**From:** Christine Rogan
**Sent:** 4 March 2016 2:31 p.m.
**To:** Fannz .
**Subject:** March 4 FASD update

Kia ora tatau FANNZ

The ever expanding FASD field in Aotearoa has demonstrated its capacity for positive change early in 2016!  This has been through the huge efforts to make submissions that informs the Ministry of Health led, ‘Taking Action on FASD Discussion Document’.  Great work!  It is never easy to find the time.

However it was the participation, energy and ongoing commitment expressed in the series of workshops with our Canadian visitors and FASD specialists Dr Jacqueline Pei and Tracy Mastrangelo that has really resonated for the field.  These were not only filled to capacity, reaching over 800 service providers and families, they were full of inspiring stories of what is already working, and ideas shared as to how we can collaboratively achieve FASD action *‘Moving Forward’* for those most in need.  Seeking solutions and resolving issues together was the key theme of the workshops.

The day after the last workshop Jacquie shared this message, which I think captures the kaupapa of shared experiences and understanding beautifully,

*“I've been experiencing a fantastic journey through New Zealand, talking about FASD. In this trip, not only have I admired the landscape and unique terrain, but I've been amazed by the warmth and energy of the people here. This characteristics have been transferred to the efforts to respond to FASD in NZ, and the result in our workshops has simply been overwhelming. I'm so impressed with the momentum here, and rejuvenated by the passion to address this topic. Perhaps the best part of all is the new relationships established and friendships made; which will help us to continue to develop our strong Canada - NZ partnerships in responding to FASD.”*

A big shout out to FosteringKids and their volunteering ‘blue shirts’ for all their hard work and professional management at each event, to the FASD-CAN members who helped out and met up, to the HPA for their co-sponsorship along with the ongoing commitment from Alcohol Healthwatch.  Most of all a big thank you to Jacquie and Tracy for sharing their powerful and inspiring FASD knowledge, research and experience with us all and their great families who loaned them to us for a while.  We learned together and shared a lot. It truly was an example of what good people can achieve collaboratively!

For those unable to attend don’t despair. Opportunities to listen, watch and share are in the pipeline:

* Listen to a 25 minute interview for Plains FM 96.9  <http://plainsfm.org.nz/on-demand/understanding-and-responding-fasd/>
* the Nelson workshop was filmed with kind permission of the presenters and audience and thanks to HPA sponsorship the highlights will be captured on video and made publically available later this month.
* FosteringKids have included FASD in a new series of podcasts under development in association with Journalist Alistair Wilkinson.

Watch this space for further exciting FASD Action opportunities as 2016 unfolds!

Kia kaha

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