



# ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

It is my pleasure to present the FASD Tasmania Annual Report for 2018-2019. FASD Tasmania was established in January 2017 and was incorporated as a charity in April 2017. A small group of dedicated Board members continue to voluntarily manage the organisation and meet monthly. Each member is thanked for their contribution.

Dr Vicki Russell PhD	Chairperson
Tony Read	Treasurer and Public Officer
Jayne Freshney	Secretary
Adelle Rist	Committee Member
Lynsie Cole	Committee Member
Rebecca Billing	Committee Member
Andrea Walsh	Committee Member

Thanks to Billymo Rist (Committee Member) who helped guide the organisation during its formation period and who resigned in July 2019.

**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

FASD Tasmania continues to inform Tasmanian communities in small incremental steps of the risk of alcohol in pregnancy on unborn children, the impact of fetal alcohol exposure across the lifespan and strategies for parents and service providers who offer care and/or support. It remains a challenge on so many levels particularly in working out how to strategically advance understanding and knowledge in the Tasmanian community with limited funding and through voluntary service provision. However, one of the most successful ways in which this is done is via social media. The [FASD Tasmania Facebook page](#) now has 321 members, an increase of 80 new members in the past year. This increase is probably by 'word of mouth' or shared postings which are made daily and include national and international news items or resources.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING EVENTS

A total of twenty (20) education/training workshops were offered by FASD Tasmania in 2018-19 to 468 participants. A great achievement considering the workshops are delivered at no cost to participating groups and organisations (see p.3).

TAFE community services students	Kinship Carers Group
North West Comorbidity Action Group	Family Based Care - operations meeting
Anglicare Clinical Service Development Team	Early Childhood Intervention Service (statewide)
Child and Family Centre	TAFE Tasmania – community services students
Australian Association of Special Education	NW Child Safety (Department of Human Services)
Devonport Rotary Club	Rural Health
Ulverstone childcare centre	TAFE Tasmania – community services students
Northwest School of Special Education	TAFE Tasmania – community services students
Early childhood intervention service	Rivendell Private Clinic
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Ulverstone	CORES Meeting, Deloraine

An abstract submitted by Vicki Russell for the Australian Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ACND) Conference to be held in Launceston in September 2018 was accepted.

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); and the Child and Family Centre at East Devonport and Youth, Family and Community Connections for providing the venues.

## FUNDING

An application to the Tasmanian Community Fund was made but was determined as unsuccessful. An application to Aurora Energy was also made in 2018 and although unsuccessful, the application was deemed worthy of a \$500 donation which was gratefully accepted. Many thanks to Aurora Energy.

A big thankyou to Amanda Mulligan and family in NSW and especially their daughter Faith for another generous donation of \$950. This year, the family held a High Tea event.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### FASD Diagnostic Services and Model of Care in Tasmania

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.*

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 with representation and continued interest 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 first FASD training clinic was were offered in Hobart (1 April 2019) facilitated by two paediatricians, one neuropsychologist and a speech and language therapist. Two male children were assessed aged 9 and 7 years. A future diagnostic training clinic is planned for September 2019 in Hobart followed by two in Launceston in 2020.

On 3 April 2019, a training session was offered in Launceston on FASD and neuropsychology. This event was facilitated by Dr Carmela Pestell and was attended by 25 participants representing social work, psychology, school based nursing, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and the alcohol and other drug sector.

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.

**Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Assoc.**

Vicki Russell and Adelle Rist continue to work and support the efforts of RFFADA. This includes paid work roles in the roll out of the 'Parents of Influence Project' funded by the Commonwealth government. There is no doubt that the Project will be challenging, it has no precedent in Australia and gracious support from Canadian colleagues has been overwhelming. The Project aims to facilitate face to face support groups at various sites across Australia. Two of these support groups will be established and supported in Tasmania in the 2019-2020 year.

We remain a voice for others.

Best wishes for 2020!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Russell', written in a cursive style.

Dr Vicki Russell PhD  
Chairperson