**From:** Christine Rogan
**Sent:** 18 December 2014 2:25 p.m.
**To:** fannz
**Subject:** FASD update Dec 2014

Kia ora FANNZ

I hope you are enjoying and making the most of the start of summer (though it doesn’t feel like that everywhere) and the last few days of 2014.  It has certainly been a busy year for FASD with some milestones and positive contributions to FASD prevention and care along the way.

It is gratifying seeing the progress toward better support and understanding of FASD affected children and families.  They live daily with **hidden and misunderstood problems** and it is frustrating for them having simple changes so often ignored.  Getting everyone up to speed and putting steps in place is no mean feat and could benefit from some funding and structure, but there is growing eagerness to learn and change approaches across multiple sectors.

There are many **Unsung Heroes** in this network who need to take a bow.  As acknowledged in the ‘Call to Action’ many are doing their utmost to ‘walk the FASD talk’.  Champions and innovators one and all!

One way we can all be champions is to become a **FASD-CAN member** ($30.00 per annum - or make a donation).  The FASD-CAN objective is to unite caregivers, strengthen families, support individuals and educate about FASD across our communities.  That may be family focused but membership is for anyone because we ***ALL*** benefit from that objective.  [Read more about FASD-CAN](http://www.fasd-can.org.nz/)

Women around the world are still getting the message, predominantly media driven, that light to moderate drinking during pregnancy is safe for the baby (see article below from Ireland for example), which is counter to most scientific evidence and Government advice.  It is clear the abstinence message needs constant attention and it is good to see the **Health Promotion Agency (HPA)** has prevention plans in place for 2015 (see first item below).  Alcohol may seem benign when served in sparkling designer glassware, but that does not negate its potential for harm.  It’s challenging!

There are **hopeful signs** that alcohol-related harm is being taken seriously.  Yesterday the Government appointed Ministerial Forum released some strong recommendations on advertising and sponsorship to protect our children from its relatively unfettered exposure (see item below).  Unsurprisingly, this has elicited some significant challenge via the media which will continue.

Kia kaha walking the talk in 2015 - and now for the news….,

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**HPA researches alcohol and pregnancy matters**

The Health Promotion Agency has released new alcohol and pregnancy reports - [*Drinking alcohol during pregnancy: A literature review*](http://www.alcohol.org.nz/sites/default/files/research-publications/pdfs/Drinking%20during%20pregnancy-lit%20review.pdf) and [*Insights from women about drinking during pregnancy: A qualitative research report*](http://www.alcohol.org.nz/sites/default/files/research-publications/pdfs/Insights%20about%20alcohol%20and%20pregnancy.pdf) that are available on the HPA and the [www.alcohol.org.nz](http://www.alcohol.org.nz) websites.

**Ministerial Forum recommends a ban on alcohol sponsorship**

The Ministerial Forum on Alcohol Advertising and Sponsorship has recommended a ban on sponsorship advertising in line with the Law Commission Review of 5 years ago.  Their 14 recommendations are targeted at protecting minors but stop short of a total ban on advertising to protect overall public health.  It will be up the Government to implement the recommended changes.  Copy of the [report here](The%20report) plus [an AHW response](http://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/un-doctored/2014/december-2014/17/alcohol-advertising-and-sponsorship-forum-commended-for-common-sense.aspx) and [that of others](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1412/S00665/alcohol-advertising-and-sponsorship-bans-an-extreme-position.htm) .

**Commissioner calls for fewer bottle shops**

*Hawke's Bay Today*, 20 November 2014

Children's Commissioner Dr Russell Wills has called for fewer Hawke's Bay liquor outlets and the end of cheap alcohol. "If we want to tackle foetal alcohol syndrome, which is causing devastation and certainly enormous workload for me in out-patients, the single most effective policy change would be to raise the price of very cheap alcohol. There is no doubt about that," he said. Speaking at the Paediatric Society of New Zealand's Annual Scientific Meeting in Napier, he encouraged the conference for all child health workers to submit to local governments' alcohol policies. [Read more](http://lnk.ie/W98D/e%3Ddirector%40ahw.org.nz/http%3A/www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503462&objectid=11361544)

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**Australia’s June Oscar acknowledged for FASD community work**

The birthweight of babies from Fitzroy Crossing is rising, thanks to the women, lead by June Oscar, calling time on drinking during pregnancy.  Fitzroy is an community of 4,500 predominantly aboriginal inhabitants in remote Western Australia, where a whole of population study of primary aged children have found the FASD is occurring in 25 percent of the population [Read more](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/the-battle-for-fitzroy-crossing-june-oscar-is-at-the-helm-again/story-e6frg8h6-1227114568205)

