



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

NOVEMBER 2015

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN!

Once again we have had an overwhelmingly positive response to one of our events – our December conference ‘Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability’ is now fully booked!

We have a huge range of speakers include Elena Campbell and Rodney Vlasis travelling over from Victoria, as well as panels featuring local government services and men’s behaviour change program providers.

WAFPN is looking forward to this opportunity to really look at what WA is doing in terms of perpetrator accountability, and how we can all

‘bring the perpetrator into view’ at whichever point in system we may work with them.

If you missed out on a place at the conference, we are partnering with CPFS to present a free webinar with each of our keynote speakers – see the details on the next page.

This month WAFPN is also sponsoring the Great Southern Family and Domestic Violence conference in Albany. This year’s theme is ‘Mobilising the Community to End Family and Domestic Violence’. See the details in the events section of this bulletin.

Of course it is also White Ribbon month and a busy time for the



sector, so best of luck with any events you may be running to promote awareness of family and domestic violence.

## WAFPN Webinars

# Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability

WAFPN's popular one day conference is now fully booked. WAFPN and Department for Child Protection and Family Support are partnering to present free webinars with our conference keynote speakers, Elena Campbell and Rodney Vlais.

The *Bringing Perpetrators into View* conference is based on a report by the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice titled [Opportunities for Early Intervention: Bringing perpetrators of domestic violence into view](#).

The conference will build on David Mandel's safe and together model and explore how perpetrator accountability can be increased across the service system including family law.

To promote access to the conference the Family Pathways Network and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support have arranged two webinars to broadcast the keynote speakers' presentations. Details for each of the webinars are outlined below.

**Tues 1 Dec 2015, 2pm-3pm**

**Opportunities for Early Intervention: Bringing Perpetrators of Family Violence into View**

**Elena Campbell, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)**

Ms Campbell is the author of RMIT University's report, which identifies a range of practical measures to help bring violent individuals into the spotlight and under scrutiny of the system.

**Wed 2 Dec 2015, 2pm-3pm**

**What Might Strengthening Perpetrator Accountability Actually Mean?**

**Rodney Vlais, No to Violence: Male Family Violence Prevention Association and Luke Batty Foundation**

Family and domestic violence currently has a public and political profile unparalleled in recent memory. Some of this focus is understandably turning towards making the perpetrators of the violence more visible in risk management and accountability processes. What, however, might this accountability actually mean? What are the implications for 'engaging' perpetrators at various points of entry into family violence systems and sub-systems? In what ways can accountability processes be responsive to victim needs, and be supported at community and cultural levels?

The webinars are accessible to private lawyers and service providers from government agencies and community sector services.

Please register at: [www.cpfs.moodle.com.au/webinars](http://www.cpfs.moodle.com.au/webinars)

Please contact the Learning and Development Centre if you have any problems registering for these events:

[ldc@cpfs.wa.gov.au](mailto:ldc@cpfs.wa.gov.au)

### Meet our speakers: Rodney Vlais

Rodney Vlais is Manager with No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association ([ntv.org.au](http://ntv.org.au)) in Victoria, though originally from WA. He is a



psychologist and specialist policy worker, advocate and trainer concerning family & domestic violence perpetrator interventions and accountability systems. Rodney is on the Board of the Luke Batty Foundation and was an expert witness at Luke's Coronial Inquest. He has a long history of participation in social and environmental justice struggles, and locates his activism to end men's violence against women within an intersectional feminist approach.

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

### WAFPN one day conference 'Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability'

WAFPN would like to announce that registration for the conference is now closed as it is fully booked! Please see details on the free webinars we are running with the keynote speakers on the previous page of this bulletin.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March

The Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March is held in honour of all the women, men and children, who have lost their lives as a result of domestic homicide in WA.

**27 November 2015**  
**10.30am: Rally with speakers**  
**12 noon: Silent March through the City**  
**Stirling Gardens**  
**Cnr Barrack St and St Georges Tce**

For further information contact Carolyn at: 9420 7264 or [carolyn@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:carolyn@womenscouncil.com.au)  
 View the website at [www.womenscouncil.com.au](http://www.womenscouncil.com.au)

### Great Southern Family and Domestic Violence Conference: Mobilising the Community to End Family & Domestic Violence

WAFPN presents 'Mobilising the community to end family and domestic violence' an Albany conference in the midst of White Ribbon week.

Featuring presentations from Canadian family and domestic violence specialist Alan Wade, Victims of Crime Commissioner Jennifer Hoffman, and Anglicare WA's Victoria Cooke and Jo De Chief.

**26 November 2015**  
**8.30am-3.30pm**  
**Stirling Club, Albany**  
**Registration \$50**

Bookings are essential as places are limited. To register email [training@anglicarewa.org.au](mailto:training@anglicarewa.org.au) to request a registration form.

