



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES IN WA FAMILY LAW

MAY 2020

Greetings from the Chair

by Rod West



Hello from WAFLPN!

May is always a big month for us at WAFLPN as we celebrate [Law Week](#) (18-22 May 2020), [National Families Week](#) (15-21 May 2020) and the beginning of [National Reconciliation Week](#) (27 May-3 June 2020).

It is also usually the time of the year when we hold our annual conference, although this year the conference unfortunately could not take place. However, we are currently working on organising webinars with some of the speakers who were originally going to speak at this year's conference, so stay tuned for future announcements about that.

In the meantime, our National Family Law Pathways webinar series has kicked off on 21 May with a very engaging and well-received online webinar with Trent Savill. With Trent's permission, we have made a recording of his webinar and a copy of his presentation slides available on the [Member Area](#) of our website.

This week, the webinar series continues with 'The Attachment Style Interview' by Liz Sanders. More details about this upcoming webinar and others in this series can be found on the next pages of this eBulletin as well as on the [WAFLPN website](#).

Additionally, WAFLPN and Legal Aid WA are proud to present a free webinar on 'Online Applications for Interim FVROs' on 26 May. This free webinar will provide information on the recent changes in legislation and provide information on the new online applications for interim FVROs.

As we adjust to new ways of event delivery, we seek our members' feedback more than ever to ensure that we continue to meet your networking and training needs, albeit in new formats. Please make sure you complete the post-webinar evaluation surveys, and do not hesitate to send any additional feedback to us via [email](#). Thank you for being patient with us as we grow and evolve with these changing times.

Please enjoy this month's edition of the eBulletin, stay safe, and keep in touch with us.



Working Together
in the
Family Law System

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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

Webinar: Online Applications for Interim FVROs

Recent changes to the law in WA have made it easier for some people to apply for a family violence restraining order (FVRO). This free webinar organised by WAFLPN and Legal Aid will provide information on the recent changes in legislation and provide information on the new online applications for interim FVROs.

Tuesday, 26 May 2020
11am-11.40am
Online Webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

Visit waflpn.org.au/events/webinar-online-applications-for-interim-fvros for more information.

Family Law Pathways Webinar Series

Across Australia, the Family Law Pathways Networks have collaborated on a series of 6 webinars held every Wednesday between 20 May and 24 June.

Registered participants will have access to a recording of each webinar for 14 days after the live event.

Upcoming Webinars:**Liz Sanders - The Attachment Style Interview**

Wednesday, 27 May 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

See flyer on the next page for details.

Ben Grimes - Linguistic and Cultural Barriers to Aboriginal Access to Justice

Wednesday, 3 June 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

David Mandel - Promoting the Best Outcomes for Children in Domestic and Family Violence Case

Wednesday, 10 June 2020
9am-10.30am AWST
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

Rose Cuff - Parenting Capacity & Mental Health

Wednesday, 17 June 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

Dr Margaret Spencer - Complex Circumstances: Parents with Intellectual Disability

Wednesday, 24 June 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Free, registrations essential
[Register Here](#)

For more information, visit waflpn.org.au/events/family-law-pathways-webinar-series.

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>

Family Law Pathways Network

presents

Liz Sanders

The Attachment Style Interview



Wednesday, 27 May 2020
11:00am-12:30pm AWST

As part of our **free webinar series** the Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join a free webinar by leading expert Liz Sanders

Attachment theory explains how the primary carer-child relationship emerges and influences subsequent emotional and physiological development across the lifespan. The Attachment Style Interview (ASI) is an evidence-based instrument that enhances practitioners' understanding of family dynamics and the capacity of caregivers to develop meaningful strategies for resilience. Designed by the Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies at Middlesex University, the ASI has been widely used in the UK and other European countries across out-of-home-care and child protection for over ten years.

The ASI is relatively new to Australia and this webinar will provide FLPN members with a short introduction to Attachment Theory and Styles followed by an explanation of the ASI and how the instrument is used to:

- assess the strengths, resilience and risks of potential carers/guardians/adopters;
- assess parents seeking the reunification of their children from care;
- assess the support system that underpins families with children who have experienced trauma, neglect and/or abuse; and
- how to determine strategies that promote resilience and stability in families.

The application of this approach moves practitioners on from being trauma informed to being trauma responsive and is applicable across the lifespan.

Liz Sanders has a background in Social Work and Family Therapy and over thirty years experience working with vulnerable children and adults for whom the experience of early abuse, trauma and insecure attachment continues to impact negatively upon their lives. Originally from the UK where she managed mental health services across London along with experience in a range of services. She previously managed Uniting NSW/ACT's Newpin program, leading its transformation into a successful reunification program, that became Australia's first Social Benefit Bond. Liz has presented on working therapeutically using an attachment model at a number of national and international conferences and provides consultations and supervision in NSW, QLD and ACT.

Register Here

Registered participants will be emailed a link for the webinar within 24 hours of the scheduled start time and will also have access to a recording of the webinar for a period of time following the live stream.



