



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

OCTOBER 2020

Greetings from the Chair

by Karen Barker

Hello from WAFLPN!

Things are in full swing for us here at WAFLPN as we begin making plans for the 2021 annual conference. Of course, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 may mean that the event might end up looking slightly different from past WAFLPN conferences, but we are committed to organising something that will be meaningful and beneficial to everyone working in this sector.

This month, we made a much-anticipated return to in-person events with the Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum (13 October), a seminar on the new Keep Em Safe resource kit (14 October) and our first Walk in Their Shoes Tour of the Family Court in months, albeit with a limited number of attendees. At the same time, the National FLPN webinar series continued with a presentation by Professor Jane Maree Maher on 'The views of Australian judicial officers on domestic and family violence perpetrator interventions' (20 October).

There are a number of exciting WAFLPN and non-WAFLPN events coming up very soon, so make sure you get all the details on pages 2 and 3 of this eBulletin.

On a slightly different note, I have a few updates that I would like to share with regards to the WAFLPN Steering Committee.



I am incredibly pleased to announce that Marnie Williams from Aboriginal Family Legal Services, our Regional Representative for Kalgoorlie, has been elected as Deputy Chair of the WAFLPN Steering Committee. I look forward to working alongside Marnie in this role and learning from her expertise.

It is the nature of a Steering Committee such as our own that the individual representatives on the committee may change even as our organisational membership remains the same. We have had a number of such changes recently, and I extend a warm welcome to the new representatives while simultaneously offering my sincerest thanks and best wishes to the outgoing committee members.

However, I would like to take the time to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Kevin Hanavan, who has served for many years as the Family Court representative on the Steering Committee. As Chair of the Conference Subcommittee, Kevin has been instrumental in organising many of the WAFLPN Annual Conferences. You may have also seen him present at a number of our events, including the 2018 WAFLPN Annual Conference and Family Court Circuit Twilight Networking Events in different regional areas. Kevin has always displayed great commitment and dedication to the work done by WAFLPN and championed our objective of promoting best practice and improving referral pathways across the sector. Thank you Kevin for all your hard work over the years!

That's all I have to say for now, please enjoy the rest of this eBulletin. Until next month!

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

Bunbury Circuit Twilight Networking Event

WAFLPN invites you to join us for some light refreshments and nibbles for family law professionals located in Bunbury and travelling from Perth on the Magistrates circuit of the Family Court of Western Australia. This session will feature a presentation about amica by Shivaun Hughes, Supervising FAS Lawyer - Regions at Legal Aid WA. amica is a new online resource to help people with family law issues, including online dispute resolution if suitable. amica can complement the vital assistance that Family Relationship Services provide every day to people dealing with separation. amica was developed by National Legal Aid with Commonwealth funding and oversight from a Steering Committee involving FRSA, NLA and the Attorney-General's Department.

Tuesday, 17 November 2020
5.30pm-7pm
Quality Hotel Lighthouse, Bunbury
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Legal CPD points available.

More information on the [WAFLPN website](#).

National FLPN Webinar and Screening of 'The Kinchela Boys' Short Film: Restoring our Family Structures

The Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join the screening of 'The Kinchela Boys' short film followed by a webinar discussion with the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation. The webinar will include:

- Accounts from survivors of the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home (KBH) Uncle Roger Jarred, Uncle Bobby Young and Uncle James Welsh.
- A screening of 'The Kinchela Boys', a short animated film that was co-written, animated and produced by KBH survivors who tell of their experiences at the KBH and about their lives since.
- A live Q & A with Uncle James Welsh, KBH Kin Connect Team Leader, Lesley Franks, whose father attended KBH.

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) was established in 2003 by Stolen Generation survivors of KBH, an institution on the Mid North Coast of NSW that was run by the NSW Government for over 50 years to house Aboriginal boys forcibly removed from their families. KBHAC supports KBH survivors who live across NSW and interstate, as well as their descendants and immediate families who live throughout Australia.

