



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

JANUARY 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Happy new year from WAFPN and I hope you enjoyed your break! We are looking forward to a busy year and we aren't wasting any time getting in to it. Our first event for 2015 is a Family Domestic Violence Networking and Referral Forum, which has had an overwhelming response and filled up quickly. If you missed out, or are interested in attending similar networking events, contact Jane Azzopardi to register your interest.

We have set the dates for our 'Walk in their shoes' tours for the first half of 2015. These tours were very popular and received an excellent response in 2014, and are essential for those working with clients in the family law system. If you are interested in attending please contact Jane to find out more.

In February we will be hosting a CLE event to discuss two cases in relation to the Restraining Orders Act, find out more about that in next month's eBulletin. And as always we are looking ahead to our annual conference in May, which we will be announcing more details on very shortly.

Last week the WAFPN Kiosk Information and Referral Service reopened for 2015 at the Family Court of WA. Nicola Lavery, our Kiosk Officer, is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday to provide information and referrals to services from those involved in child related proceedings. We are very excited to welcome Nicola to the team and to have the Kiosk up and running once again.



Spotlight on: Nicole Leggett

Manager Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department of Child Protection and Family Support

My name is Nicole Leggett and I represent the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) on the Family Pathways Network Steering Committee and conference/seminar sub-committee.

The Department is the lead agency responsible for child protection and family support services in Western Australia. This includes supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the Chief Executive Officer's care, protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect, and supporting families and individuals at risk or in crisis.

The Department administers these responsibilities through a range of strategies including direct program and service delivery across the state, after hours counselling and support through Crisis Care, partnerships with government and non-government organisations, contracting non-government services, providing training and professional development, and conducting working with children checks.

I have been working for the Department for seven years and am employed as the Manager of the Family and Domestic Violence Unit (FDVU). The FDVU develops policy and procedure to assist child protection workers to respond to family and domestic violence and is responsible for across government family and domestic violence strategic planning. The focus of

strategic planning, both at state and national levels, is to promote victim safety and perpetrator accountability through coordinated and collaborative responses to family and domestic violence.

Some of the recent projects or initiatives undertaken by the FDVU include:

- Release of media guidelines for reporting family and domestic violence.
- Release of a practice resource about engaging and responding to perpetrators of family and domestic violence within the child protection system.
- Development and implementation of Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams which are a partnership between the Department, Western Australia Police and non-government domestic violence services. The role of the Response Teams is to provide timely, early and coordinated intervention to adult and child victims of family and domestic violence who have been identified by WA Police.
- Introduction of new guidelines for multi-agency case management of high risk family and domestic violence, click here.
- Development of a second edition of the Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework.



For more information about these projects and the Department visit the [website](#) or the [2013-14 Annual Report](#).

Prior to working for the Department, I completed a doctorate in psychology and worked for the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, the peak body for domestic violence accommodation and support services in Western Australia.

MEET OUR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

See who's behind the scenes at WAFPN with our 'Spotlight on' segment, featuring a different Committee member each month.

If you would like to know more about the WAFPN people and agencies please contact Jane Azzopardi, jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au

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@wa.relationships.com.au

“When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?” WAFPN Annual Conference 2015

WAFPN are excited to announce that our 2015 annual conference will be held on **May 14 at Technology Park, Bentley.**

The theme for the conference will be “When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?”

Earlybird registration opens on Monday, February 2nd.

If you have any queries in regards to the 2015 conference, please contact Jane Azzopardi
jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au

FDV Networking and Referral Forum

WAFPN's first Family and Domestic Violence Networking and Referral Forum sold out quickly. Due to the large amount of interest in the event, we are considering hosting these more regularly. Express your interest to attend a session in the

future by emailing
jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au

Introduction to Family and Domestic Violence

Anglicare WA would like to invite case workers and counsellors to a workshop with Tori Cooke, Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) consultant.

The workshop explores the definitions, prevalence and current State and National policies relating to FDV. The workshop explores community and practitioner assumptions, victim and perpetrator behaviours and best practice interventions when working with high-risk clients.

Workshop topics include:

- Definitions, prevalence and current policies
- Perpetrator behaviours, attitudes and beliefs
- The importance of accountability
- Survival modalities and victim support
- Interagency collaboration and best practice
- Self-care strategies for workers

24 February 2015
9.30am-4.30pm
23 Adelaide Tce, East Perth
\$220 per person

For more information or to register, contact
training@anglicarewa.org.au

Reactive to Responsive: Ethical Interventions with Men who have Perpetrated Violence

Anglicare WA would like to invite anyone working with perpetrators, potential perpetrators or victims of FDV to the first workshop in our 2015 series on Family and Domestic Violence.