RESEARCH & 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

COVID-19 and Separated Families

Many families in Australia are experiencing considerable stress related to fears about COVID-19, economic pressures (the loss of livelihood or income; rent or mortgage stress, etc), the strain of sudden forced confined close relationships, and juggling children and work from home. New challenges and stresses are emerging in particular for separated families, family law professionals, and family law courts. In this paper, we reflect on some of these challenges in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read full article.](#)

Smyth, B., Moloney, L., Brady, J., Harman, J. & Esler M. (2020). COVID-19 and Separated Families. COVID-19 Issues Paper, ANU Centre for Social Research & Methods.

Parental Alienation: In Search of Common Ground For a More Differentiated Theory

The concept of parental alienation (PA) has expanded in popular usage at the same time that it remains mired in controversy about its scientific integrity and its use as a legal strategy in response to an increasing range of issues in family court. This paper describes how competing advocacy movements (for mothers, fathers and children) in the family justice field have, over time, helped shape the shifting definitions and widening focal concerns of PA from children who make false allegations of abuse, to those who resist or refuse contact with a parent, to parent relocation, and to the emotional abuse wrecked upon children who are victims of a manipulative parent. In search of common ground for a sound approach to using PA concepts, this paper argues that the Single Factor model of PA (asserting that an alienating preferred parent is primarily the source of the problem) is inadequate, overly simplistic and misleading. By contrast, multi-factor models of PA make more useful, valid, differentiated clinical predictions of children's rejection of a parent, informed by basic and applied research on children and families. However, multi-factor models are complex and difficult to argue in court and to use in assessment and interventions. Suggestions are made for developing intervention-focused prediction models that reduce the number of factors involved and are applicable across different types of interventions.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Johnston, J. R. & Sullivan, M. J. (2020). Parental Alienation: In Search of Common Ground For a More Differentiated Theory. *Family Court Review*, 58, 270-292.

Domestic violence and child participation: contemporary challenges for the 1980 Hague child abduction convention

This article addresses two contemporary challenges for the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention: (i) domestic violence and (ii) child participation. It also outlines three components of a global socio-legal policy and research initiative undertaken to address these issues and, where relevant, their intersection. The published literature on these topics, including the children's objections exception, is explored, as are the ways in which these challenges are addressed within some of the 101 Contracting States to the Convention and through the Guide to Good Practice on Article 13(1)(b) of the Convention. Current international initiatives are discussed, including the development of a child-friendly version of the Convention through The International Association of Child Law Researchers. Training is a key to changing attitudes and upskilling family justice professionals to ensure the Convention operates in a fully child-centric way. This will maintain and strengthen the Convention by keeping it 'fit for purpose'.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Freeman, M. & Taylor, N. (2020). Domestic violence and child participation: contemporary challenges for the 1980 Hague child abduction convention. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. DOI: 10.1080/09649069.2020.1751938

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@relationshipsqa.org.au

Podcast: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims in Lockdown

This podcast episode of Today in Focus (The Guardian) talks about protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators of domestic violence in lockdown.

In this episode, Rachel Humphreys talks to Kate, a call handler with domestic violence charity Solace (UK). Since lockdown began, calls to helplines like this one have risen by 25%. The Counting Dead Women project recorded 16 killings of women and children in the first three weeks of lockdown - where they'd usually expect about five.

Rachel also talks to the Guardian's North of England editor, Helen Pidd, who last month listened in on court four at Manchester magistrates court to hear how lockdown was changing the way domestic violence cases are being prosecuted. We also hear from David Philpott from Olliers Solicitors who has been working at the court for over 30 years.

[Listen to Today in Focus: Protecting domestic violence victims in lockdown.](#)

Launch of Connect for Mental Health (CFMH) Online Tool for Parents, Teachers and Carers

Relationships Australia WA has developed a new free online mental health training tool to help parents, teachers and carers better understand mental health, and recognise a child who may need support with challenges they are experiencing.

[Connect for Mental Health \(CFMH\) – For Parents, Teachers and Carers](#)

is a community learning tool designed to help anyone who has responsibilities for primary school aged children know what to look for in a child who may be struggling, and how to respond and support them with their emotions.

The tool was launched on the last day of National Families Week, held this year between 15 – 21 May and contributes to the ongoing theme of Stronger Families, Stronger Communities.

Issues of mental health affect children of all communities and ages in Australia. [Almost 1 in 7 Australian children between the ages of 4 – 17 will experience a mental health disorder in any given year.](#)

Both Relationship Australia WA's online training tools use the STRES model – five simple steps to give people the confidence and tools to talk to someone they may be concerned about.

The content was developed by Relationships Australia WA clinical staff using recognised information and research on mental health. While not everyone has the ability to attend courses or workshops due to time, cost or location constraints, our CFMH training tools cover important mental health information in an interactive online format that is engaging, practical and free.

MORE COVID-19 RESOURCES

Visit waflpn.org.au/resources/covid-19-resources to access a compilation of relevant COVID-19 resources

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Follow [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/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@relationshipsqa.org.au