



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

OCTOBER 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN!

We are in full swing conference planning mode this month, with our program for 'Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability' filling out nicely! We had previously announced our keynote, Elena Campbell of RMIT. Elena is a co-author of the report on which this conference is based, which you can read [here](#).

We are also pleased to announce Rodney Vlasis of No to Violence and the Luke Batty Foundation will be joining us to speak about his work with family and domestic violence perpetrators in Victoria.

This is such a timely issue, and perpetrator accountability is particularly important in this context. I'm looking forward to hearing the strategies that Elena and Rodney suggest, as well as from local men's behaviour change program providers and the WA justice system on how they keep perpetrators accountable, or 'bring them into view'.

All the details of the conference are available in the events section of this eBulletin.

We have also started planning for our annual conference in May and are looking forward to announcing the theme before the end of the year.



I hope you enjoy this eBulletin and I look forward to seeing you at the 'Bringing perpetrators into view' conference in December.

WAFPN one day conference

Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability

WAFPN presents 'Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability', a one day conference to discuss options and opportunities for responding more consistently and effectively to perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

Based on a report by the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice titled Opportunities for Early Intervention: Bringing perpetrators of domestic violence into view, this 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.

Topics explored will include:

- Introduction of National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention
- Research and practice learnings about engaging and responding to perpetrators of family and domestic violence in voluntary, statutory and legal/justice settings
- Contemporary thinking and practice about dedicated perpetrator interventions including men's behaviour change programs.

Keynote speakers:

Minister Helen Morton, Minister for Mental Health, Disability Services, Child Protection
Elena Campbell, RMIT University
Rodney Vlasis, No To Violence / Luke Batty Foundation
Donna Chung

Plus panels featuring key men's behaviour change program providers and justice system stakeholders to discuss their response to perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

Registration \$75 per person from Monday, October 19 via <http://www.trybooking.com/JGQC>

Tuesday 1 December 2015
9.00am - 4.30pm
City West Receptions
CPD points available

For more information contact jane.azzopardi@relationshipsqa.org.au

Meet our speakers: Elena Campbell



Former lawyer, speechwriter and ministerial staffer, Elena Campbell has worked in social and legal policy for over fifteen years. With particular experience in equal opportunity, human rights, family violence reform and other areas of social justice, Elena has also worked as a consultant writer and editor for a range of organisations, including the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Recently assuming the role of Manager, Policy and Research, at RMIT's Centre for Innovative Justice, Elena is also the author of a number of the CIJ's reports, including its most recent, Opportunities for early intervention: bringing perpetrators of family violence into view. Launched by Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, the report is gaining significant traction at both a state and national level for its distinct focus. Elena is currently completing work concerning ways in which to measure justice mechanisms more effectively and is also engaged in a number of other projects related to the impacts of family violence, including the consequences of intergenerational victimisation on women and children who have been caught in the cycle of the criminal justice system.

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.org.au

Registrations open Monday, October 19 via this link

<http://www.trybooking.com/JGQC>

For more information contact Jane Azzopardi

jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au

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-4.30pm
Stirling Club, Albany
Registration \$50

Watch this space for more details to be announced in next month's eBulletin.

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

WAFPN is pleased to announce a brand new one day conference for late 2015.

Based on a report by the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice titled [Opportunities for Early Intervention: Bringing perpetrators of domestic violence into view](#), this 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.

