



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

MAY 2015

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN and thanks to all of you who have registered for the conference and workshop.

We are only a few days away from our annual conference and the excitement is palpable!

If you missed the registration process, fear not. You can still follow the conference live with our [webstream](#) and we encourage you to tweet your feedback using the hashtag **#WAFPN15**

In this issue, we are doing a round-up of our speakers with a brief introduction on their presentations around the conference topic '*When children resist contact: how does the family law system respond?*' and give you a sneak peek of David Mandel's pre-conference workshop '*Perpetrators as Parents: How setting high expectations for men as fathers*

*helps men, women and children'* scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

You will also find key dates to put in your diary, articles on new research and practice related to family law as well as the 'what's happening around town' column.

If you have any feedback or would like to communicate an upcoming event or research that you think will be relevant to our audience, please email Jane on [Jane.Azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:Jane.Azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au)

See you at the conference!



**WA Family Pathways Network  
Conference 2015  
'When children resist contact: How  
does the family law system  
respond?'**

14 May 2015

9am-5pm

Technology Park, Bentley

Registration \$100

<http://wafpn.com>

# Get to know our conference speakers part II

## Jenni Perkins



Jenni Perkins has over 25 years of experience in social policy and community development across the not-for-profit sector and local and state government. She has been appointed acting Commissioner for Children and Young People on 10 December 2013.

Her professional portfolio ranges from working with the Disability Services Commission as a senior executive to being director general of the Department for Communities.

Jenni's interests include youth, community services as well as seniors and women's matters.

From <http://www.cyp.wa.gov.au/content/Acting-Commissioner-Jenni-Perkins.aspx>

## David Mandel

As featured in last month's issue

David Mandel has been working in the domestic violence field for 25 years. David's international training and consulting focuses on improving systems' responses to domestic violence when children are involved, and responsible fatherhood. David has developed the Safe and Together™ model to improve case practice and cross system collaboration in



domestic violence cases involving children.

David's presentation will discuss a more robust, accurate understanding of the nexus between domestic violence and children's best interests, domestic violence as a parenting choice and how an enhanced view of how father's influence child and family functioning can improve engagement, risk and safety planning in the context of family law proceedings/parenting disputes in relation to the care arrangements for children.

*For a more detailed biography, please refer to our previous e bulletin*

## Catherine Boland

As featured in last month's issue

Dr. Catherine Boland is a Clinical Psychologist with expertise in working with children, young people and parents who are experiencing relationship issues and are in situations of family conflict and separation. She is an accomplished speaker, author and clinician who understands the complex realities of child and adolescent mental health and offers therapy services to families in Court proceedings where children are involved.

Catherine's presentation will revolve around children resisting contact with a parent after separation and will focus on theoretical and practical skills development in assessment



and treatment in cases that involves parental rejection.

*For a more detailed biography, please refer to our previous e bulletin*

## Heidi Stewart



Heidi Stewart initially worked with Legal Aid in the Australian Capital Territory before commencing at Legal Aid Western Australia where she is now a solicitor.

Heidi's professional experience includes the Kalgoorlie Regional Office the Family Court Service at the Family Court of WA and currently as part of the Legal Practice Development division and the Family Grants team in Perth.

Heidi and Naomi (see bio below) will both be presenting 'The Recovery Order Self Help Guide' which is a new online community legal education resource available to the public. The guide provides step by step practical information about recovery orders, including checklists and 'how to' videos by experienced family lawyers.

From <http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

## Naomi Brown



Naomi Brown is a solicitor at Legal Aid Western Australia and has a wealth of experience working in legal services. Her portfolio includes working for the Youth Legal Service in Victoria, the Kimberley Community Legal Centre in Kununurra before commencing at Legal Aid Western Australia where she works as part of the Legal Resource and Content team in Perth.

From <http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

and will be supported with some current case examples to relate to.

From <http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

currently a member of the Family Law Council of Australia.

From <http://www.anglicarewa.org.au/news/article/08062012-209/jennifer-hannan-appointed-to-family-law-council.aspx>

## Jennifer Hannan



Jennie Hannan is the Principal Clinician and Family Law Services Consultant for Anglicare Western Australia. Jennifer has worked as a Therapist (child, couple and family) and as a Manager in FSP Services for the past 30 years across a number of States and for a number of Agencies including Relationships Australia, Centacare and Anglicare.

Jennie's current position at Anglicare is to quality assure the practice for services including Counselling and Education Services, Men's Services, Family Dispute Resolution Services, Contact Services, the Parenting Orders Programme for WA, three Family Relationship Centres and Community for Children's programmes. Jennifer has been on the Board of FRSA and Families Australia and has current positions on the Department for Child Protection Department (WA) Case Review Board, the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre Board, National Child Support Agency National Engagement Group and is

## Helen Grocott



Helen Grocott is a team leader at Goldfields Centrecare in the Family Relationship Services team. She has worked in mental health as a support worker and in various government agencies providing service delivery and case management.

More recently, Helen has worked as a victim support and child witness officer and as a crisis worker for family and domestic violence.

