

WESLANDER 24 MARCH, 2016



Role players and community members joined the Foundation for Alcohol-related Research (FARR) in Louwville recently as they said farewell to the West Coast. FARR has been in the West Coast region for the past three years but will be leaving at the end of March.

FARR hopes positive message remains

The Foundation for Alcohol-related Research (FARR) has been a part of the West Coast community since 2013.

Sadly FARR's project in the Saldanha Bay area is coming to an end this March.

Over the past three years FARR has reached out to mothers through the Healthy Mother Healthy Baby programme and the larger community with clinic talks, theatre shows and FAStrap training courses.

With support from the West Coast community, FARR has also conducted a large scale prevalence study to show the extent of the problem of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in the area.

The rates will be reported by the MEC of the Department of Social Development Western Cape in the next few weeks.

The organisation recently had a special farewell ceremony held in the Louwville civic centre.

FARR CEO Leana Olivier thanked the local stakeholders who helped to make the project a success.

According to Jaco Louw, FARR's West Coast project manager, the "wonderful community engagement" over the years makes FARR sure the preventative message of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) will remain strong in the West Coast.

Also at the event were Hildegard van Rhyn and Christelle Annandale from the Department of Health, Joanne Hanson-Louw and Welmaine Kellerman from the Department of Social Development, Wimpie Nell and Elrika de Vries from the Department of Education, as well as councillor Venti Vaughan from the Saldanha Bay District Municipality.

FARR would like to once more express its gratitude to the whole West Coast community for the warm reception and the wonderful support.

A special word of thanks goes out to Louisa Pienaar, Elloise Karolus and Hayley Hofmeester, the tireless community workers who have dedicated the last three years to the FARR programme.

International FASD day takes place on 9 September.