



## **Excerpts from emails from parents/carers/support workers relating to diagnosis of FASD's**

I am getting no support from the Medical profession and I feel I am just "putting on bandaids" not addressing the real problems.

*We suspect that one of our children suffers from fetal alcohol syndrome and have no idea where to start in having her assessed*

What worries me now is we are frustrated that there is no Australian Government recognition for FASD so that parents and care givers do not have to go through this continual battle of explaining, proving and trying to obtain understanding and most importantly assistance to allow our children to become the best people they can be, building on their strengths and learning to live independently in the community.

My grandson was seen by the paediatrician who said he does not fit into any 'category'. When I mentioned FASD he almost 'lifted off the chair in horror'.

I suspect that my son may have features of FASD. Are there any medical practitioners who can provide an assessment and guidance with treatment if this is the case?

I was glad to be able to make acquaintance with you as I do feel that many of our children are severely disadvantaged without a diagnosis and/or therapy for their FAS symptoms/behaviours.

One of our other major struggles is that very few people including most medical professionals seem to have any expertise in dealing with this condition.

What I am asking of you is do you have a list of Paediatricians whom tend to specialize in the area of FAS. We live in Boonah Queensland, closest city is Ipswich, yet we are only an hour away from Brisbane. From my readings, I feel that not every Paediatrician is familiar with the varying degrees of FAS, so it is important to me to get one who is.

Since learning the affects of consuming alcohol whilst pregnant, I am extremely concerned that my five year old son displays symptoms of FASD. Would you be able to advise me how and where I could have him assessed.

More professionals need to be trained to diagnose and treat these children. There should be help for the caregivers of these children to find this sort of help because only with this type of help can we provide what these children need to reach their full potential and not just end up another statistic.

I couldn't agree more re monitoring and recording. I have been wondering just how many of my child cases over the last ten years have undiagnosed FASD.

Professor xxxxxx  
Department of Psychology

Its been a traumatic 3 years and I believe strongly that he has FAS. Do you know of someone who is experienced in this to be able to diagnose. There seems to be a fear of diagnosing it, yet off record most practitioners comment, "it could well be".

I saw you on the morning show and are more convinced than ever that Angel has FASD. Unfortunately I had a dismal response from the doctor in Townsville. He called me and asked a few questions, that was it, consultation over. Disappointing to say the least. At least we have people like you...

I would like to know if I could ask you some questions about FAS kids I am a foster carer and currently have 4 foster children in my care I am suspecting that 2 have symptoms .....

The difficulties I am experiencing is that there are NO Drs that will diagnose FAS or FASE and therefore the children cannot get access to specialist support services that they need to be able to integrate in a normal school environment.

I spoke with you this morning in relation to FAS and my 16 year old daughter. She currently has been diagnosed with ADD, dyslexia, attachment disorder, expressive language disorder, hearing loss and vision problems and a number of other health problems. ..I feel that her problems are probably related more to FAS than the other diagnosis she has received. She fits most of the symptoms that are on your website and other websites that I have viewed. Can you please forward me some information and contact details for any relevant services that are available in Queensland.

I am a Family Counsellor and Support Worker and am seeing more children which I suspect have effects of alcohol and I am often at a loss as to where to send them or the help I can give. Parents/carers and guardians appear to be quite frustrated that the level of recognition and support is just not available.

I have a 23 year old son who was diagnosed with global Dyspraxia when he was about 8 years of age. ....I am wondering if the diagnosis was correct. He presents many of the signs of f.a.s.

I am E-Mailing you on behalf a friend of mind who is Foster Carer Parent to a 10 year old FM with symptoms of FASD. Pat is at whits end & is searching for Professional Advice & Assistance ASAP.

The reason that i am writing to you is that my boyfriend's daughter was exposed to excessive amounts of alcohol whilst in utero. i was wondering whether you had any further direction to help us in our dealings with the medical profession on this issue. I am aware that correct diagnosis is vital and that early intervention is important in treatment and do not want to prolong the medical process and hamper results. I am also aware that not all medical professionals have the skill to assess and diagnose FASD

We soon discovered there are very little to nothing available for children this young with mental health issues that are directly related to the FASD.

