



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! Of note this month is the announcement that we will be hosting a one-day conference in December to discuss domestic violence perpetrator accountability and early intervention. The conference, which will be taking place on December 1, is titled 'Bringing perpetrators into view: Developing a web of accountability' and is based largely on a report released by RMIT's Centre for Innovative Justice in March. You can read the report [here](#). We are lucky to have a co-author of the report, Elena Campbell, joining us as the keynote speaker for the conference. We are also looking forward to announcing a variety of other speakers and panellists from local government and non-government agencies. Registration and further details will

be coming shortly so watch this space.

A few weeks back WAFPN partnered with Communicare and South West Counselling to host a conference in lovely Busselton on the intersection of the Family Court of WA and post separation services – you can read a recap in this bulletin.

I am pleased to announce that Kate Jeffries in the new WAFPN Deputy Chair. Kate is the Director of Clinical Services at Communicare and I'm looking forward to working with her over the next 12 months. My thanks to Stephen Clarke, who held the position for a number of years, and has been an invaluable source of information and support to me. You can find out more about Kate in the Spotlight On section of this bulletin.



That's all from me. I hope you find this bulletin useful, and if you want more information from WAFPN make sure you follow us on twitter [@FamilyPathwayWA](#).

Spotlight on: Kate Jeffries

WAFPN Deputy Chair
Director Clinical Services, Communicare Inc.

My name is Kate Jeffries and I am one of the newest members and Deputy Chair of WAFPN. My background includes working for 20 years' across the Disability, Youth and Community sectors in New Zealand and Australia and my interests include working with individuals and families at risk within offending populations, Family Violence and Mental Health. I am a strong advocate for increasing the safety and wellbeing of individuals, and building professional and community awareness of the complexities of Family and Domestic Violence, Mental Health and co-occurring presentations.

My memberships include the Community Sector Roundtable and Family Violence Officer Level Committee, and the Australian Psychological Society. I am a Registered Psychologist with AHPRA, and Board Approved Supervisor and Trainer by the Psychology Board of Australia to deliver national Competency Based Supervisors Training.

In the capacity as Deputy Chair of the WAFPN, my role also includes participating in the seminar and conference subcommittee. My experience as a presenter in state and national conferences and forums has primarily focused on Family and Domestic Violence, Homelessness and Unemployment barriers. I have also participated in a range of panel member discussions on issues of Family and Domestic Violence and Psychological Supervision Practice.

I joined [Communicare Inc](#) in 2006 and my current role is as Director of Clinical Services, with a portfolio including Family Violence Services, [Psychological Services and the Communicare Training Institute](#).

[Communicare](#) is a large Not-for-Profit organisation based in Western Australia and with a smaller presence in New South Wales. It has a 37 year history of delivering a substantial portfolio of community services through its core service streams of Family Violence Services, Psychological Services, Children and Family Services, Cultural and Community Services; Employment Services and Education and Training Services. Communicare's diversity enables access to multiple services under a 'no wrong door approach' and the priority is collaboration and integration across services involved with the individual or family's support.

One of the WAFPN core activities is to raise awareness of FDV and to facilitate access to relevant resources. In this respect, Communicare Family Violence Services seek to tackle the associated complexities through a holistic and multiple response approach, with the primary objective to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women and children. Communicare provides 10 separate Family and Domestic Violence programs across Western Australia under the following responses: 1). Perpetrator



response - Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP) and Safe at Home Perpetrator Outreach Services, 2). Victim Response – Tuart House Refuge and Victim Outreach services; 3). Child Response – Counselling for children impacted by Family violence; and 4). Community Response – Communicare Training Institute provides FDV training including Same Sex relationship FDV training 'Speaking Out'.

Communicare's Family Violence Services include the innovative and unique Communicare Breathing Space MBCP. This is a three month residential program underpinned by a therapeutic community model and is the only known MBCP of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Its aim is to increase the safety and wellbeing of women and children and reduce disruption to their lives through the removal of the man from the home to provide accommodation and intensive case management, individual counselling and group work programs.