She is responsible for managing various programs ranging from general counselling, family and domestic violence and child sexual assault counselling to regional family dispute resolution and child contact services. She also counsels clinically clients who have experienced or have perpetrated domestic violence and have recently become accredited to undertake family dispute resolution for parenting and property matters for separated parents.

From <http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

## David Monaghan



Magistrate David Monaghan is the principal Registrar of the Family Court of Western Australia and has been a family law specialist since 1989.

He has lectured and examined at the family law unit at University of Western Australia for two years and has sat on the Federal Family Law Rules Committee for nine years.

Magistrate Monaghan is the current representative for the Court as an observer on Family Law Council.

David's presentation seeks to provide a brief overview of legislative developments in cases where the Court has ordered that a parent spend no time with a child

## Julie Jackson



Julie is the Director of the

Family Division of Legal Aid WA (LAWA), Chair of the WA Family Law Pathways Network (2013/2014) and was the WA Woman Lawyer of the Year (2009).

She is an Independent Children's Lawyer, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and a convener in child protection mediation. Her special interest is developing and implementing strategies to improve court processes, information sharing and collaboration in child protection and family law matters.

From <http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

## Sallyann Nevill



Sallyann Nevill is a qualified teacher, counsellor and psycho-educator with more than 30 years of experience as a practicing clinician. She offers her clinical and managerial roles in mental health and relationship counselling services exclusively in Western Australia for a number of stakeholders including Anglicare, St John of God Hospital (mental health counselling), Youth Focus and Relationship Australia (family violence intervention work among other programs).

Sallyann's qualifications are impressive and she is currently completing a Master of Social Work.

The presentation will make an attempt to address the following considerations utilizing a case study approach:

- Loyalty splits and complications before, during and after conflictual parental separations
- Common grief, loss and trauma reactions, associated with antagonistic separations including emotional, behavioral and physical expression of distress
- Complicated identity challenges associated with such separations and the way young people endeavor to cope with these eventualities
- The often untreated and unrecognized grief and traumatic bereavement responses to ongoing conflictual family constellations

From <http://www.anglicarewa.org.au/themes/anglicarewaorgau/assets/public/File/ARBOR/ARBOR%20Newsletter%20Edition%201.pdf>

## Donna Chung



Donna Chung is Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at Curtin University. She has been involved in social work

education and social research for over 15 years undertaking various teaching, research and management roles within higher education.

Donna's research interests are primarily the areas of male violence against women, homelessness, gender and sexuality and social policy. She has worked on various research projects in these areas and provides advice and consultancy to governments on policies and programs in these fields.

Donna is a member of a number of organizations and committees working to end violence against women.

Donna's presentation will report on research about the fathering practices of men who perpetrate domestic and family violence, the strengths and limitations of some current interventions and what emerging aspects need to be taken into account to develop interventions which ultimately improve (or at least do not make worse) children's lives and sense of safety.

From [http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/teaching/socialwork\\_staff.cfm/D.Chung](http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/teaching/socialwork_staff.cfm/D.Chung)

## WA Family Pathways Network Conference 2015 'When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?'

14 May 2015  
9am-5pm  
Technology Park, Bentley  
Registration \$100

<http://wafpn.com>

# David Mandel's workshop: Perpetrators as Parents: How setting high expectations for men as fathers helps men, women and children

## Introducing our pre-conference workshop hosted by David Mandel, Founder & Managing Member of David Mandel & Associates

Renowned worldwide for his international training and consulting in the field of domestic violence, David has gained over 25 years of experience working on improving system's response to domestic violence when children are involved and responsible fatherhood, as well as developing his 'Safe and Together' model which will be discussed during the workshop.

The workshop is taking place at the Bentley Technology Park on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> May from 9am to 5pm and will cover the complexity of domestic violence, how the cultural double standards for men and women as parents harm men, women and children, give an overview of the 'Safe and Together' model and examine the impact of gendered parenting expectations on programs and community collaboration and how setting higher expectations for men as a parent can improve outcomes for families.

When domestic violence is involved, perpetrators can gain significant benefits in courts and other systems that ignore the relationship between his choices and negative outcomes for child and family functioning.

Domestic violence perpetrators frequently engage in a multitude of

behaviors that involves directly or indirectly their children. An effective response to domestic violence and child maltreatment begins with a holistic understanding of the tactics batterers use to impact the entire family.

This means, using a framework that goes beyond witnessing to include direct child abuse, using the child as a weapon against the other parent, undermining a partner's parenting and the different pathways by which perpetrators impact housing stability, mental health, school performances and other basic needs.

This broader understanding of perpetrator's behavior is essential to hold batterers responsible as fathers and set high expectations for behavior change. It is the key to breaking the gender double standard that often blames mothers for the harm to children created by the perpetrator's behavior and breaking domestic violence survivor's entrapment in the child welfare system.

This workshop will thus explore the perspectives on creating a more holistic response to the harm domestic violence perpetrators cause family.

To see a detailed bio of David Mandel, please follow this link

<http://www.wafpn.com/invited-speakers>

## Pre-conference workshop

13<sup>th</sup> May  
9am-5pm  
Technology Park, Bentley  
Seminar room 1&2  
Registration \$50  
<http://wafpn.com>

## 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](mailto: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  
Registration \$100

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

**“Building bridges: A multidisciplinary approach to family law” AFCC Australia 2015 Conference**

AFCC annual conference will be hosted at **The Rocks, Sydney** on the **14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August**.

