



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Tasmania was established in January 2017 and was incorporated as a charity on April 2017. A small group of dedicated Board members continue to voluntarily manage the organisation and meet bi-monthly. Each member is thanked for their contribution. It is my pleasure to present the FASD Tasmania Annual Report for 2019-2020.

Vicki Russell	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

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, Collaboration, Empowerment, Evolving

FASD Tasmania continues to inform Tasmanian communities in very 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. The best effort during the COVID pandemic was via social media.

FASD Tasmanian joined other national state and territories bodies in lobbying respective governments to ensure legislation is passed for warning labels on all alcohol beverages was a highlight of the year. It will be voted on in July 2020.

As an incorporated organisation, FASD Tasmania continues only because there is a strong belief that government and policy makers need to be reminded that FASD is an unrecognised neurodevelopmental disability and that alcohol is causal when consumed during pregnancy. We all need reminding that individuals, parents; families and communities are impacted by FASD (whether diagnosed or not); that parents carry the burden of care; that systems are working with individuals of all ages who live with undiagnosed FASD and most are unaware.

RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF FASD

The [FASD Tasmania website](#) and [Facebook page](#) continue to be the primary manner through which news and resources are shared. The Facebook page grew from 321 to 405 followers in 2019-2020, an increase of over 80 new members in the past year.

FASD Tasmania partnered with the FASD National Consortium in 2019 to establish a FASD Diagnostic Services and Models of Care project. The Project represented a strategic consortium approach to increase FASD service capacity by achieving the first two of three objectives:

1. Map and integrate existing government, non-government organisation (NGO), and private service capacity and processes across multiple regions to develop and implement consistent regional FASD models of care. Models of care will be based upon existing and emerging service capacity, stakeholder engagement, and models established in the WA Pilbara
2. Expand public-private diagnostic services to deliver financially sustainable FASD clinics, therapy, and support, for children and adults at high risk for FASD. Existing FASD clinical processes, developed by PATCHES Paediatrics, will be replicated and supported by a locally identified FASD Clinical Administrators/Coordinator in each participating site.
3. Establish a Graduate Certificate in FASD assessment and diagnosis training program, within an existing university-based FASD clinic, that is consistent with a national standard for FASD diagnostic training and accessible via remote and online participation.

The project was not without challenges. Funding was allocated at half of the project income of other national sites. The absence of a centralised base like the WA Pilbara health service meant Tasmanian participants came from the government, non-government, and private practice sectors.

Adelle Rist, who was employed as Clinical Coordinator from 2018 to 2019 overcame many obstacles in remotely coordinating clinical diagnostic training events and organising visits by interstate trainers. A community reference group was established to design and develop a model of care for Tasmania.

In the second six months of this reporting period, eight sessions were due to be delivered however Covid 19 restrictions meant Adelle Rist was able to deliver two of the eight sessions in March 2020: Sheffield District High School (16 students) and Don College (45 students).

In March 2020, Adelle Rist and Vicki Russell travelled to Narrabri, NSW and over three days, spoke with a range of people engaged in various roles who by their attendance, were keen to establish a community focused FASD project. Narrabri is a major centre in the New England region of NSW, a two hour drive northwest from Tamworth. Our visit was sponsored and paid for by Centacare New England NW. Narrabri has been interested in developing FASD awareness for several years. One example was a successful basket weaving program which engages First People young women whose comfort in having conversations about all manner of topics relevant to pregnancy and parenting (inclusive of the risk of alcohol use in pregnancy) is aided by the craft. We delivered education sessions to local TAFE students, met with almost 60 community service providers and parents. Our return has been hindered by Covid19 however we remain optimistic of a return to Narrabri in 2021.

PARTNERSHIPS

FASD Tasmania continues 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report indicates the low level of activity in this reporting period (see attached).



Dr Vicki Russell PhD , Chairperson 8 Dec 2020