Thursday, 12 November 2020
10am-11.30am AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Visit the [WAFLPN website](#) for more information.

Webinar with Dr Rachel Carson: Children and Young People in Separated Families Project

In this 45 minutes webinar, Dr Rachel Carson will present the key findings from the Children and Young People in Separated Parents Project. The research was aimed at investigating the experiences and needs of children and young people whose parents had separated and had accessed the family law system. This presentation will explore the rich insights from participating children and young people about the issues that are important to them in making post-separation parenting arrangements, and their experiences with, and reflections on, family law system services. The discussion will conclude with a snapshot of effective professional practice from the perspective of children and young people.

Tuesday, 24 November 2020
11am-11.45am AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Legal CPD points available:
0.5 Professional Skills

For more information, please visit the [WAFLPN website](#).

Online seminar: International Mediation and 40 years of the 1980 Hague Convention

International Social Service (ISS) Australia have organised a free online seminar in honour of the 40th anniversary of the 1980 Hague Convention and invite all FLPN members to attend. The team from ISS will be joined by accredited family law specialist, and leading children's and parenting matters lawyer, Amanda Humphreys. Amanda has a special interest in international family law matters and has done extensive work in international relocation and child abduction cases. The session will be opened up at the end to answer any questions about International Parental Child Abduction and International Family Mediation. A recording will be made available the following week to those who register for the session.

Tuesday, 27 October 2020
8am-9am AWST
Online seminar
Free, registrations essential

[More information and register here.](#)

Symposium: Legal Representation in Protection and Care Matters

FLPN members have been invited to attend the Second Symposium on Protection and Care held on 1 December 2020 at the University of Western Australia. Topics covered include the need for trauma informed and culturally appropriate practice as well as public accountability in child protection. Professor Helen Milroy will deliver the keynote address. Guest speakers include the Minister for Child Protection the Hon. Simone McGurk, Magistrate Catherine Crawford and Magistrate Wendy Hughes. Afternoon tea will be provided. A networking event will follow at the University Club. Those located in the regions will have the opportunity to access the event remotely.

Tuesday, 1 December 2020
1-5pm, networking event 5-6pm
Wesfarmers Lecture Theatre,
University of Western Australia
Tickets \$55 for individuals
[Register here](#)

[View flyer.](#)

Please contact Debbie Henderson at info@finwa.org.au with any queries.

White Ribbon Events 2020

Friday, 20 November is White Ribbon Day and a range of events are being held across Western Australia to take action against gendered violence.

10th Annual Peel Regional Silent March

20 November, 10am
Mewburn Gardens Sholl Street

The Midland March That Matters

26 November, 11.30am-1.30pm
Juniper Gardens, Midland

30th Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March

27 November, 10am onwards
(Silent March at 12 noon)
Supreme Court Gardens, Perth

[Click here for a more comprehensive list of events.](#)

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 & 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

Safe and Together Addressing ComplexitY focussing on Children (STACY for Children)

This project explored the co-occurrence of domestic and family violence (DFV) when parents have challenges relating to mental health and the problematic use of alcohol and other drugs. In the context of families, these issues significantly impact children. However, in adult-focused services there is a tendency for the needs of children to become invisible. The project found evidence that a coordinated approach is needed to address these complex intersecting issues and to enable practitioners to work with each individual member of the family. The study found that when the Safe & Together Model™ is implemented holistically, with strong collaborative practice across agencies, it leads to better outcomes for children and families affected by DFV and parental alcohol and other drug use, and/or mental health challenges.

[Read full report or research summary.](#)

Humphreys, C., Kertesz, M., Parolini, A., Isobe, J., Heward-Belle, S., Tsantefski, M., ... Healey, L. (2020). Safe & Together Addressing ComplexitY for Children (STACY for Children) (Research report, 22/20). Sydney: ANROWS.

