaki Makaurau westie and his happy place is with his extended whānau in the Waitakere Ranges and on the west coast beaches.

Matt has had many different roles working with young adults who have a variety of challenges and requirements both here in Aotearoa NZ and overseas – in the Pacific, Australia and Canada.



His role with FASD-CAN is mentoring and supporting our kaiārahi / young leaders with FASD who want to grow their leadership skills and use their own living experience to support others. Matt says, “FASD-CAN Navigator Anna Gundesen has been leading this mahi and I feel fortunate to be able to step onto this path with her.”

Haere mai, welcome Matt – we know you'll be a valuable part of the FASD-CAN team!

NEW: Caregiver and Whānau FASD wānanga in Hokianga, Te Tai Tokerau / Northland



A FREE five-week FASD programme for caregivers, parents and whānau will be held during July and August across two marae in Hokianga. The sessions will be 2-3 hours each in the mornings, beginning July 24.

The wānanga aim to provide education, raise awareness, and promote understanding of FASD. Topics include:

- the use of alcohol during pregnancy
- alcohol use in Aotearoa
- the basics of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- building supportive, FASD-informed communities.

Facilitators Fran Hauraki of [Hauora Hokianga](#) and RuruHana Brownie from FASD-CAN are passionate about holding hope and helping to heal whānau and individuals affected by alcohol harm in Te Tai Tokerau.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register – **please register by 21 July** for catering purposes, as lunch is provided if you would like to stay on afterwards.

FASD Awareness Month 2025

Whakarongo ki o mātou reo! / Hear Our Voices!

It's two months today until 09/09 - International FASD Awareness Day!

We always want to increase public awareness of FASD – hence our theme for this year. Getting the word out can be as simple as talking to friends, whānau, teachers, medical staff, sports or church groups about it – or sharing our webinars and trainings below with your colleagues.

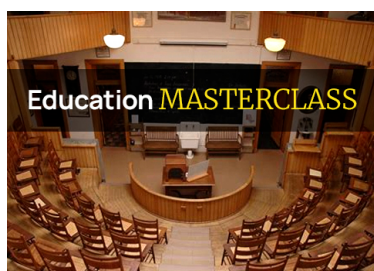
However, if you'd like to take it up a notch, [head to our FASD Awareness Month web page](#) to check out our new shareable social resources, download our updated FASD quiz and find out how you can win one of two \$300 supermarket vouchers!

More to come – in the meantime, we'd love you to start thinking about other ways you or your organisation can make your voices heard for those with FASD. Let us know if you're setting up an event!

This year we'll also be bringing back **red shoes**, so if you don't have any, you've still got a good few weeks to gear up!



Education Masterclasses



Our first Education Masterclass happened on June 19 – it covered IEPs (Individual Education Plans) in schools and their invaluable contribution to aiding collaboration between educators and caregivers / whānau. The recording is now online – [click here to watch](#) if you haven't already. Those who register for our live webinars (just \$10 each) have access to the recordings for three

months.

Our next two Education Masterclasses are coming up:

- **Masterclass 2: FASD, Inclusive Education and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) – Thursday 31 July 3.30pm-5pm, \$10**

Join us to explore how the UDL can help you design flexible and adaptable classroom lesson plans that cater to diverse learning styles and transform the educational experience for all students, this masterclass has a particularly focus on those with FASD.

[Click here to register.](#)

- **Masterclass 3: FASD and Trauma – Thursday 28 August 3.30pm-5pm, \$10**
Trauma can significantly impact a person's emotional and psychological wellbeing, but informed approaches that prioritise safety, trust and empowerment will encourage resilience and growth – along with a calmer classroom.
[Click here to register.](#)
-

NEW: Global Webinar Series: FASD in Education, with Ailsa Clarke

We are launching a fantastic three-part webinar series for educators, caregivers/parents or administrators, beginning this September.

Our presenter, Ailsa Clarke, is a Scottish expert on FASD and trauma in education. She is an ex-teacher herself, with lived experience of a tamaiti / child with FASD who now consults and trains across the education systems in Scotland. Ailsa has been a presenter for our 'Kete into Practice' trainings, too – we feel privileged to have her back!



Webinar 1: Planning and Preparation \$50

Thursday 11 September 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm

So where do you start? Come along and learn a best-practice framework that can give you and your student with possible FASD great opportunities to make school a positive experience.

[Register here.](#)

Webinar 2: Strategies for Supporting FASD in the Akomanga / Classroom \$50

Thursday 16 October 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm

Learn practical strategies and approaches to support the unique needs of learners with FASD.

[Register here.](#)

Webinar 3: Sensory and Environmental Matters ... Matter! \$50

Thursday 30 October 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm

Find out about the link between the effect of sensory input and environmental settings on impulse control and self-regulation, plus accommodations to support ākonga with FASD.

[Register here.](#)

LANsas and Ngā Tupu Rau

Our specialist quarterly webinars for social workers / support workers and educators.

Our next quarterly webinars are coming up – informative, topical presentations by experts in their fields, with time for questions and discussion afterwards. They'll be

accessed (and recorded) through our new training portal. These are now hosted on our training platform – free to watch live, or \$10 each afterwards for the recording.

Please share these with your colleagues!

- **NTR webinar for educators – Tuesday 19 August, 4pm**
‘FASD and the Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) model’

Supporting the learning of ākonga / students with FASD can be challenging due to their executive, adaptive and sensory functioning differences. Dr Ross Greene is the author of the international bestsellers *Lost at School* and *The Explosive Child*. His Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) model has been influential in reshaping how we can support learners, particularly those with complex needs.

[Register here](#).

- **LANSAS webinar for social workers and support workers**
Tuesday 2 September 12, 4pm ‘What is trust with FASD?’

Confabulation (recalling false information without intending to deceive) and taking others’ belongings can be common symptoms of FASD. Join registered social worker Nikki Geeson to understand the root of these issues and how we can build environments conducive to supporting people with FASD to live better lives.

[Register here](#).

Online Support Group Meetings – upcoming dates

Remember, we have kanohi ki te kanohi / face to face support groups around the motu, brought together by wonderful local parents and caregivers with lived experience of FASD – they get it. [Click here](#) to see if there's one near you – if not, our online groups are below.

[Online Caregiver Support Group LUNCHTIME](#) – (monthly) Thursday August 7, 12:30pm

[Online Caregiver Support Group EVENING](#) – (monthly) Thursday July 16, 7:30pm

Whew - that's all for July! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and our new [Instagram](#) page to stay updated. And remember: taking a moment to engage with our posts (liking, sharing or commenting on them) can help bump us up the Google ranks – another way to boost FASD awareness in Aotearoa NZ!

Mauri ora
Your FASD-CAN Team

Stay in the know about FASD in Aotearoa. If you've been sent this email by someone else, please join us as a member to receive newsletters!

If you would like to donate to FASD-CAN, to help us in our mahi, [click here](#) to go to our donation page.

JOIN FASD-CAN



FASD-CAN · New Zealand

This email was sent to kathyhunter.nz@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please feel free to

[Unsubscribe](#)