



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

JULY 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! Hope you had a smooth EOFY and are keeping warm in this cold and wet weather.

Family and domestic violence is certainly topical and receiving a huge amount of coverage in the national media. We were lucky to have David Mandel cover some of the complex issues around FDV so well at our recent conference. Last week WAFPN hosted a twilight seminar with Kristen Daghish-Rose, Senior Policy and Projects Officer (Crime Policy) from the NSW Department of Justice. Kristen spoke about the NSW Domestic Violence and Justice Strategy that is currently being implemented. This was an interesting and important review of the framework which could raise considerations for future domestic violence policy here in WA. If you would like more information on the NSW Domestic Violence and Justice

Strategy visit [this website](#) or read the strategy [here](#).

Our WAFPN Kiosk information and referral service at the Family Court of WA has been suspended since March and is currently in review. We are looking at extending the Kiosk hours to match those of the Family Court of WA's child-related proceedings list, which as of 1 July is now 5 days per week. We aim to have the Kiosk up and running once again in the coming months and will be advertising for a new Kiosk Information Officer shortly

Speaking of the Family Court of WA, following a series of chocked-full tours in the first half of 2015, Walk in Their Shoes is now taking bookings for the rest of the year. If you haven't already attended a tour, this is an exclusive opportunity to experience what it's like to be involved in Family



Court proceedings. You will learn how to submit an application, sit in the child-related proceedings list, and hear a Q&A panel with a magistrate, family consultant, child protection worker and independent children's lawyer. This is a must attend for anyone who works with clients in the family law system. For more info contact Jane Azzopardi – jane.azzopardi@relationshipsqa.org.au

Regional focus: Geraldton Conference

by Alison Muller, Geraldton regional representative

For the third year in a row family law professionals in Geraldton joined together to view the live stream of the annual WA Family Pathways Network Conference.

The group of 14 participants were able to enjoy the Conference in a collegiate, group atmosphere, rather than just sitting in front of their computers.

The group were positive about the event and appreciated the opportunity to share the conference experience together and network in the breaks. The day was enhanced by a well catered morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

One of the local lawyers who attended said, "Thank you for organising the WA Family Pathways Network conference which enabled me to earn 5 valuable CPD points. I was impressed with the venue and the ability to beam the conference from Perth to Geraldton by video."

The Geraldton family law professionals who attended, and the few who couldn't make the Perth conference at the last moment due to urgent court commitments, are appreciative of the Network's support that enabled them to enjoy a high quality conference experience without having to leave town.



You can view the webinar from the event and access the presentations on the conference website

<http://www.wafpn.com/>

Or check out our live tweet feed from the conference via the hashtag

[#WAFPN15](https://twitter.com/WAFPN15)

Change of WAFPN email addresses

Relationships Australia WA, WAFPN's auspice organisation, has changed its website to relationshipsaustralia.org.au as of July 1.

This means the following WAFPN email addresses have changed:

Jane Azzopardi, WAFPN Network Development Officer email address is now jane.azzopardi@relationshipsaustralia.org.au

WAFPN general enquiries email address is now wa.familypathwaynetwork@relationshipsaustralia.org.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

Domestic Violence and Homelessness: The Hidden Agenda

As a part of Shelter WA's Homelessness Prevention Week (Monday 3rd – Sunday 9th August) the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA) will be hosting a training seminar which will address some of the Hidden Agendas surrounding violence against women and their subsequent homelessness. These issues will include:

- Law reform—enhancing family and domestic violence laws; domestic violence and eviction from public housing
- Shelter WA's Housing Hub;
- Aboriginal Family Violence;
- The link between women experiencing domestic violence and a mental health diagnosis.

7 August 2015
9.30am – 4.00pm
Burswood on Swan Function Centre
1 Camfield Drive, Burswood
Cost non-Members \$181.50

Please register by July 29:
info@womenscouncil.com.au

FRSA Conference 2015 - The future of families: Preparing for change

If current trends continue, we can expect significant change in family dynamics, household composition and the workforce profile. These changes, together with rapid pace of technological growth, present opportunities and challenges for today's families, communities and service practitioners. Participants will have ample opportunity to explore these topics through the four conference streams:

1. How do we future-proof families?
2. How do we adapt services to meet future needs?
3. How do we future-proof family and community safety?
4. How do we address emerging issues and practice in Family Law

With a focus on empowering the membership and the sector as a whole, FRSA will bring together leaders, innovators, practitioners and academics that are engaged in policy, governance, research and service delivery to discuss these emerging issues.

