



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

MAY 2021

# Greetings from the outgoing Chair

by Karen Barker

Hello from WAFLPN!



As you may have already gathered from the title of this section, it is actually both hello and goodbye from me today as I have some

bittersweet news to share. I have recently resigned from my position at Anglicare WA and commenced a new role at Parkerville. As part of this transition, I have stepped down as Chair of the WAFLPN Steering Committee as I am no longer representing one of the Steering Committee member agencies.

Having been involved with the WA Family Law Pathways Network since the inception of the first WA Family Relationship Centre in Joondalup in 2006, stepping down from the Steering Committee feels like closing an important chapter of my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving as representative on the Steering Committee and particularly in my role as Chair of the Network. It has been an immense privilege to work alongside my Deputy Chair, Marnie Williams, and other like-minded professionals on the committee to discuss issues within the sector and work on improving referrals and information sharing.

Since starting at Parkerville, I have observed that many agencies that are not traditionally thought of as providers of family law-related services often find themselves working with families involved with the Family Court and would benefit from better understanding of the system and stronger connections with other organisations involved in the process. Though I may no longer be on the WAFLPN Steering Committee or involved in the provision of direct family law services, I plan to continue championing the aims of WAFLPN within the broad family law sector.

Unfortunately, the current circumstances leave WAFLPN without a Chair. The Steering Committee will be conducting elections soon and will advise members of the results once they are approved. In the meantime, the Deputy Chair, Marnie Williams, will be assuming chairing responsibilities. For any queries, please [contact WAFLPN via email](#).

It's been a real pleasure serving as Chair of WAFLPN and I look forward to working with you all, albeit in a slightly different capacity. I hope you enjoy this issue of the eBulletin and please continue supporting the wonderful work of WAFLPN.



**Family Law**  
**PATHWAYS**  
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*Working Together*  
*in the*  
*Family Law System*

[wafpn.org.au](http://wafpn.org.au)



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## 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)

**Safe and Together Core 4 Day Training**

[External/non-WAFLPN event]

Stopping Family Violence has gained funding through the Department of Communities to support our community sector build a DV informed service system through the Safe and Together model.

Contact SFV to see if your organisation is eligible for funded placements or send an expression of interest to [admin@sfv.org.au](mailto:admin@sfv.org.au).

9-12 August 2021

All day  
Perth, location TBC

More information available at <https://sfv.org.au/events/safe-and-together-core-4-day-training-2/>

**AFCC Perth Plus One Event: Surviving or Thriving in Family Law**

[External/non-WAFLPN event]

As a lead into the upcoming conference 'Let's Hear it for the Kids' in Brisbane 2- 4 July 2021 at BCEC, AFCC invites members and interested colleagues to their 'plus one' event in Perth. Justice Steven Strickland will host the event and Justice Ciara Tyson and Dr Catherine Campbell will present on 'Surviving or Thriving in Family Law'. This event is sponsored by Mills Oakley and is presented at no cost to attendees. Refreshments and light food will be served.

Wednesday, 9 June 2021

5.30pm-7.00pm

Mills Oakley Level 24/240 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

Free, registrations essential: RSVP to Jenni at [AusAFCC@gmail.com](mailto:AusAFCC@gmail.com) with 'Perth Plus One' in the subject line

For more information about the AFCC, membership options and information on the upcoming 7th Annual Chapter Conference in Brisbane, please visit <http://afccnet.org.au>.

**FDV Conference 2021 - Bringing Children and Young People into View**

[External/non-WAFLPN event]

Join Stopping Family Violence and the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing at this important three day event in September 2021, which will bring together non-government community services, the government sector and the broader community to critically examine, discuss and explore policy and practice responses to better support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

13-15 September 2021

8.30am-5.30pm

Crown Perth, Burswood WA

Tickets starting from \$125

For more information and to register, visit [fdvconference.com.au](http://fdvconference.com.au).



BRINGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INTO VIEW

## 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)

### The use of telepractice in the family and relationship services sector

The use of telepractice as a service delivery method has increased in Australia since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper reviews the evidence for telepractice as a service delivery method in the family and relationship services sector. It describes the acceptability of telepractice as a service delivery option for both clients and practitioners, the enablers and barriers to uptake and implementation, and the current evidence on client outcomes. Evidence-informed implications of implementing telepractice for practice in this sector are also presented at the end of the paper.