In July 2015, Communicare Breathing Space has furthered its innovation through the addition of programs to identify and tackle the issues associated with co-occurring Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs problems. The 'Transition In' program provides building with a five bed capacity for court and community referrals requiring intensive risk assessment & monitoring; mental health other drug & alcohol management prior to entering Breathing Space program. The 'Transitional Support' program provides transitional accommodation support programs. These programs can support men in behaviour change for a period of 12 months should they meet the eligibility criteria.

Busselton conference: The Intersection between Post-Separation Services and the Family Court

On Monday, August 31, WAFPN, Communicare Inc. and South West Counselling partnered to present a one day conference titled 'The Intersection between Post-Separation Services and the Family Court' at the Busselton Community Resource Centre.

The conference hosted a number of speakers, including Principal Registrar David Monaghan of the Family Court of WA discussing the role the Court plays in child protection. Julie Jackson (Legal Aid) and Paul Kerin (Family Court Counselling and Consultancy Service) gave further insight into the services provided by the Court.

The afternoon session featured presentations from a number of service providers including Mandy Drommer (Relationships Australia) discussing the Bunbury FRC, Kate Jeffries (Communicare Inc.) speaking about the Breathing Space Program,

Lisa Whittaker (Anglicare), Shaban Azad and Sandra Hall (Bunbury Community Legal Centre), and Rebecca Burns discussing her research on including the perpetrator perspective in FDV programs.

The conference was well attended with over 50 participants from the Busselton region. It was a great opportunity for professionals to connect with others working in their region and provided insight into the family law sector from a variety of perspectives.

Featuring a number of WAFPN Steering Committee members as speakers, this conference was particularly successful in the goal of WAFPN to encourage collaborative, stimulating discussion about the system across sectors.

WAFPN is looking forward to collaborating with our partners in the



Principal Registrar David Monaghan

regions to continue to provide similar events in the future.

You can view our twitter discussion from the event by following [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA) or check out the hashtag [#Intersection15](https://twitter.com/Intersection15).



Paul Kerin, Julie Jackson, Kate Jeffries, Melissa Perry, Karen Somerville and Stephen Clarke

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.gov.au

Save the date - 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.

Featuring Elena Campbell from RMIT as the keynote speaker and a variety of speakers from government and non-government agencies still to be announced.

Please save the date and we look forward to announcing further details in the coming weeks.

1 December 2015
9am-4.30pm
City West Receptions

Domestic & Family Violence and the Law

The Women's Council for Family & Domestic Violence Services presents 'Domestic & Family Violence and the Law' accredited training.

Guest speakers include: Yvonne Henderson former Equal Opportunity Commissioner (EOC and the Complaints Process); Michael Hovane Manager, DV Unit Legal Aid; Heather Jones Telethon Kids (FASD and Justice); Sue Gordon former Children's Court Magistrate and Chair of the Gordon Inquiry; Corina Martin Principal Legal Officer, Aboriginal Family Law Services; and Donna Regan, Families Stakeholder Coordinator—Western Australia, Department of Human Services (Centrelink and Child Support Services for DV victims)

25 September 2015
City West Lotteries House
2 Delhi St, West Perth

For more information or to register your interest email info@womenscouncil.com.au

Marriage and Relationship Educators' Association of Australia, Perth Branch State Conference 2015

A state-wide conference for both professional and voluntary practitioners interested in the field of marriage and relationship education.

Morning Session: Working with distressed couples (presented by Rosemary Watkins)

Principles and practical strategies for working with distressed couples in the relationship education context.

Afternoon session: Mindfulness and Narrative Principles (presented by Ian Percy)
Practical ways of incorporating mindfulness and narrative principles into relationship education

7 October 2015
9am-4.30pm
Newman Siena Centre
33 Williamstown Rd, Doubleview

For more information or to register your visit www.mareaa.asn.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.gov.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@relationshipswa.org.au

Evaluating Collaborative Law in the Australian Context

Collaborative law as a method of resolving family law disputes is a relatively recent development in Australia. Originating from the United States, collaborative law has become increasingly widespread in Australia since 2005. This article evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of collaborative law in resolving family disputes in the Australian context. A background and history of the operation of collaborative law in Australia will be presented. It shall be argued that despite the innovation offered by collaborative law, there are a number of challenges associated with the Australian system of collaborative law. In particular, this includes the cost of the collaborative law process and issues associated with the mechanism of this type of dispute resolution.