The Intersection of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with Child Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence: Implications for Research and Practice

Although the body of research on children exposed to intimate partner violence and factors that enhance their resiliency is growing, little is known about children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have also been exposed to violence. This knowledge gap is notable given the prevalence of intellectual and development disabilities among children, as well as the numerous challenges facing these children and their families (e.g., medical and behavioral challenges, parenting stress, and financial burden). Informed by prior research and the authors' practice experience, this article highlights information for service providers working with families experiencing both intimate partner violence and intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition to providing an overview of children's exposure to intimate partner violence and an overview of intellectual and developmental disabilities, this commentary summarises the limited research exploring the intersection between these two issues and offers recommendations for enhancing research and practice. Recommendations center on the importance of training, wrap-around and tailored services, community partnerships, and intervention research focused on survivors and their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Rizo, C. F., Kim, I., Dababnah, S. & Garbarino, N. (2020). The Intersection of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with Child Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence: Implications for Research and Practice. *Journal of Family Violence*, 35, 899–909.

Crisis for a System in Crisis: Forecasting from the Short- and Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 on the Child Welfare System

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust the world into a crisis – and the child welfare system is particularly susceptible to its effects. This pandemic has exacerbated some of the most problematic aspects of the system, and its impacts will reverberate long after the immediate crisis ends. As COVID-19 spread, families were instantly impacted – in-person family time was cancelled, youth and families were unable to access basic resources, services, and technology, and access to the courts was curtailed. Those short-term effects may give way to long-term harms such as disrupted attachments and delays in achieving permanency. The pandemic also reinforced the importance of key tenets of a well-functioning child welfare system: high-quality legal representation, creativity, and youth and family engagement. Attorneys must learn from the fallout of the pandemic, retain the best responsive practices, and use the lessons learned from this crisis to transform dependency cases, and the system writ large, into what families need and deserve.

[Read full article.](#)

Pisani-Jacques, K. (2020). A Crisis for a System in Crisis: Forecasting from the Short- and Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 on the Child Welfare System. *Family Court Review*. DOI:10.1111/fcre.12528

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

New ANROWS research grants open: A focus on children and young people

ANROWS is [calling for grant applications](#) from researchers across Australia for its 2020–2022 ANROWS Core Grant Research Program.

Grants are available for projects that will investigate the impacts on and needs of children and young people who are exposed to violence against women, especially those from marginalised communities.

A total pool of \$1.157 million is available. Funds for the [2020–2022 ANROWS Core Grant Research Program](#) have been provided to ANROWS jointly by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and the governments of all states and territories.

Funding will be prioritised for projects focussing on effective strategies that prevent and respond to:

- the impacts of exposure to violence against women on children and young people in marginalised populations
- harmful sexual behaviours of children and young people
- violence against women perpetrated by children and young people.

The grants round will also seek applications for research projects that address intersections of inequality and disadvantage for marginalised populations.

ANROWS has identified these issues as an urgent research gap through [Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2020–2022](#) (ANRA), which has also been released today. ANRA was developed through an extensive review of current literature and wide consultation with researchers and policymakers working on violence against women.

Funded projects are to commence in early 2021 and final reports, following peer review, are to be submitted no later than 31 March 2022.

Applications will be accepted until 11:59pm (AEDT) Monday, 9 November 2020. No extensions will be granted.

Researchers can find further information about how to apply for the grants on the [ANROWS website](#).

Service Wait Times

If you are often referring to clients to family law services in your role, you may find the WAFLPN compilation of service wait times useful.

Each month, WAFLPN collates the wait times for government-funded family law services in the Perth metropolitan area and some parts of regional WA.

In the document you can find up-to-date waiting periods for services like children's contact centres, family dispute resolution, parenting programs and men's behaviour change programs.

To view the current service wait times on the WAFLPN website visit wafpln.org.au/resources/service-wait-times



Working Together in the Family Law System

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