



*Fetal Alcohol Network New Zealand*

Kia ora everyone

Below are some items of interest and opportunity from New Zealand and around the world on matters related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Ka kite ano

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**Blenheim FASD seminar**

As a contribution to fetal alcohol awareness, the Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service team invites you to a Luncheon Seminar on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December in Blenheim. Sponsored by Alcohol Healthwatch, Judge John Walker will join FANNZ Coordinator Christine Rogan to present on the topic of "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Justice". You can download an invitation pamphlet from [www.ahw.co.nz](http://www.ahw.co.nz) (What's New) or contact Norma (03) 520 9884 [norma.livingstone@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:norma.livingstone@nmdhb.govt.nz) or Neil (03) 546 1539 [neil.green@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:neil.green@nmdhb.govt.nz) to register your interest or request further information. As spaces are limited for this free seminar, early registration is essential.

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**New Zealand FASD researcher published internationally**

Kiwi researcher & author Jenny Salmon has had a paper published in the Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology (Vol 15(2) 2008) on the findings of her study on FAS and the experiences of New Zealand Birth Mothers. The aim of the study was to describe the 'lived' experiences of 8 birth mothers of children diagnosed with a FASD. For a full copy of the paper go to <http://www.motherisk.org/FAR/index.jsp>  
If you would like to know more about Jenny's research, which is continuing, email [jvsalmon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jvsalmon@xtra.co.nz) or phone 021 176-8212.

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**United Way NZ Funding Grants**

2009 Funding Applications are invited from community based Human Welfare charities operating in the Greater Auckland, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Marlborough, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago and Southland areas and focusing on either:

- . Helping children and youth succeed
- . Strengthening and assisting families
- . Supporting the vulnerable and elderly
- . Promoting wellness, independence and self-sufficiency.

Application forms may be completed online at [www.unitedway.org.nz](http://www.unitedway.org.nz). Closing date is 31 December 2008. For any further information please call United Way NZ (09) 377-2544 or email [Patsy@unitedway.org.nz](mailto:Patsy@unitedway.org.nz).

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**International FASD conference BC Canada**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. *Integrated research, Policy and Promising Practice Around the World: A Catalyst for Change*. Victoria Conference Center, Victoria British Columbia, Canada 11-14 March, 2009. For further information or to register, <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/FASD09.htm>

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**Alberta Canada**

**GOV'T BOOSTS FUNDING BY \$12.5M**

Alberta Children and Youth Services announced five new regional networks and an additional \$12.5 million to counter fetal alcohol spectrum disorder on Tuesday. The announcement was timed to co-incide with an international day of awareness. The government now funds 12 networks across the province, which bring doctors and social workers together. Funding has been increasing for the past several years, said Dorothy Henneveld, program manager with the Edmonton network and Catholic Social Services. That network alone will get a total of \$1.3 million in provincial funding this year, Henneveld said. "(The province is) really acting as a world leader in my viewpoint," she said. [edmontonjournal.com](http://edmontonjournal.com).

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**Alaska USA**

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently awarded a three-year grant of more than \$1 million to develop the Arctic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Regional Training Center at UAA. Four similar centers are operating elsewhere in the country. This is the first in Alaska. "This project is of great significance for Alaska and will draw tremendous community interest," The training center directed by Dr Brems said.

Sarah Dewane, project manager for the training center, said its purpose will be to train health care professionals, including social workers, speech and language therapists, physicians, nurses and psychologists, as well as students in the health professions to assure that providers have had some exposure to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the illness as they encounter at-risk groups in the various communities.

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**South Africa**

Warning labels on alcoholic drinks soon law  
 Brian Hayward WEEKEND POST REPORTER [haywardb@avusa.co.za](mailto:haywardb@avusa.co.za)

In less than four months' time all alcoholic drinks will come with a warning label. As with the tobacco industry – which first was forced by law to put warning labels on all cigarette packets, followed by a ban on advertising – the alcohol industry is scrambling to prepare itself for a marketing blackout which they believe is only “a matter of time”.

Already major retailers have started receiving liquor supplies with the warning labels which read: “Alcohol reduces driving ability – don't drink and drive” and “Drinking during pregnancy can be harmful to your unborn baby”. By the end of February, alcoholic drinks must carry warning labels.

For full story go to [http://www.weekendpost.co.za/main/2008/10/25/news/nl12\\_25102008.htm](http://www.weekendpost.co.za/main/2008/10/25/news/nl12_25102008.htm)

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### **UK study on effect of light drinking**

A study of 12,500 British 3 year olds, has found that babies born to 'light' drinking mothers – up to 1-2 units of alcohol a week have better behavioural and cognitive outcomes [based on the parent's report] than those whose mothers abstained or drank heavily. However, one of the study's authors Dr Kelly points out that this may be due to unexamined confounder relating to social standing or health related issues for the abstainers. “It is well established that women who drink lightly are more likely to be better educated and have professional careers than those who abstain or drink heavily.” (NZ Herald 31/10/08 [www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news)). The study is Published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, Advance Access 30 October 2008 1-12 <http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/>

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