**Australian Government Institute sheds a helpful light on FASD for teachers**

[Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD): An information and resource guide for educators](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www3.aifs.gov.au/cfca/2014/12/09/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-fasd-information-and-resource-guide-educators&ct=ga&cd=CAEYASoUMTc0NjQwOTA5NzU1Njg5NTM4NTUyGmQ5N2FmOGFiODZmOTdiNDI6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AFQjCNEHyltGUmBVPbyoUzHKmg-xN98NZA) is an online resource developed to assist with student who have FASD.  [Read more](https://www3.aifs.gov.au/cfca/2014/12/09/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-fasd-information-and-resource-guide-educators)

**NSW City sets out to promote integrated FASD strategy**

Newcastle based public, private and community organisations and individuals have united to initiate the development, implementation and evaluation of an FASD integrated response strategy.  The meeting (initiated by Newcastle CDAT) was opened by the Hon. Dr Sharman Stone MP Chairperson of the House of Representatives, Standing Committee, Indigenous Affairs. [Read more](http://grogwatch.adf.org.au/2014/12/newcastle-fasd-prevention/?utm_source=ADF+Master+List&utm_campaign=10d6ca3fcb-Grogwatch_9_December12_16_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe135ee49e-10d6ca3fcb-306467889)

**Australian Institute recognises lack of FASD data**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) says currently available data on the incidence and prevalence of FASD in Australia and internationally is lacking and points to the low level of awareness by clinicians of FASD conditions, the complexity of diagnosis and the absence of nationally agreed and consistent diagnostic criteria and definitions.  This report identifies regular surveillance and monitoring as priorities for determining incidence and prevalence. [More information on the AIHW website](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129549095)

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**UK Court of Appeal alcohol and pregnancy criminalisation case dismissed**

Three UK judges at the Court of Appeal were asked to rule on whether or not a girl prenatally exposed to alcohol and born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was entitled to a payout from the government-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme as a victim of crime.  The Judges dismissed the case.  Health agencies and organisations such as NOFAS in the USA and Alcohol Healthwatch agree with the judge’s decision. [Read article](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-30327893)

Birth Mother Shares Her Story with BBC

"Kathryn" said her second child's poor concentration, bad language, poor social behavior and poor eye contact were a result of her drinking… Her story comes after a judge ruled that drinking while pregnant was not a criminal offence.” [Read article](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-30334307)

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**Irish study of drinking during pregnancy**

Increasingly Irish women are breaking the biggest pregnancy taboo and partaking in a drink or two - and it's educated women who are leading the charge.  Last year, a study funded by the Health Research Board found that 80% of Irish women drank at some point during their pregnancy; while a separate study in 2010, titled Growing Up in Ireland, found that women with the highest levels of education are most likely to consume alcohol during pregnancy. The Independent. [Read article](http://www.independent.ie/life/family/mothers-babies/drinking-when-pregnant-is-it-harmless-or-an-act-of-denial-30782747.html)

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**Ontario clinical and caregiver FASD Needs-based assessment report**

Sixty caregivers and 26 clinicians in Ontario terviewed, identified many unmet needs that compromise the quality of life for caregivers, their children, and their families. These data will be used to inform the development of an intervention program that will provide a family-centered approach to training, education, and support for children with FASD and their families.  [Read more](http://www.jptcp.com/pubmed.php?articleId=483)

**Alberta FASD prevalence**

The number of people identified as having FASD in Alberta in a study using clinical data,suggests a prevalence higher than the 1% usually quoted. [Read more](http://www.jptcp.com/pubmed.php?articleId=482)

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**Events and Resources**

**The 6th International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - March 4 – 7, 2015**

This advanced level conference continues to bring together experts from multiple disciplines to share international research. From the pure science, to prevention, diagnosis and intervention across the lifespan, the conference will address the implications of this research and promote scientific/community collaboration. [http://interprofessional.ubc.ca/FASD2015/](http://t.ymlp294.net/uquwatauqsejaaammadabjj/click.php)

**New FASD DVD -** *‘Moment to Moment: Teens growing up with FASD’*.  [Available to buy now for $US24.99](http://www.ntiupstream.com/buymoment/?utm_source=Moment+to+Moment+Reviews&utm_campaign=M2M+Reviews&utm_medium=email)

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***Meri Kirihimete ki a koe me te whānau***

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