I was wondering if you are aware of any professionals in the area (Around Brisbane in QLD) that specialize in FAS as I would like to have her assessed by a professional in this area.

I was wondering if there was a doctor that could diagnose FAS on the Gold Coast or Tweed area.

I would be pleased if you would be able to direct me to any services/ medical professionals that exist in Victoria (Melbourne) that are able to assist in the diagnosis of FAS/FAE and any on-going supports would be very welcome.

I would like you to send me some information on FASD including the paediatricians that we could take my step-son to for a diagnosis. Reading on the internet, it is amazing how much this describes Max.

My family and I are struggling to provide support to my adopted brother who is now 20 years old whom we suspect has FAS. Is there anyone locally in Tasmania we could contact? I read about the possibility of a

I have an 11 yr old adopted son whom I suspect suffers with some form of FASD. I have been from doctor to doctor only to be told by one paediatrician that it was unlikely to be the that even after we gave him Ethan's history... Ethan's birth mother was not aware that she was pregnant until she went into labour at about 8 months. She admitted to drinking a lot of alcohol during her pregnancy, daily even. I learnt about FASD about a couple of years ago and since then have been trying to find a doctor who is aware of this

I was watching 9am on TV today whilst waiting for new tyres to be fitted to my work car this morning and thought that we might have a son with some of the symptoms as described on the show. We have a nearly 16 year old son who was diagnosed with ADHD without hyperactivity. We were wondering what our next step might be and if there is any one in Brisbane that we could see.

*He exhibits so much of the symptoms for FASD I am seeking to have him*

*Seen by a doctor who understands this disorder. Is there anyone either in*

*Toowoomba or Brisbane you can recommend to us?*

I have found your web site and am wondering if you have any contacts for Victoria, I am hoping to find information on diagnosis for my granddaughter who is nearly eight, and am hoping you may have contact info on any Dr's who could assess her.

I was wondering if you know of any professionals in the Brisbane area that could help with a diagnosis/treatment of FAS/ARND. I have a fourteen year girl living with me in

foster care and she has many of the symptoms. Her mother was definitely drinking while pregnant and has struggled with alcoholism for many years

Daniel displays a number of autism-like behaviours and characteristics, and I am beginning to suspect that he may have ARND. Can you tell me who I could contact to get a preliminary diagnosis, so that I can determine if I am on the right track. Then I could get

I am writing to you regarding my niece Caitlin.

I have researched FASD and I am almost 99% sure that she has this. I do not want to go to a doctor who will misdiagnose her or say that I am imagining things, because I know I am not. If you could give me a few pointers on where to go from here, it would be very much appreciated. Given there is only one doctor in WA who is known to diagnosis the condition, I'm trying to work out if the assessment can be done by other professionals, namely psychologists. Do you know of any training programme geared to this group and if so is the training accredited

I work with Children in the counselling field. Many of the children I see are in foster care due to alcohol related family dysfunction. A client I am working with concerns me in that I suspect he has FASD. Could you please let me know of a Doctor who specialises in this area so that I can make arrangements for him to be assessed. My concern is that he has been misdiagnosed as ADHD?

**I am a Grandmother to an Eighteen month old boy. His Mother, my Daughter is an alcoholic and drank heavily during the first Three months of pregnancy. Is there anywhere I can get him diagnosed?**

I believe my 19 year old daughter has ARND and we need to know more.

Hi I live in Brisbane qld and im look for information on this as a fear by partner could possibly have it he had difficulties socialising and learning but the biggest thing is he cant coordinate his hands individually. His mother drank when she was pregnant and possibility that it could have been heavy. If you could send me some information on where he can get diagnosed or even a phone no so we can call and see what the chances are that he has it would be much appreciated

We are foster parents in Brisbane and believe we have two children in our care with foetal alcohol syndrome. We are trying to find out more information about this and ideally would like to find a paediatrician who can assist us.

Unfortunately in the Education system we have no way of identifying these kids as they are usually tagged with the disability symptoms rather than the cause... this would be an area of lobbying for change so you can get accurate data, however there presents the other issue of the range of symptoms and the difficulty in accurately diagnosing the symptoms as FAS!  
Regards