



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

MARCH 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! I am pleased to announce that earlybird registration for our annual conference is now open. The theme for this year's conference is 'When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?' and it is shaping up to be a stimulating and thought-provoking day for all professionals across the sector. This year's conference is at Technology Park in Bentley on Thursday, May 14. To get your super-cheap \$80 earlybird ticket head to the conference registration website before March 31. The website is <http://www.wafpn.com/>. We looking forward to announcing more details and the conference program very soon.

Last month we hosted our first 'Case Law Catch Up', a CLE event which discussed two Court of Appeal decisions regarding restraining orders. I'd like to extend a big thank

you to Clare Thompson and Karen Farley who each shared insights from their involvement in the cases. This session generated a lot of interesting discussion on the Restraining Orders Act. For those who were unable to attend, we are looking at making the audio of this session available. Jane Azzopardi, WAFPN's Network Development Officer, will be in touch shortly with more details. We are looking forward to hosting more events like this in the future.

Finally, we are nearly ready to unveil the WAFPN wiki. This is an interactive forum-based website where all WAFPN members can share information and discuss topics in family law. We believe the wiki will be particularly useful for our regional members and will help bring the state sector together for the collaboration of ideas and knowledge. We will be

announcing more details about this very soon so watch this space!

I hope you enjoy this month's eBulletin and, as always, if you have any feedback please feel free to contact Jane Azzopardi jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au



Spotlight on: Jennie Hannan

Principal Clinician/Family Law Services Consultant, Anglicare

My name is Jennie Hannan and I currently represent Anglicare WA on the Family Law Pathways network.

Anglicare WA has provided services across WA for the last 35 years including separation services, counselling, emergency relief, housing, youth and community development/support services to communities in 40 locations from Kununurra to Albany.

Anglicare WA works with people, their families and communities to enhance their abilities to cope with the challenges of life and relationships and has a significant role in advocacy at both a State and National level.

Anglicare WA's long standing commitment to quality service provision has meant the employment of a number of consultants specialising in Aboriginal culture, children, family law and domestic violence who provide high level consultation and advice across the agency.

Since early 2000 in the area of Family Law Anglicare WA has provided the following services:

Children's Contact Services (Albany, Bunbury, Leederville, Joondalup)

Children's Contact Service provides a safe, child-focussed environment in which parents can arrange to spend time with their children after a family separation. Children's Contact Services offer both supervised visits and changeovers

The Parenting Orders Programme (Mum's and Dads Forever) Statewide

Mums and Dads Forever helps parents understand how conflict impacts on children and young people. It assists parents to manage conflict and communicate with their former partner. The needs of the children and young people are always the focus.

The Supporting Children after Separation Programme (Perth metro)

Supporting Children after Separation provides a safe and confidential space for children and young people to discuss their parent's separation with a counsellor, and to develop understanding and skills in order to manage this new family situation. This programme runs a number of groups for children as well.

Family Relationship Centres (Joondalup, Mandurah and Broome)

Family Relationship Centres make it easier for families to access the many support services available in the community. The Centres are child-focussed and the needs of the children are seen as paramount. Family Relationship Centres provide Family Dispute Resolution and, where it is deemed appropriate, the practitioner may also include the children in the process.

Step Families Australia Service Provider

Family Separation Services recognises the important role of step parents and understands that they may need extra support as the family experiences change. Family



Separation Services offers groups and counselling for step parents.

These services are supported by general, men's and domestic violence counselling services.

Anglicare also provides quality training programmes for the sector as well as an EAP programme to assist employees with issues that may affect their staff. (counselling, mentoring, critical incident debriefing)

In my current role as the Principal Clinician/Family Law Consultant I provide practice and service model advice within Anglicare WA and I am responsible for managing the complaints policy and the serious issues policy as well as developing and delivering training.

I have been with Anglicare for over 13 years and have over 30 years' experience as a social worker, therapist and Manager having worked for a number of government and not for profit agencies across Australia. Apart from my work with Anglicare I sit on a number of community boards and advisory bodies including the Family Law Council of Australia, Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre board, the DCPFS case review board, the Family Court of WA Reference group, and the Child Support Agency National Engagement group. In the past I have also had the opportunity to be a member of the Families Australia Board and a member and chair of the Family Relationship Services Board.

For more information about any of Anglicare WA's programs or to book in for an education course or register for training, please visit our website www.anglicarewa.org.au

Recovery Order

Self Help Guide



Recovery Order Self Help Guide: new online resource for the public

The Recovery Order Self Help Guide is a new online community legal education resource developed by Legal Aid WA and the Geraldton Resource Centre. The guide is available for free to members of the public across Western Australia. It can also be utilised by service providers.

This project was funded by the National Broadband Network Regional Legal Assistance Program to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the Geraldton area and extending to the wider public in regional and metropolitan WA.

The guide can now be accessed from the Legal Aid WA website by going to www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/CORE. First time users will need to register and create a password before logging in. Users do not need an email address to register.

The guide provides step by step practical information about recovery orders including checklists, sample orders, an example filing letter to the Court and “how to” videos by experienced family lawyers. The guide is user friendly with legal processes and procedures explained in plain English with the option of using an audio function to listen to the text.

The guide is not intended to replace legal advice, and the “Help and links” section includes details of a range of legal service providers and other useful contacts.

There are a range of ways the guide could be used. People may view the guide from start to finish. Alternatively they may access it for information on a particular matter such as “What happens in Court?” or look at a checklist or example letter.

The guide can be used on a range of devices including laptops and tablets wherever a good internet connection is available such as at a local library or community resource centre.

