

University of Queensland Neurodevelopmental Clinic

ndclinic@uq.edu.au

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to our first clinic newsletter. We thought this could be a good way to keep everyone up to date with future services, events and research projects.

We have included all the families who have attended our clinic in the past and also all families who are currently on our wait-list. Please just let us know if you would not like to be included in our mailing list and we remove you straight away.

As some of you may be aware, we had a number of plans for 2020, but unfortunately, as for lots of other people, COVID-19 put a halt to that. We are hoping to be able to action these plans this year and some new ideas too!

We are looking forward to connecting with you in 2021!

Best wishes,

UQ ND Clinic Team

Plans for 2021

- **Ongoing psychology support**

We are currently working to establish a therapy service that will be able to provide Medicare bulk-billed support for children, young people and families. Unfortunately, we have run into multiple unforeseen barriers with getting this up and running, but we are on the home stretch now! We are hopeful that we will be able to start seeing people after Easter.



Upcoming Events

Family Night

Friday 23rd July 4 – 7pm

62 Graham Street South Brisbane

Clinic Giving Link

We have established a fundraising link where people/organisations can make tax deductible donations.

Please feel free to pass this on to anyone who you think may be interested in supporting the clinic.

<https://medicine.uq.edu.au/blog/2020/09/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-help-make-difference>

Sign our Petition

We have started a petition to get FASD recognised as a disability in our QLD education system we would love your support!

<http://chnq.it/GQJ47Vd8>

- **Training and recruitment of support workers/therapy assistants.**

In the past, where required we have worked in an *ad hoc* way to connect families with support workers through their NDIS funding. We are planning to establish a more systematic way of providing this for families this year and will arrange for support workers/therapy assistants to work in partnership with our psychologists.

- **Family nights**

Some of you may have attended the event we held at the end of 2019. This involved small group activities for children, young people and their siblings (supervised by UQ allied health students) and a parallel parent/caregiver group session. Following the session, we all had dinner together. We received positive feedback following this first family night event.

Our first 2021 family night is scheduled for Friday 23 July 4 – 7pm and will be here in our building at 62 Graham Street South Brisbane.

We are excited to announce that for the parent/caregiver group Sharon Wallace will give a talk for us. Sharon is a mother and grandmother to five lovelies, four of whom have FASD. Sharon is going to share her experience of how it is possible to have great outcomes and positive changes going forward.

Please RSVP to ndclinic@uq.edu.au and let us know the number of people from your family who are planning to attend and any food allergies.

- **Peer support for biological mothers**

Following feedback and with support from Geraldine, who attended our clinic in 2020 we are implementing peer support for biological mothers who are currently on the wait-list. If you would like to access this support, please email ndclinic@uq.edu.au We are very grateful to Geraldine for this suggestion and for her support.

- **Parent/Caregiver Reference Group**

We are hoping to establish an official Neurodevelopmental Clinic Parent/Caregiver Reference group. This group will inform the future growth and development of the clinic services and future research projects. If you are interested to be involved, please email ndclinic@uq.edu.au or discuss with us at the Family Night event in July.

Grants and funding

We are constantly looking for and applying for funding opportunities to enable us to expand our clinic services.

Under review: At the end of 2020 we applied for funding from the Department of Social Services. The funding opportunity was specifically focused on work readiness for people with disabilities. <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/economic-participation-grant-opportunity-2020-21>

Under consideration: We have approached Children's Health Queensland for funding and are hoping to integrate our services more with the Queensland Children's Hospital in the future.

Future opportunity: The federal government has announced that they will be providing funding for assessment and diagnostic services in 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/australia-leading-the-fight-against-fasd>

We will definitely be applying for this funding as soon as it becomes available!

Current research projects

- **Physical health outcomes of children and young people**

<https://child-health-research.centre.uq.edu.au/participate-fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-research>

At the end of 2019 and throughout 2020, we integrated this research study into the standard assessment process. If you did not participate in the physical health assessments as part of your assessment and you would like to take part in this research study, please email ndclinic@uq.edu.au to register your interest.

Your input and feedback

We thank all the families who participated in interviews with us after attending the clinic. We have used that information to plan our future services and events.

If you have suggestions for other services or topics you would like us to cover at future family night events please feel free to email ndclinic@uq.edu.au



In the News

"Advocates of FASD students in QLD schools push for more support..."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-09/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-petition-recognition-schools/13226610>

"Link between FASD and the youth crime sparks calls for change"

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-23/foetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-in-youth-justice-system/12885632>

"Elders and doctors come together to create groundbreaking FASD diagnostic framework"

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-28/unique-cultural-approach-fasd-health-child-mount-isa/12701986>

"Australia has some of the highest rates of drinking during pregnancy. It's time to make labelling mandatory"

<https://theconversation.com/australia-has-some-of-the-highest-rates-of-drinking-during-pregnancy-its-time-to-make-labelling-mandatory-142645>