### WA Health presents: Family and Domestic Violence, Culture and Mental Health

Co-chaired by Andrea Creado, A/Senior Policy Officer of the Cultural Diversity Unit, and Professor Alex Main of Murdoch University, the seminar, and panel discussion will explore:

- the experience of acculturative stress and its destabilising impact on family harmony
- the mental health issues that may lead one to 'transition' into a perpetrator of domestic

violence and insights developed from having been a former perpetrator

- the cultural barriers faced by a former victim of domestic violence and the impediments to the choices available to her arising from these barriers
- competencies required for effective transcultural mental health service engagement when providing assistance to those affected by domestic violence
- similarities and differences between the mainstream Australian community and ethno cultural groups in the perception and understanding of domestic violence and strategies for its prevention and enabling culturally appropriate supports

**26 November 2015**  
**9.30am-12.30pm**  
**Theatrette, Department of Health**  
**189 Royal Street, East Perth**  
**Registration free**

RSVP by Friday 20th November 2015 by contacting

[Bernadette.Wright@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Bernadette.Wright@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@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.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@relationships.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au)

### Children's Contact Services: Key issues

Children's Contact Services (CCSs) are designed to provide a safe, supervised environment for children to spend time with the parent they do not live with, or to facilitate the transfer of children from one parent to another, in circumstances where parents are not able to manage their own parenting time arrangements. This paper is intended for those working in CCSs as well as those working in areas that intersect with CCSs such as family mediation, family law and counselling. It identifies the characteristics of families using CCSs, and key issues in service provision that were identified through a search of Australian and international literature. The issues focused on are: understanding the best interests of children in the context of CCSs; the challenges in working with families to move to self-management of their parenting time; and the potential benefits of an integrated social services model as a strategy for addressing these issues. This paper also highlights the dearth of research investigating outcomes for children

and families using the services.

Full report:

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/sites/default/files/cfca35-childrens-contact-services.pdf>

Commerford, J., & Hunter, C. *Children's Contact Services.*

### Mastery or Misery: Conflict Between Separated Parents a Psychological Burden for Children

This qualitative research examined parenting, parental conflict, and parent-child relationships following separation in the context of Australian government reform in 2006 and subsequent changes to the Family Law Act (1975). Participants were English-speaking men and women, age 16 to 27 years. The research was guided by attachment theory and social conflict theory, and embedded in grounded theory. The Cooperative Competitive Parental Conflict model emerged from the data. Two factors moderated the parent-child relationship: emotional security and responsive parenting. The research found it was not parental conflict, but how parental conflict was handled, that created the psychological burden for a child.

Abstract:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10502556.2015.1080090>

Francia, L., & Milliar, P. (2015). *Mastery or Misery: Conflict Between Separated Parents a Psychological Burden for Children.* *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(7), 551-568.

### Contrasting Complex with Highly Complex Contact Disputes Between Parents

This article discusses the complexity of seeking a solution to problems associated at times with parental alienation. Two scenarios are presented. Both cases involve a child who does not wish to have contact with an absent parent after the separation of the parents due to implacable hostility between them. In the first case, the child had a good relationship with the now absent parent. In the second case the child never had a close relationship with the absent parent. Each case needs to be assessed on its own merits. Conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made as to how to deal with such issues.

Abstract:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10502556.2015.1060820>

Lowenstein, L. F. (2015). *Contrasting Complex with Highly Complex Contact Disputes Between Parents.* *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(7), 590-594.

## NOTICE BOARD

## AIFS Evaluation of the 2012 family violence amendments

AIFS would like to advise WAFPN members that the Report synthesising the research undertaken by AIFS for the Evaluation of the 2012 family violence amendments is now publicly available on their website at <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/evaluation-2012-family-violence-amendments>.

The report for the Court Outcomes Project component of the Evaluation is also now available on our website at this above address and the reports for the remaining two components of the Evaluation (the Responding to Family Violence - A Survey of Family Law Practices and Experiences and the Experiences of Separated Parents Study) will also be available shortly.

AIFS would like to thank all the WAFPN members who completed the survey for supporting the research.

### Webinar

The findings of the study will be presented in a webinar presented by Rae Kaspiew.

**Wednesday 25 November 2015**  
**7.00AM WST**  
**No cost**

For full webinar details and to register visit

<https://aifs.gov.au/events/evaluation-2012-family-violence-amendments>

## Petition: No one should have to be cross-examined by their abuser

Independent Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan AO, has called on the Government to protect vulnerable witnesses in Family Court trials by amending the Family Law Act to provide specific protections for victims of family and domestic violence so that their abusers would be prevented from directly cross-examining them when they are unrepresented.

Karen McNamara (Member for Dobell); Sharon Claydon (Member for Newcastle); and Graham Perrett (Member for Moreton) also joined Ms McGowan in speaking to the Private Members Motion calling on the Government to amend the Family Law Act.

You can add to the momentum by signing the petition at Fair Agenda [http://www.fairagenda.org/family\\_court](http://www.fairagenda.org/family_court).

## Our Watch launches 'Change the Story'

Our Watch has officially launched the National Prevention Framework, referred to as 'Change the Story'. Produced in partnership with VicHealth and ANROWS, 'Change the Story' presents the most current evidence and a conceptual approach for preventing violence against women and their children in Australia.

Read the framework [here](#).

## 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)

### FEEDBACK

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

### UNSUBSCRIBE?

If you would like to stop receiving the WAFPN monthly eBulletin please send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to [WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.org.au)



#### Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