[Read full article.](#)

Joshi, A., Paterson, N., Hinkley, T. and Joss, N. (2021). The use of telepractice in the family and relationship services sector. Australian Institute of Family Studies, CFCA Paper No. 57.

## Frontline Workers' Challenges in Hearing Children's Voices in Family Support Services

Research into children's voices continues to receive significant attention due to the limited progress made around the world in meeting Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the right to be heard and participate in decision making. However, there is a paucity of research providing insights into children's voices in family support services linked with the child protection system. This paper contributes new understandings into the everyday practice experiences of 46 frontline urban and regional practitioners working in family support services for UnitingCare, a nongovernment organisation in Queensland, Australia. Critical and interpretive research utilising WorldCafé focus groups reveals hearing children's voices is not occurring as an everyday practice. It identified four intersecting influences that prevent rights-based children's participation: program, conceptual, organisational, and direct practice issues. A sustained paradigm shift to protection with participation is needed to ensure children's voices are included as an everyday practice in family support services.

[Read full article.](#)

Stafford, L., Harkin, J., Rolfe, A., Morley, C. and Burton, J. (2021). Frontline Workers' Challenges in Hearing Children's Voices in Family Support Services. Australian Social Work.

## An Examination of Churn Within Australian Family Services: A Scoping Study

Churn, the persistent cycling of families in and out of family service programs without sustainable change, places an extremely high burden on families and the broader family services system. Yet, only a handful of studies based in the United States have examined the process of churn. As churn is a novel field of enquiry, this study aimed to generate consensus among key stakeholders who work within the Australian family services sector regarding the definition, implications, and predictors of churn, which will subsequently inform future research and intervention development to mitigate the incidence of churn. Stakeholders were engaged through an initial participatory research workshop, followed by a two-round Delphi study. The findings provided compelling insights into the nature of churn within the context of Australian family services and highlight the importance of substantial systemic change in order to mitigate and address the incidence of churn.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Hatzikiriakidis, K., Skouteris, H., Vicary, D., Fittock, N., Hogan, C., Diamond, S., Demeyer, C., Stopczynski, J. and O'Donnell, R. (2021). An Examination of Churn Within Australian Family Services: A Scoping Study. Australian Social Work.

## 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](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipsqa.org.au)

### Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System Releases Second Interim Report

The Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System was appointed by resolution of the Senate on 18 September 2019 and resolution of the House of Representatives on 19 September 2019.

The committee was originally due to present its final report on or before 7 October 2020. On 31 August 2020, both Houses of Parliament agreed to extend the reporting date to 25 February 2021.

The committee tabled its [first interim report](#) on 7 October 2020.

The committee tabled its [second interim report](#) on 15 and 16 March 2021. The second interim report details the committee's views and recommendations on the family law system. This concludes the committee's inquiry into the family law system.

On 22 and 23 February 2021, the Parliament agreed to extend the presentation of the final report until 30 June 2021. The committee intends that the final report will outline the committee's views and recommendations on the child support system and its interaction with the family law system.

For more information about this inquiry, visit [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Family\\_Law\\_System/FamilyLaw](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Family_Law_System/FamilyLaw)

### Compliance with and Enforcement of Family Law Parenting Orders – Survey of Professionals

AIFS has launched an [online survey](#) for family law system professionals, both legal and non-legal, which aims to understand their experiences and views about the parenting order enforcement regime.

The purpose of the survey is to gain information about compliance with family law parenting orders from the perspective of family law system professionals.

All family law system professionals both from a legal background (for e.g. judicial officers, barristers and solicitors) and from a non-legal background (for e.g. Family Dispute Resolution practitioners and professionals working in post-separation support services, including parenting order programs and family violence sector professionals) are invited to participate in this survey.

[For more information and to do the survey please review the information sheet here.](#)

**DISCLAIMER**

Content included in this eBulletin originates from a range of sources including contributors from the wider community. The opinions and viewpoints contained do not necessarily reflect those of WAFLPN or its affiliates.

**FEEDBACK**

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our ebulletin, please email them to [sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipsqa.org.au](mailto:sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipsqa.org.au)

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