



**Family Law**  
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KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES IN WA FAMILY LAW

JANUARY 2020

## Greetings from the Chair

by Rod West



Hello from WAFLPN!

Hope that everyone is feeling refreshed after the holiday break and enjoying a pleasant start to the year. I am pleased

to begin the first eBulletin of 2020 with some exciting announcements about the WAFLPN 2020 Annual Conference.

As mentioned in the previous eBulletin, the Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday 12 May 2020 with a Workshop Day on 13 May 2020. The Workshop Day will consist of two half-day workshops with our keynote speakers and attendees will have the option to register for the full Workshop Day or either of the half-day workshops.

Due to the popularity of our annual conference in previous years, we have chosen the picturesque Burswood on Swan as our venue to accommodate increasing numbers.

The 2020 Conference has taken its theme - *'Shaping the Future of Family Law: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration'*. I am also pleased to announce two of our keynote speakers - Robert A. Simon, Ph.D. and Judge Tom Altobelli. Robert A. Simon, Ph.D. is a Forensic Psychologist and Author from the USA with over 30 years of experience in the legal domain of family law and domestic relations.

Judge Tom Altobelli is Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia who has authored four books on family law and dispute resolution and is widely published in Australian and International Journals.

To find out more about our conference speakers and be the first to know when registrations open, [subscribe for our fortnightly conference updates](#). We will be releasing more information about the conference and opening early bird registrations in February, so the wait is almost over!

Additionally, we have opened registrations for Walk in Their Shoes tours of the Family Court taking place in the first half of 2020. These tours book out quickly, but do note the ticket limit per organisation. More information and registration links are on the [next page](#).

As always, thank you for your continuous support of WAFLPN, and please enjoy the first eBulletin of the year.



**Family Law**  
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**NETWORK**



**WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS**  
**NETWORK CONFERENCE 2020**

**Shaping the Future of Family Law**

*IDEAS. INNOVATION. INSPIRATION.*

**Conference:**

**Tuesday 12 May 2020**

**Workshop Day:**

**Wednesday 13 May 2020**



**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Upcoming training and networking opportunities**

If you are running a training event and would like it included in our next eBulletin please contact

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au)

**Save the Date: WAFLPN 2020 Annual Conference and Workshop Day**

Save the date for the WAFLPN 2020 Annual Conference and Workshop Day on 12 and 13 May 2020 respectively. With the theme 'Shaping the Future of Family Law: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration', this conference will be of interest to professionals from a range of disciplines who work as part of, or alongside, the family law system. Keynote speakers include Forensic Psychologist and Author, Robert A. Simon, Ph.D. (USA) and Judge Tom Altobelli, Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Conference registration:  
Early bird \$125 | Standard \$150

Workshop Day registration:  
Early bird \$75 | Standard \$85

Conference + Workshop Day:  
Early bird \$185 | Standard \$215

Conference: 12 May 2020  
8.45am-4.30pm  
Burswood on Swan,  
1 Camfield Dr, Burswood WA

Workshop Day: 13 May 2020  
9am-12.15pm | 1pm-4.15pm  
Burswood on Swan,  
1 Camfield Dr, Burswood WA

More details to be announced soon - [click here to subscribe for fortnightly conference updates.](#)

Visit [waflpn.org.au/2020-conference](https://waflpn.org.au/2020-conference) for more information.

**Walk in Their Shoes Tours of the Family Court**

Registrations now open for Walk in Their Shoes tours of the Family Court taking place in the first half of 2020.

Presented by WAFLPN and the Family Court of WA, these bi-monthly tours assist practitioners in the sector to understand the pathways families take when accessing the Court.

The tours run from 9.30am - 12 noon and are free of charge, however booking is essential as these tours are very popular and book out quickly.

Please note the strict limit of **2 attendees per organisation per tour**, which will only be lifted if maximum numbers are not met.

Register for 2020 tour dates at the links below:

[12 February 2020](#)

[15 April 2020](#)

[10 June 2020](#)

For more information, visit [waflpn.org.au/events/walk-in-their-shoes](https://waflpn.org.au/events/walk-in-their-shoes).

**Save the Date: Addressing Violence Against Aboriginal Women**

Join Professors Vickie Hovane and Harry Blagg, authors of the ANROWS report *Innovative models in addressing violence against Indigenous women*, for a workshop based on their findings. Suitable for professionals working with Aboriginal people and communities, this workshop will focus on creating a response to family violence that reflects the needs of local women.

Registrations opening soon.

5 March 2020  
2pm-5pm  
Broome Lotteries House  
Hall 1, Lot 620 Cable Beach Road,  
Broome WA

**Save the Date: Keep Em Safe Resource Kit Overview Seminar**

Legal Aid WA and WAFLPN are organising a seminar about the new Blurred Borders *Keep Em Safe* Child Protection Resource Kit presented by Jane Stewart (Director Legal Practice Development, Legal Aid).

Originally developed for legal and community service providers working with Aboriginal people in the in the East and West Kimberley regions of WA, the *Keep Em Safe* kit can be used explain legal concepts and clearly convey key information to wider audiences. This seminar will provide an overview of the kit and its application as a resource in the Child Protection, legal and educational contexts.

Registrations opening soon.

24 March 2020  
4pm-5pm  
Legal Aid Training Room  
32 St George's Terrace, Perth WA

**MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS**

Check out the 'Resources' section on our website for more relevant training and events.

<https://waflpn.org.au/resources/other-relevant-training-and-events>

## RESEARCH &amp; PRACTICE

## The latest contributions to evidence-based practice in family law

If you are undertaking research in the field of family law that you think may be of interest to WAFLPN members, please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin.