Keynote speakers are Professor Marilyn Freeman from the International Centre For Family Law, Policy & Practice in the UK who will be discussing ‘*The long-term effects of parental abduction*’ and Professor Max Bennett from Brain & Mind Research Institute in Sydney, exploring ‘*Neuroscience and communicating with children*’.

**Registration is via the website [www.afccnet.org.au](http://www.afccnet.org.au)**

14 & 15 August 2015  
10.45am-12.45pm  
The Rocks, Sydney  
Early bird registration \$760  
Full registration \$990  
Student registration \$360

**Upcoming “Responding to disclosures of sexual assault” & “The impact of trauma”**

SARC (The Sexual Assault Resource Centre) offers free 1 hour presentations on how to respond effectively to disclosures of sexual assault/abuse; and the impact of complex trauma.

**To reserve a presentation for your team, please email [SARCTraining@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:SARCTraining@health.wa.gov.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](mailto:jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au)

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

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@wa.relationships.com.au)

### Relation Between Parental Divorce and Adjustment in College Students

This study sought to examine the relation between parental divorce and adjustment in college student to identify differences in students from intact and divorced families while also examining gender and age difference.

Divorce is causing a complete separation of the family unit that can affect the development of all children involved, especially those in their college years.

The results of this research indicated no adjustment differences as a whole or by gender for intact and divorced families. However, students who were older when their parents divorced had higher levels of self-esteem than those whose parents divorced when they were younger.

Abstract:

<http://tinyurl.com/kqschat>

Connel, B., Hayes, D., & Carlson, M (2015). Relation Between Parental Divorce and Adjustment in College

Students. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56 (4), 336-345.

### The Inherent Jurisdiction and Child Protection

The research explores the scope of the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court and raise the question: *'what is the scope for using the inherent jurisdiction for protecting vulnerable children and young people?'*

Nigel Lowe and Richard White (1986,<sup>1</sup>) said that 'the law knows no greater form of protection for a child than wardship'. Wardship is in fact only one manifestation of the inherent jurisdiction, but what is the scope for using the inherent jurisdiction for protecting vulnerable children and young people?

The Children Act 1989 introduced dramatic changes to the use of the inherent jurisdiction by local authorities in child protection proceedings. The Law Commission (1988,<sup>1</sup>) saw its aim in devising the Children Act as being 'to incorporate the most valuable features of wardship into a new statutory system', the effect of this change was expected to be a reduction in the use of the inherent jurisdiction, not a cessation.

For some time, it seemed to many that the Children Act had indeed marked the effective end of any significant use for the wardship jurisdiction in relation to child protection. However, a number of recent cases have shown that not to be so.

Abstract:

<http://tinyurl.com/mqn8t6s>

George, R (2015). The Inherent Jurisdiction and Child Protection. *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, 2015.

### Special Feature: The Modern Family Court Judge

The below article is questioning the educational and training process of family court judge.

FCR and the AFCC community know how important a family court judge is and how deep an effect he or she can have on the lives of parents and children. We all agree that excellent judges dedicated to their work should preside over the family court but *'how do we define and recognize excellence in family court judging'* and *'how do we nurture its development in new judges and maintain it during the course of a long career on the bench?'*

While we tend to look at the quality of the family court bench as accidental, at the mercy of forces of selection and training beyond our control, other institutions ask a more complex set of questions: what policies and practices can be put in place to help identify, train, and develop excellent professionals and employees? Many companies, for example, have recruitment and training programs to identify and develop senior personnel over a long period of time and some countries identify and train judges in that manner, like in Germany.

Abstract: <http://tinyurl.com/kqvfdg>

Schepard, A. I., & Emery, R.E. (2015). *Family Court Review*, 53: 199-202.

## 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](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@wa.relationships.com.au)

## Women's council for domestic &amp; family violence services WA

Quarterly training sessions:

- May 22<sup>nd</sup> 'Responding to interpersonal & family violence through a gender and cultural lens'
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 'Train the trainer' Violence prevention education within high schools  
Both events held at **Room 7, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi street, West Perth**
- August 7<sup>th</sup> 'Domestic violence & homelessness – the hidden agenda'

River room, Burswood on Swan function centre, 1 Camfield drive, Burswood

RSVP one week prior to the training date to [info@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:info@womenscouncil.com.au)

Registration fee: WCDFVS  
organisational members \$148.50  
Non-members \$181.50  
Associate members \$165  
Student \$75

## 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

['To reduce family violence, we need to look further than the inner city'](#)

From The Guardian

['Report reveals extent of domestic violence perpetrated by children, calls on government to fund dedicated services'](#)

From ABC News

['Australia's 'urgent' action on family violence has fallen years behind'](#)

From The Conversation

## FEEDBACK

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

## UNSUBSCRIBE?

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**WAfamily pathways network**

**Our Aim**

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

Australian Government | Family Law PATHWAYS NETWORK | WAfamily pathways network