



FASD-CAN

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Care Action Network

AUGUST 2025 NEWS

Latest updates from FASD-CAN

Kia ora koutou

On September 9, it's International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day. Around the globe, people come together to raise awareness about the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure and the lifelong disability it can cause. 09/09 symbolises the nine months of pregnancy, emphasising the importance of an alcohol-free pregnancy to prevent FASD.

We hope wherever you are on that day, you can do something to recognise it – see below for ideas and online resources.

Noho ora mai
Stephanie

FASD-CAN CEO



FASD Awareness Month 2025

Less than a month to go until 2025 FASD Month kicks off this September!

Our theme is ‘Whakarongo ki o mātou reo! / Hear Our Voices!’



Helping to increase awareness of FASD can be as simple as wearing red shoes (the international symbol of FASD Awareness) and using them to open conversations with friends, whānau, teachers, medical staff or your sports or church groups. But if you'd like to take it further, head to our [FASD](#)

[Awareness Month webpage](#) to find more ideas and check out our new shareable /

printable resources – and find out how you can **win one of two \$300 supermarket vouchers!**

FASD Day Events: 09/09/25

We are currently finalising details of our FASD Awareness Day online get-together but it will be happening online at 9am on Tuesday September 9 – and again at 7.30pm for those who can't make the morning. We have a special video featuring our rangatahi with FASD. [Click here to get your Zoom link](#) and pop it in your diary now!

Sausage Sizzle at Silo Park – 09/09, 5.30pm (for those in Tāmaki Makaurau)

We just had to celebrate this in person this year – because not only will Auckland Harbour Bridge be lighting up **RED** to support FASD Awareness for the very first time – but we've just heard SKY TOWER will be, too!



Join FASD-CAN kaimahi / staff and rangatahi at Silo Park on the waterfront in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland to watch the lights come on, and enjoy a sausage and a milo. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP!

Education Masterclasses

The recording of our last Masterclass (FASD and Individual Education Plans) is now online – [click here to watch](#) if you haven't already. Those who register for our live webinars have access to the recordings for three months.

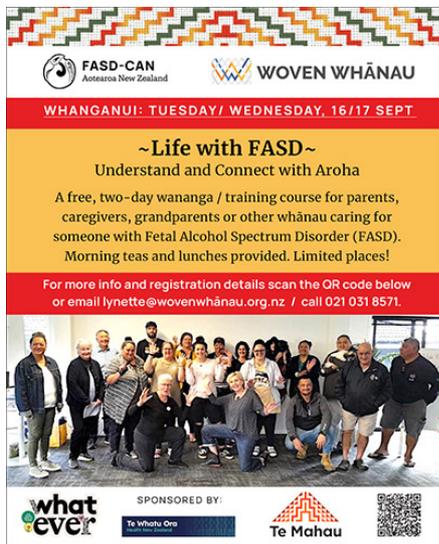
Our final Education Masterclass is coming up later this month.

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 which prioritise safety, trust and empowerment will encourage resilience and growth. [Click here to register.](#)

LWF Caregiver Training in Whanganui Tuesday & Wednesday 16/17 September - FREE

In collaboration with [Woven Whānau](#), a wonderful caregiver network in Whanganui, we are running our 'Life with FASD: Understand and Connect with Aroha' caregiver and parent training course in September. This is a free, in-person training from 9.30am-2.30pm each day, with morning teas and lunches included.



It will be facilitated by our two Navigators, Anna Gundersen and RuruHana Brownie, who have been running this course with fantastic feedback for several years now. Participants have called it 'life-changing'. Places are strictly limited – [click here to find out more](#) and register.

FASD in Education – Global Webinar Series – with Ailsa Clarke

A fantastic opportunity to gain an FASD education overview from a globally-renowned trainer. Presenter Ailsa Clarke is a renowned Scottish expert on FASD and trauma in education. An ex-teacher herself, she has lived experience of a tamaiti / child with FASD. We're privileged to have her!

Webinar 1: Planning and Preparation \$50
Thursday 11 September 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm
 So where do you start? Sorting out the setup with a best-practice framework.

Webinar 2: Strategies for Supporting FASD in the Akomanga / Classroom \$50
Thursday 16 October 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm
 Learn practical approaches to support the unique needs of learners with FASD.

Webinar 3: Sensory and Environmental Matters ... Matter! \$50
Thursday 30 October 2025, 3:30pm – 5pm
 The environment can influence sensory issues and affect impulse control and self-regulation. Learn set-ups and strategies that work.

[Register here](#) for all three sessions on our training platform – and please do share with your colleagues! [Click here](#) or on the tile above to download the full-size version for sharing.



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

FASD and the Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) model' | Tuesday 19 August, 4pm

Supporting the learning of ākonga / students with FASD can be challenging due to their executive, adaptive and sensory functioning differences. Dr Ross Greene's '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

'What is trust with FASD?' | Tuesday 2 September, 4pm

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.

[Register here.](#)



New research study: What does it mean to 'live well' as a neurodivergent person?



Dr Joanna Chu, Professor Anita Gibbs and the University of Auckland are conducting a survey to find out about the hopes and dreams of neurodivergent people. They want to find out what 'living well' looks like and what supports people with neurodiversity to do just that. They are seeking the views of people who are at least 16 years old, who either are, or know someone who is, neurodivergent.

[Click here for all details.](#)

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) Wednesday August 20, 7:30pm

Professional FASD Training – Whakatū / Nelson

FASD – Understanding, Supporting and Empowering Together
28 August, 9am-4.30pm - FREE

An unmissable full-day event in Nelson for cross-sector professionals based around the top of te Wai Pounamu / the South Island. Join FASD-Can Chair Dr Leigh Henderson, Cristina Fon, Clinical Psychologist and Kirsty Griffith, Educational Psychologist for an overview of FASD to find out how to build capacity across communities to support whānau. Learn, share and network! Kai provided.

[Register here.](#)

Wow - there's lots going on! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [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



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