

# FASD and Education

## A Story from Ōtautahi, Christchurch Aotearoa, New Zealand



(Planetepapascom, 2018)



(Colliersconz, 2018)



SOUTH AND EAST CHRISTCHURCH

# whakatauki

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tātou mahi  
Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work*

## my professional role

### Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour

- 4 teams across Canterbury area
- Te Paeroa - 67 schools, 30 RTLB



# WHAT re FASD?

- One in two pregnancies exposed to alcohol, one in ten at high risk levels (estimates of 3000 babies born each year in NZ affected by FASD (Radionzconz, 2015))
  - FASD affects about 50% of children in Oranga Tamariki (State) care
  - Eight diagnostic teams, all in the North Island.
- (FASD working group, 2016, p1)

# WHAT re CHRISTCHURCH?



(Bostoncom, 2018)

- 6 600 injuries
- 185 deaths
- Estimated 171,000 properties damaged with 12,000 seriously and 13,000 uninhabitable (Liberty, 2017)

- 7.1 earthquake – Sept 4, 2010 and 6.3 earthquake – Feb 22, 2011 followed by more than 14,000 aftershocks. (Liberty, 2017)



(Theguardiancom, 2018)

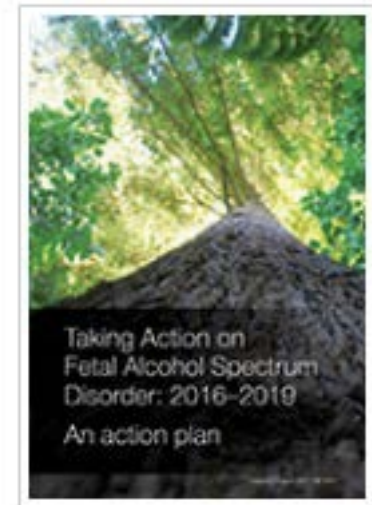
# SO WHAT? FASD

- “Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: 2016–2019 An Action Plan”

4 priorities:

- Prevention
- Early Identification
- Support
- Evidence (NZ based)

(FASD working group, 2016)



# SO WHAT?

## FASD and Education

NZ Govt Ministry of Education online FASD guide for teachers as part of a comprehensive online resource

“Inclusive Education: Guide for Schools”

<http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/>

The screenshot shows the 'Inclusive Education' website interface. At the top left, the logo reads 'Inclusive Education' in red and 'GUIDES FOR SCHOOLS' in black. A navigation bar contains three buttons: 'HOME' (red), 'GUIDES' (orange), and 'RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADS' (green). Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Guides > FASD and learning'. The main heading is 'Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and learning' in large, bold, black text. The content area includes three paragraphs: the first defines FASD as an umbrella term for impairments from alcohol exposure; the second describes it as a lifelong condition affecting brain structures and functioning; the third states the guide provides strategies for teachers. A 'Planned updates' section mentions that terminology is currently in flux. On the right side, there is a sidebar with three sections: 'Specifically about FASD' (with links for ADHD, Behaviour, Peer relationships, Transitions, and Universal Design for Learning), 'Highly relevant to' (with links for ADHD, Behaviour, Peer relationships, Transitions, and Universal Design for Learning), and 'Also related to' (with links for Detering bullying behaviour and Innovative learning environments). At the bottom right of the page, there are 'BOOKMARK' and 'SHARE' buttons.

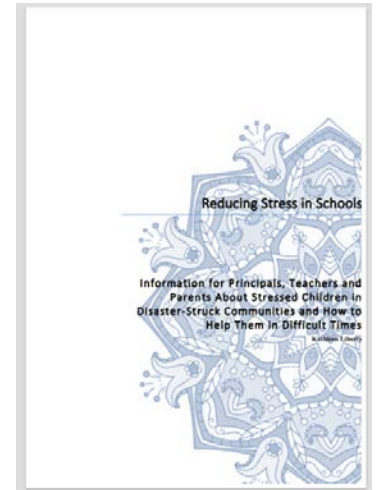
(New zealand ministry of education, 2018)

# SO WHAT? Chch Earthquake

“Reducing Stress In Schools:  
Information for Principals, Teachers and  
Parents About Stressed Children in  
Disaster-Struck Communities and How to  
Help Them in Difficult Times” (Liberty, 2017)

- Prompted by anecdotal information that teachers were finding complexities in the children coming into schools following the earthquakes, Dr Liberty decided to explore the effects of the Chch Earthquakes on the entering school population.
- Findings:
  - Increase on average of one behaviour problem per child
  - More than twice the number of children entering school with high Post-Traumatic Stress symptoms

(Liberty, 2017, pp 71/72)



# NOW WHAT?

- Liberty's research and findings has raised awareness of trauma, neurological/brain explanations for behavioural and learning challenges in schools
- RTLB are enabled to develop knowledge and encourage strategies that support rather than "blame"/punish children for their challenges.
- Within Chch there remains no diagnostic capacity and a limited understanding of FASD ...

BUT

development of trauma sensitive practice in schools supports those with undiagnosed FASD.



# What Next?

Continue to work towards:

- FASD informed teacher practice
- FASD diagnostic services
- FASD informed support services ...

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Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work*



(Amazoncouk, 2018)

# References

- Amazoncouk. 2018. Amazoncouk. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Story-Talking-Lightyear-Ranger-Collection/dp/B002B7JY66>
- FASD Working Group (2016) *Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: 2016–2019: An action plan*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.
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## Images:

- (Iain McGregor/Christchurch Press/Reuters) in Bostoncom. 2018. Bostoncom. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: [http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/02/christchurch\\_earthquake.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/02/christchurch_earthquake.html)
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- Planetepapascom. 2018. Planetepapascom. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.planetepapas.com/alcool-grossesse-prevention/bebe-alcool/>
- (Shuzo Shikano/AP) in Theguardiancom. 2018. The Guardian. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world>