Speakers include Elena Campbell from RMIT, Rodney Vlasis from No to Violence and the Luke Batty Foundation, Minister Helen Morton, Donna Chung, and local representatives from men's behaviour change programs as well as key government stakeholders discussing their response to perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

1 December 2015
9am-4.30pm
City West Receptions
Registration \$75

25th 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
View the website at www.womenscouncil.com.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.org.au

Save the date! Albany conference: 'Mobilising the community to end family and domestic violence'

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

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@relationshipswa.org.au

Gender-sensitive intervention to improve work with fathers in child welfare services

Although the importance of including fathers in child welfare services has been increasingly recognized, social workers' engagement with fathers is still limited and sometimes fraught with negative bias. This paper attempts to lay some needed foundation to meet the challenge of working with fathers. It presents in succinct form the existing knowledge on how fathers experience and manifest their distress and on how they view the social services and social workers. It discusses, in some detail, three main issues – power relations, mutual fear and communication differences – in the interactions between female social workers and the fathers in the social welfare services. And it emphasizes the need for social workers to be aware of how their experiences with their own fathers may affect their interventions with men. It ends with observations and recommendations for developing the gender awareness that is necessary for effective practice with fathers.

Abstract:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12259/abstract>

Baum, N. (2015). Gender-sensitive intervention to improve work with fathers in child welfare services. *Child & Family Social Work*.

The Diverse Fathering Practices of Men Who Perpetrate Domestic Violence

Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered from in-depth interviews with 17 Australian fathers who were participating in a men's behaviour change program. The study found that men's fathering varied and posed significant, yet different, risks to women, children, and young people. Variations were particularly evident when analysing narratives of masculinity with perceptions of control over the use of domestic violence. Other aspects of men's identities such as class, culture, and health intersected with gender and contributed to the diversity of harmful fathering practices. This paper spotlights the substantive issue of men's domestic violence and its impact on all aspects of family life, rather than current practices which frequently focus on women and their mothering practices.

Abstract:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0312407X.2015.1057748>

Heward-Belle, S. (2015). The Diverse Fathering Practices of Men Who Perpetrate Domestic Violence. *Australian Social Work*, 1-15.

The Civil and Family Law Needs of Indigenous People in Western Australia

This reports presents key findings and recommendations of research conducted in 2012-2014 by the Indigenous Legal Needs Project (ILNP) in Western Australia. The ILNP aims broadly and on a national level to: identify and analyse the legal needs of Indigenous communities in non-criminal areas of law (including discrimination, housing and tenancy, child protection, employment, credit and debt, wills and estates, and consumer-related matters); and provide an understanding of how legal service delivery might work more effectively to address identified civil and family law needs of Indigenous communities.

Abstract:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2657328

Allison, F., Schwartz, M., & Cunneen, C. (2014). The Civil and Family Law Needs of Indigenous People in Western Australia. Allison, F, Schwartz, M and Cunneen, C (2014) *The Civil and Family Law Needs of Indigenous People in Western Australia*, Cairns: James Cook University.

NOTICE BOARD

Survey: Female survivors of domestic/family violence, family courts and cross examination

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA (WLSA) needs your help. WLSA is a network of specialist community legal centres that provide free legal advice and information to women in Australia.

WLSA advocates on safety in family law. One of WLSA's current concerns is there is no specific protection in family law preventing a perpetrator of family/ domestic violence who is representing themselves without a lawyer, from directly cross examining the victim/ survivor at trial. This can re-traumatise the victim/ survivor and has a lot of other concerning consequences for the victim/ survivor and their children, the ultimate court outcome and on the family law legal system as a whole.

WLSA is interested in gathering more information about the extent this is happening and the impact it has on victims/ survivors of violence. WLSA hopes this evidence will help convince decision-makers about the need for the law to be changed to stop this from occurring in the future.

If you or your client is a victim/ survivor of domestic/ family violence and was involved in family law children's proceedings and would like to help please click on the link below and answer the short survey.

It should take about 5 – 10 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PYZDVFX>

ICYMI: Federal Government's Women's Safety Package to Stop the Violence

On September 24 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced a new funding package to address family and domestic violence.

Submitted as a joint release with the Minister for Women, the Attorney General, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Social Services, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Minister for Communications and the Minister for Education, the \$100 million package is intended to create a 'safety net' for women and children at high risk of experiencing violence.

The full press release including details of the allocation of funds is accessible here:

<http://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/media/release-womens-safety-package-to-stoptheviolence>

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@relationshipsaustralia.org.au

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Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services