The workshop explores ways of working with men who have engaged in violence and abusive behaviour, including those with disadvantaged backgrounds. Participants will learn practical intervention strategies to invite men to discover their own capacities for self-responsibility and ethical and respectful ways of relating to the women and children in their lives.

27 March 2015
9am-4pm
City West Receptions, West Perth
\$295 per person

For more information or to register, contact
training@anglicarewa.org.au

WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFPN's popular family court tours fill up fast! This is a fantastic opportunity to experience the pathways families take when attending the Family Court of WA.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND
jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au

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 WAFPN members please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@wa.relationships.com.au

Securing Children's Best Interests While Resisting the Lure of Simple Solutions

The best-interest-of-the-child standard for child custody policy and decisions has benefits and hazards, the latter related to the exercise of judicial discretion in custody disputes. This article examines alternatives to the status quo, including the primary parent presumption, the approximation rule, shared parenting, an exact even split of custodial time, sole custody for couples labelled as in high conflict or those with young children, the friendly parent presumption, and decisions that defer to children's stated preferences. Each alternative promises simpler paths to securing children's welfare, but some have more support than others in the social science literature

Abstract:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2014.972186>

Warshak, R. A. (2015). Securing children's best interests while resisting the lure of simple solutions. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*,

56(1), 57-79.

Absent presence: the ongoing impact of men's violence on the mother-child relationship

This paper draws from interviews with 45 mothers and 52 children who participated in an action research project to develop activities to support women and children in the aftermath of domestic violence. A thematic analysis was used to analyse the data and explore the question: In what ways does the perpetrator of abuse remain present in the lives of women and children following separation? The paper invites workers to recognize the distortions created by domestic violence that may need to be identified and addressed in the aftermath of violence. The paper has implications for social workers orientating practice to focus on perpetrator accountability and support strengthening the mother-child relationship.

Abstract:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12210/abstract>

Thiara, R. K., & Humphreys, C. (2015). Absent presence: the ongoing impact of men's violence on the mother-child relationship. *Child & Family Social Work*.

Child protection: A 50-year perspective

It has been 50 years since Kempe et al. published 'The Battered Child

Syndrome', describing harm from inflicted injury mechanisms derived from parents and care givers. Since then, there has emerged a rapidly expanding literature on paediatric forensic medicine and child protection, which has offered new insights into injury mechanisms, informed us of the sequelae of abuse and neglect, aided diagnosis and guided clinical practice in the treatment and management of children who become involved in the child protection system. Through the scrutiny of government inquiries and at times uncomfortable media exposure, there have been improvements in child protection and forensic practices resulting in recognition of need for specialised forensic training, improved funding, development of resources and development of professional standards that support accountable, objective, safe and robust practice. From the perspective of an Australian child protection paediatrician, this paper chronicles some of the most significant and at times controversial research in the last 50 years in child protection that have played a key role in shaping our current understanding of child abuse and neglect.

Full article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jpc.12813/full>

Skellern, C. Y. (2015). Child protection: A 50-year perspective. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*.

COMMUNITY 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@wa.relationships.com.au

RESPECT launches research on DV Perpetrator Programmes

Respect UK have launched their long awaited longitudinal research looking at the effectiveness of Domestic Violence Perpetrator programmes and the effect they have as part of a coordinated response to DV.

Project Mirabel is an independent five year research project which examined the outcomes of men's participation in Respect accredited perpetrator programmes. The results are very encouraging, including reduced levels of violence among participants and increased feelings of safety from partners and ex-partners of participants.

For more details on the research findings, visit

<http://respect.uk.net/highlights-mirabal-research-findings-respect-accredited-domestic-violence-perpetrator-programmes-work/>

UK Gov launches a range of online mediation material

The UK introduced changes to its family law system last year and copied the changes introduced in Australia in 2006 making it a requirement, with a few exceptions, for parties to attend mediation (FDR) before an application could be lodged in court.

The UK Gov has recently posted a range of information resources for family mediation, including a cartoon clip that explains the purpose of mediation.

View the clip here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va59Ksk6XZQ>

Access the resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-mediation>

Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

If you want to keep up to date with info and articles we find interesting, follow WAFPN on Twitter:

[@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

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FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au



Our Aim

Improve collaboration and coordination between organisations operating in the Family Law system

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services