



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

It is my pleasure to present the first Chairperson's Report for the two years since FASD Tasmania was established in January 2017. FASD Tasmania was incorporated as a charity in April 2017.

This is the period when researchers estimate 2-5% of the population are living with FASD. Based on a population of 515,000 in Tasmania, this calculates at 10,300 to 25,750 individuals. It is the year 60% of Australian women are estimated to consume some amount of alcohol in pregnancy and global estimates predict the care of a child at \$23,000 US (\$31,900 AUD) per year and an adult \$24,000 US (\$33,283 AUD).¹ At the lowest prevalence estimate, this means a cost of almost \$237 million to the economy and it is the year the Commonwealth of Australia allocated \$7.1 million over 10 years to the [National FASD Strategic Action Plan 2018-2028](#) and a time when it is not surprising that FASD is now described as a global epidemic!

In March 2017, Commonwealth funding was announced to deliver FASD Diagnostic Services and Models of Care. FASD Tasmania made the decision to join Patches Paediatrics in a collaborative venture. Three objectives defined the scope of the 2018-2020 project in the Patches Paediatrics funding application:

1. *Developing and implementing a local model of care for FASD in each participating site (WA Metro and Regional; Darwin/Alice Springs NT; Adelaide/Ceduna/Yalata SA; Shepparton Victoria; and Tasmania).*
2. *Expanding a sustainably funded public private FASD diagnosis and therapy service model for children and adult at high risk for FASD (including Aboriginal communities, children in care, and within the justice system) in partner sites.*
3. *Establishing an online Graduate Certificate in FASD assessment and diagnosis training program within an existing university based FASD clinic.*

By November 2017, it was suggested a model of care for Tasmania ought to reflect regional differences. Tasmania has four major population centres – NW Tasmania - Burnie and Devonport (each with a major regional hospital); Launceston and Hobart. The NW region also encompasses the West Coast (mining, remote communities with one of the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Australia) and Circular Head (strong Aboriginal community). Assurances were given that FASD Tasmania would be consulted. In January 2018 FASD Tasmania signed a contract with Patches Paediatrics and Adelle Rist was appointed the Tasmanian Clinical Co-ordinator. Adelle attended training in Perth, Western Australia and acts as the conduit between Patches Paediatrics and FASD Tasmania. The first of three FASD Diagnostic Training Clinics were quickly in place to occur on the 1- 2 March in Hobart.

A FASD Community Reference Group was established to guide the development of the Tasmanian Model of Care. The inaugural meeting took place in April 2018 representation from the Department of Health (midwifery); University of Tasmania psychology, Royal Hobart Hospital (a paediatrician and a psychologist), a psychologist in private practice, 3 parents, Fostercare Association Tasmania, Southern Eastern Aboriginal Corporation, Australian Childhood Foundation, Department of Education and Department of Corrections (Risdon Prison). All members are thanked for their participation and support.

The [FASD Tasmania Facebook page](#) now has 241 members and postings are made daily of any news items or resources. The [FASD Tasmania website](#) is in place. International FASD Awareness Day was marked in Latrobe and two community education events during the week. FASD Tasmania extends thanks to the Lions Club of Latrobe (and the members who cooked an early BBQ breakFASD); the Child and Family Centre at East Devonport and Youth, Family and Community Connections for providing the venues.

FASD Tasmania sincerely thanks Adelle for her excellent work as Clinical Coordinator with Patches Paediatrics and her outstanding commitment, passionate belief in prevention and her valuable contribution.

¹ Jacob R. Greenmyer; Marilyn G. Klug; Cassondra Kambeitz; Svetlana Popova; Larry Burd; 'A Multicountry Updated Assessment of the Economic Impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Costs for Children and Adults.' *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. 12(6):466–473, NOV 2018

Adelle Rist attended the European Alliance on FASD Conference in Berlin, Germany. This opportunity came about through a one off Commonwealth grant made to the Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Assoc. (rffada), a partner organisation of FASD Tasmania. Our thanks go to rffada for considering one of our members.

A generous donation of \$3,000 from the Mulligan family in NSW (and especially daughter Faith who held a fund raising activity in September 2017, meant a contribution could be made to help cover costs for Adelle to attend the 2nd Australasian FASD Conference in Perth, Western Australia in November this year. Remaining funds have been allocated to develop a new FASD Tasmania logo which will then be used on displays and other community events to raise awareness. There have been many opportunities for Adelle, representing FASD Tasmania, to deliver community education sessions throughout Tasmania. Some are listed below.

- Southern Support School
- Newtown High School staff
- Queenstown Child and Family Centre staff and Mothers group
- Catholic Care Therapeutic Practice Team, Hobart
- Catholic Care Northern Therapeutic Residential Care Team)
- Catholic Care North West Therapeutic Residential Care Team
- Consultant Paediatricians, North West Regional Hospital
- Rotary, Devonport
- TAFE Tasmania Community Services Cert 3 students – Burnie Campus
- North West Comorbidity Action Group – Devonport
- Australian Association of Special Education staff
- 9th September: International FASD Day Latrobe; Child and Family Centre (East Devonport) and Youth, Family and Community Centre, Burnie
- Ulverstone Child Care Centre staff
- North West School of Special Education
- Early Childhood Intervention Service Devonport
- Australian Association of Special Education – Hobart

In late 2017, Board member Billymo Rist, facilitated a successful workshop for Board members to develop the following key statements:

MISSION: We are committed to creating an informed and inclusive Tasmanian community through collaborative partnerships and by empowering our community to understand FASD.

VISION: To create an informed and inclusive Tasmanian community in respect to FASD

VALUES: Commitment, Integrity, Collaborative, Empowering, Evolving

Our thanks are extended to past members Dr Anagha Jakayar (who continues as an advisor), Dr Jane Cooper, Lynn Sims and Anna Maddick for their contribution in establishing the organisation.

Finally, thank you sincerely Tony Reid, (Treasurer and Public Officer); Jayne Freshney (Secretary); Adelle Rist, Billymo Rist, Andrea Walsh and Rebecca (Bex) Cooper (Committee Members) for your resilience and passion throughout 2018.

We are a voice for others.

Best wishes for 2019!



Vicki Russell PhD