Hear from and be inspired by the 2015 Australian of the Year, Ms. Rosie Batty, who is leading the crusade against domestic violence and has turned her personal tragedy into a fight to help others.

10-12 November 2015
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Full member registration \$920

For more information and to register visit
http://www.frsa.org.au/conference_2015/

Family Law Intensive

The Law Council of Australia presents a one day program focusing on the solutions to everyday problems encountered by family law practitioners.

25 July 2015
9.15am-4.30pm
University Club, University of Western Australia
Cost members \$545

For more information or to register visit
<https://www.familylawsection.org.au/membership-information/conferences-seminars/event/family-law-intensive-perth-11>

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

Working with families with parental mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues where there are child protection concerns: inter-agency collaboration

Child abuse commonly occurs within the context of multiple risk factors, in particular parental mental health and/or drug and alcohol problems. As no one agency can address all these factors, inter-agency collaboration is paramount to the protection of vulnerable children, especially in families with a complex array of problems. This paper outlines a range of recommendations to improve collaboration between child protection workers and mental health/drug & alcohol clinicians from the perspective of Keep Them Safe-Whole Family Team clinicians.

Abstract:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12238/abstract>

Coates, D. (2015). Working with families with parental mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues where there are child protection concerns:

inter-agency collaboration. *Child & Family Social Work*.

A Critical Review of Relocation Research Specific to Separation and Divorce

Relocation, as an issue in the context of family law, typically involves the proposed move of a separated or divorced parent with a child to a new residence a substantial distance away from the non-moving parent. Based on a comprehensive review of the empirical evidence, 11 studies that focused on relocation within the context of separation and divorce were located, retrieved and appraised based on a common standard for assessing the methodological quality of the studies. Results of the critical appraisal found that the majority of social science research studies on relocation are of poor quality. Overall, the project's findings demonstrate the need to move away from oversimplified considerations for relocation and to embrace a more comprehensive approach to fully capture the various factors that are relevant when considering the strengths and limitations of relocation.

Abstract:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10502556.2015.1046797#abstract>

Saini, M., Allan-Ebron, D., & Barnes, J. (2015). A Critical Review of Relocation Research Specific to Separation and Divorce. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(5), 388-408.

Ten Parental Alienation Fallacies That Compromise Decisions in Court and in Therapy

False beliefs about the genesis of parental alienation and about appropriate remedies shape opinions and decisions that fail to meet children's needs. This article examines 10 mistaken assumptions: (a) children never unreasonably reject the parent with whom they spend the most time, (b) children never unreasonably reject mothers, (c) each parent contributes equally to a child's alienation, (d) alienation is a child's transient, short-lived response to the parents' separation, (e) rejecting a parent is a short-term healthy coping mechanism, (f) young children living with an alienating parent need no intervention, (g) alienated adolescents' stated preferences should dominate custody decisions, (h) children who appear to function well outside the family need no intervention, (i) severely alienated children are best treated with traditional therapy techniques while living primarily with their favoured parent, and (j) separating children from an alienating parent is traumatic.

Abstract:

<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2015-27699-001/>

Warshak, R. A. (2015). Ten Parental Alienation Fallacies That Compromise Decisions in Court and in Therapy.

NOTICE BOARD

ICYMI - AIFS Webinar: Representing children in legal proceedings

In this webinar Kylie Beckhouse, a leader in the field of child legal representation practice, will discuss notable developments and initiatives taking place internationally in the area of child legal representation. Kylie will describe her impressions of current international practices, and the initiatives that could improve Australian approaches to child legal representation.

Included in this webinar is an overview of a variety of different approaches in international practice, including:

- the different structures utilised in each jurisdiction to deliver child representation services
- how cases are allocated and child representatives are appointed
- getting information about children and families before the courts early
- roles and practices that support children and families through court processes
- hearing the voice of the child
- ensuring that quality child legal representation services are delivered
- system-wide initiatives that improve outcomes for children

To view the webinar visit

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/events/representing-children-legal-proceedings>

NEWSWORTHY: Headlines that caught our eye this month

[Violent offenders registers sound good, but are a costly, unproven distraction](#) from The Conversation

[Domestic and Family Violence Magistrates Court to be trialled on Gold Coast](#) from ABC News

[Senate shoots down divorce fee hikes over concerns about domestic violence](#) from The Guardian

[Fathers need support to spend more time on children and chores – report](#) from The Guardian

[New era for dealing with family violence in courts](#) from The Government of Western Australia

[Hundreds of vulnerable people could miss out on legal services, WA community centres say](#) from ABC News

[Domestic violence offenders may no longer avoid jail in WA](#) from The Australian

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[@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