For more information about this project or to request flyers for clients about the resource contact Heidi Stewart or Naomi Brown at Legal Aid WA, core@legalaid.wa.gov.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?”

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker, David Mandel. Details on David’s work can be found at <http://endingviolence.com>

Registration is via the conference website <http://www.wafpn.com/>

14 May 2015
9am-5pm
Technology Park, Bentley
Earlybird registration \$80 (available until 31 March)

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

Seminar: Problems and Possibilities in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence Perpetrators

Curtin University presents a one hour seminar from Professor Cathy Humphries from the University of Melbourne at the School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work.

The last decade has seen in a shift in the prominence given to interventions which support the accountability of men who use violence and abuse. The area is replete with difficulties about focus (primary or tertiary prevention), the confused and developing evidence base, role of the criminal and civil justice system; the role of collaborative risk assessment and risk management; the interface with both child protection and family law – to mention just a few of the issues facing both practice and policy workers trying to develop coherent intervention frameworks. This presentation will focus on the role and positioning of men’s behaviour change programs within the wider system of intervention with a particular focus on the Victorian context.

27 March 2015
9am-10am
Board Room 255, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work, Building 401, Curtin University of Technology (Bentley Campus)

Please RSVP by 20 March 2014 to simi.chugani@curtin.edu.au

Children and Domestic Violence

Anglicare WA would like to invite child and family professionals to a workshop on 31 March 2015, with Lisa Farrelly, Young Heart’s Children’s Domestic Violence Counsellor.

This one-day workshop explores the impact of family and domestic violence (FDV) on children and how to support children through the recovery process. Topics include the identification, neurobiology and meaning of trauma behaviours and responding to behaviours in a trauma-sensitive way.

31 March 2015
9.30am-4.30pm
Anglicare, Tuart Hill
\$215 per person

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please send registrations to 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

Thinking About Children: How Does It Influence Policy and Practice?

Childhood studies and sociocultural theory, together with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, have influenced policy and practice initiatives, both within New Zealand and internationally. The integration of children's agency, rights, and well-being provides a conceptual framework for positioning children as participating subjects, knowers, and social actors, rather than as the passive objects of socialization. Children are now considered to be people who can make a difference and contribute to creating their own futures and to sustaining their families, schools, and communities. Children's ability to express their views and exercise responsibility is influenced by their social and cultural contexts and the extent to which there is space and support for their participation. Sociocultural contexts play an important part in inducting children into shared meanings, values, and practices and enabling children to participate and learn. This chapter highlights three specific examples of

New Zealand's social policy and professional practice to explore how contemporary conceptions of childhood can influence children's rights and well-being – (1) early childhood education, (2) the abolition of physical punishment, and (3) ascertaining children's views in family law proceedings.

Abstract:
http://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-981-4451-15-4_53

Taylor, N., & Smith, A. B. (2015). *Thinking About Children: How Does It Influence Policy and Practice? Handbook of Children and Youth Studies*, 49-62.

Family law court filings 2004-05 to 2012-13

This report analyses trends in family law court filings over a nine year period between 2004-05 and 2012-13. It sheds light on the impact on court filings of the 2006 reforms that encouraged greater use of non-court based mechanisms for resolving parenting disputes and the 2009 reforms that brought post-separation property division laws and processes for de facto couples into line with those for married couples.

This report extends the findings of the 2009 study Evaluation of the 2006 Family Law Reforms. The research is based on data provided by the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Magistrates Court, and the Family Court of Western Australia, for the period 2004-05 to 2012-13.

Full report:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/public/resreport30/rr30.pdf>

Kaspiew, R., Moloney, L., Dunstan, J., & De Maio, J. *Family law court filings 2004-05 to 2012-13*.

From Investigation to Collaboration: Practitioner Perspectives on the Transition Phase of Parental Agreements

Internationally there is a growing trend to implement alternative pathways within statutory child protection. This trend has emerged in response to burgeoning pressures on statutory child protection authorities and research highlighting the potentially negative impact of intrusive interventions on families. There is great diversity in the types of alternative pathways that have been implemented across jurisdictions. Differential response and parental agreements are two examples of alternative pathways that can be enacted for cases that warrant ongoing intervention.

Abstract:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740915000651>

Venables, J., Healy, K., & Harrison, G. (2015). *From Investigation to Collaboration: Practitioner Perspectives on the Transition Phase of Parental Agreements. Children and Youth Services Review*.

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

Family and domestic violence toolbox

Women's Health Clinical Support Programs has been updating its website to include a range of support tools for WA Health staff on family and domestic violence.

The FDV Toolbox will provide a central, go-to place in WA Health for information, guidelines and resources to support WA Health staff to assist clients who may be experiencing FDV.

In the FDV Toolbox you will find:

- The WA Health Guideline to Responding to Family and Domestic Violence
- The various WA Health screening, assessment and referral forms WA Health family and domestic violence referral pathways
- A comprehensive list of family and domestic violence resources and support services

Check out the FDV toolbox:

http://kemh.health.wa.gov.au/health_professionals/WHCSP/fdv_toolbox.php

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)

NEWSWORTHY: Headlines that caught our eye this month

['Home truths: The costs and causes of domestic violence'](#) from The Monthly

['Chloe Valentine inquest: Coroner urged to find girl's death not simply a tragic accident'](#) from ABC News

['Jill Meagher and Saori Jones: A tale of two deaths'](#) from WA Today

['Foster care: you can't put a price on a happy, secure childhood'](#) from The Guardian

['It is time for urgent action on domestic violence'](#) from The Age

['Former Perth bikie Tristan Allbeury jailed for more than 3 years over 'extremely violent' threats to girlfriend'](#) from ABC News

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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