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au)

### Adjustment of children in joint custody and associated variables: A systematic review

This systematic review examines a selection of studies conducted since the year 2000 on the adjustment of children (0-18 years) in joint custody (30/70%) and on the associated family factors (i.e., parenting and interparental conflict). The results show that the adjustment level of children in joint custody is as good, if not better, than that of those in sole custody. It also shows however that interparental conflict, parental practices, and the parents' mental health generally play a more influential role. In regard to conflictual contexts, studies are beginning to identify, particularly in joint custody, risk factors such as strict arrangements and concerns about the children's safety.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Baude, A., Drapeau, S., Lachance, V. & Ivers, H. (2019). Adjustment of children in joint custody and associated variables: A systematic review. *Journal of Child Custody*, 16(4), 313-338.

### Malicious Reports of Child Maltreatment as Coercive Control: Mothers and Domestic and Family Violence

Coercive control is increasingly recognized as fundamental to women's experiences of domestic and family violence (DFV). Systems abuse is also being increasingly recognized by researchers as a tactic of coercive control in the context of DFV. This article explores the phenomenon of abusive partners or ex-partners making malicious false reports of child maltreatment to child protective services as an aspect of coercive control and systems abuse. The article draws on interviews with 65 women who have been victims of DFV, focusing on the experiences of 11 of the interviewees who have been maliciously reported, or received threats that they will be reported, to child protection services by an abusive ex-partner. Those interviewees who had been the victim of malicious reports of child maltreatment by an abusive partner or ex-partner experienced substantial negative impacts. The article concludes that improved investigation processes and investigating both parties, where the reporting party has been found to be a perpetrator of DFV, may better support victims of DFV and deter perpetrators from this form of abuse.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Douglas, H. & Fell, E. (2020). Malicious Reports of Child Maltreatment as Coercive Control: Mothers and Domestic and Family Violence. *Journal of Family Violence*. DOI: 10.1007/s10896-019-00128-1.

### The affective burden of separated mothers in PA(S) inflicted custody law systems: a New Zealand case study

Custody law systems across the Anglo-West are increasingly characterised by the overt and covert use of parental alienation (syndrome) as an aid to the governance of post-separation mothers. Difficulties with care arrangements within PA(S) inflicted custody law systems are often regarded as evidence of mothers' alienating behaviours, resulting in a range of remedial, coercive and punitive censures, including losing resident parent status. The author argues that the synergistic interaction between custody law and PA(S) creates an affective burden for post-separation mothers. Drawing on the voices of mothers in contested custody cases, this study shows that their affective burden consists of negative emotional states for themselves and their children, emotion work in relation to these states, and court required emotion work in support of father-child relationships. The latter mitigates the risk of being found to be an alienator and losing what matters most to them – their children.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Elizabeth, V. (2019). The affective burden of separated mothers in PA(S) inflicted custody law systems: a New Zealand case study. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. DOI: 10.1080/09649069.2020.1701943

## NOTICE BOARD

**What's happening around town**

If you or your organisation has something to announce, pin it on the board! Submit an article for the notice board by emailing:

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au)

### National Principles for Child Safe Organisations - Community Services Sector Consultation Survey

The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS), Youth Advisory Council of Western Australia (YACWA) and the Department of Communities are working to enhance engagement with the community services sector on the awareness, capacity and progress to date, in implementing the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

The first phase of this project includes an online survey which seeks to identify organisations' readiness and capacity in implementing the National Principles, along with any emerging challenges.

Further consultation will be held by the Department of Communities in early 2020, including targeted engagement with service providers and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The survey will remain open until **7 February 2020**. For more information or for questions about the survey or the consultations taking place email [csaroyalcommission@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:csaroyalcommission@communities.wa.gov.au)

[Click here to access the survey.](#)

### Women's Council Lived Experience Reference Group

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WCDFVS) recognizes that women survivors of DFV hold valuable knowledge and experience that can improve service practice, strengthen legislation and deepen the understanding of community members of DFV. This knowledge and experience can make the journey of current and future victims of Domestic and Family Violence easier.

WCDFVS is seeking members to join a Lived Experience reference group who:

- Are at least two years out of an abusive relationship and believe they are safe to speak publically;
- Are willing to be involved at a level that they feel is appropriate to them and their circumstances at the time;
- Know they can choose not to be involved and to change their mind if things change for them;
- Expect respect for their contribution;
- Who come from diverse backgrounds, age groups and who have unique and individual journeys to share;
- Have the capacity to volunteer their time.

[View application form.](#)

If you require more information please contact Kedy Kristal on 0401934479/[kedykristal@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:kedykristal@womenscouncil.com.au).

### New CFCA Resource Sheet "Child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children"

The Australian Institute of Family Studies published a new resource sheet in January 2020 to assist practitioners, policy makers and researchers to understand the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are involved in the Australian child protection and out-of-home care systems.

[View resource sheet.](#)

### Community Legal Centre Services and Fees

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are not for profit, non-government organisations that provide legal and welfare services to people in need. Some CLCs offer legal advice in Family Law matters.

The services provided by CLCs may include legal information, advice and representation to individuals and groups; community education and law reform programs and advice to governments on policy issues. Most services are free or very low cost.

Did you know that Citizens Advice Bureau maintains a comprehensive list of Community Legal Centres in Western Australia, including current services and fees? [This list is available under 'Resources' on the WAFLPN website.](#)

### FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Follow [@FamilyPathwayWA](#) on twitter for the latest information and interesting articles relating to family law

### FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to [sofia.kouznetsova@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:sofia.kouznetsova@relationships.wa.org.au)