

Working Group Brief 1:

Raising FASD awareness & supporting FASD informed practice

What do we mean by working groups?

Working groups are groups of people who will join together to collectively move this kaupapa forward with a particular focus.

Working groups will be

- Action-oriented - this is about getting things done that will create positive change.
- Self-organising - the direction of travel and how we move forward will be determined by the group, along with matters such as when, where and how the group will meet.
- Supported & Connected - whilst each group has their own area of focus, all are contributing to our shared kaupapa and there will be opportunities to support and strengthen each other's work.

This paper is designed to provide a starting point with a clear line of sight back to where the focus areas came from, so we can stay true to the contributions to date whilst innovating on top of these foundations.

Focus Area Scope & Context

This working group will explore how we might increase awareness of FASD, understanding of the experiences of whānau living with FASD, and capability / capacity to incorporate FASD-informed approaches.

Some of the insights and themes which underpin this focus area and form this group's work include:

- The importance of early and intensive support, backed by international research
- The need for *'less blame and more understanding of how the brain works and what it needs to function'*
- Whānau experience of schools taking a *'punitive rather than FASD-informed stance'* with young people and whānau
- Recognition that existing strategies to create access to diagnosis and treatment are ineffective
- Recognition that FASD awareness is needed across many domains, not just health but also education, justice, and across our communities.

Some relevant questions:

- Should we continue to prioritise diagnosis over need?
- How do we support those with the skills/expertise and look after those people?
- How do we get the key messages across to help encourage referrals in a short amount of time?
- How might we integrate kaupapa Māori frameworks and traditional healing practices?

Links into other working groups:

- Working group 2 are exploring how the education system might better meet the needs of young people and whānau affected by FASD
- Working group 3 are working on whānau and peer support
- Working group 4 are looking at wraparound support and cross-agency collaboration

The Opportunity

This kaupapa is about building on what already works and addressing the challenges that exist together as a collective. We have an opportunity to create real, sustainable, positive change through harnessing our collective energy and resources - bringing together what we all have to support high impact initiatives.

Some of the practical ways this kaupapa will be supported include:

- Facilitation & connection support - each working group includes a representative from Northable Matapuna Hauora or Ember Innovations. That person will support your group to find times to meet, capture what comes out of your meetings, and move your work forward as agreed by the group.
- Project management - recognising that collaboration requires time and effort and that this collective is made up of people already juggling many commitments, we will be employing a Project Manager to enable the working groups to focus their energy on their mahi
- Additional operational support - working groups will also be able to access additional supports which may include evaluation support, stakeholder engagement support, advocacy support, comms and story-telling support.
- Funding - alongside committed people resource, the founding partners have also committed some funding to support projects. We will also support additional funding applications where appropriate.

Getting started

Each working group will find its own rhythms and ways of working that suit its members, however we suggest a good starting point would be to reach an agreement around some foundational elements including:

- Refining / aligning around impact goals - what change are you working to create in the world?
- Identifying some tangible project ideas you might want to explore further as 'prototypes'

- Identifying who else might need to be involved, either as participants, supporters or system level enablers
- Agreeing how you will work together as a group, and as part of the larger collective.

Contact Information

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