Abstract:

<http://sites.thomsonreuters.com.au/journals/files/2015/08/ADRJ-Vol-26-No-3-contents.pdf>

[Kha, H. \(2015\). Evaluating Collaborative Law in the Australian](#)

[Context. Australasian Dispute Resolution Journal, 26, 178-184.](#)

Children and the law: The complexities of recognising the rights of children in a family law setting

The Family Law Act 1975 outlines a number of fundamental rights to be afforded to children in Australia, particularly in circumstances where their parents may have separated. These include a child's right to know and be cared for by their parents, their right to spend time with and communicate with both parents and extended family, and their right to enjoy their culture. In addition, Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which (in article 12) articulates the right of children to express their views freely in legal matters that affect them, and to have their voices heard.

Abstract:

<http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=416916862317956;res=IELAPA>

[Jones, B. \(2015\). Children and the law: The complexities of recognising the rights of children in a family law setting. Every Child, 21\(2\), 36.](#)

Engagement and participation of men in mediation

Following the Family Law Amendment (Shared Care Responsibility) Act 2006, Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) were established to offer a range of programs to families, including

mediation, following separation. We carried out a qualitative study funded by a non-government organisation which investigated the effectiveness of Parenting Plans. Twenty-three (12 females and 11 males) separated/divorced parents participated in semi-structured interviews conducted in the Perth metropolitan area and a regional area in Western Australia. The focus of this paper is a critical case analysis of one man's experience of the mediation process. Our aim is to contribute to this developing issue through the inclusion of some of the challenges for men in engaging in the mediation process more actively. These include: an examination of the influence of socio-political factors on mediation services; some men's reluctance in seeking help; and recent understandings of men's grief following separation that can have direct application to participation in mediation. We maintain that that this knowledge can inform mediators' education and training through supervision. At a broader level, the inclusion of this critical case analysis and its theoretical explanations has the potential, in some cases, to contribute to more meaningful post-separation relationships for all family members.

Abstract:

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13229400.2015.1020986#.VfDyvnkw_cs

[Britton, K. F., & Johnson, C. H. \(2015\). Engagement and participation of men in mediation. Journal of Family Studies, \(ahead-of-print\), 1-12](#)

NOTICE BOARD

Family and Criminal - new free CPD module Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders- a guide for justice professionals

A new free on-line Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module for WA lawyers Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders - a guide for justice professionals is now available from the Legal Aid WA Track-N-Train website.

It incorporates a series of five web videos developed by the Telethon Kids Institute in conjunction with a steering committee with representation comprising members of the judiciary at the Children's Court of WA, staff from Legal Aid WA and ALS, other organisations and community representation.

The module aims to help lawyers to:

- identify the factors and behaviours which may prompt consideration of FASD in clients in all jurisdictions but particularly children and young people;
- use this knowledge in their representation of children with FASD or suspected FASD who engage with the criminal justice system as accused, victims or witnesses; or children, young people and parents with FASD in protection and care matters; or otherwise those with FASD engaged in, or subject of legal proceedings in other areas of law; and
- apply this knowledge to inform decision making with respect to bail,

parole, orders, detention and programs for release; protection and care matters; or otherwise navigating the legal system.

CPD Points: 1.0 Professional Skills.

WA lawyers can get free access by emailing tnt.admin@legalaid.wa.gov.au or ringing Rhys McVicker on 9261 6384.

Free Webinar: Travel Overseas with Children

This free webinar presented by Women's Legal Services NSW will look at one of the most common questions clients ask: "can I take the children overseas without the other parent's permission?"

Areas covered include:

- What are your clients' options if she wants to travel overseas with the children?
- The Family Law Watchlist
- Hague Convention Countries
- What if the child doesn't have a passport?

Presented by Alex Davis, Solicitor, Women's Legal Services NSW

Tuesday 15 September, 9am-9.30am WST

To register visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4192940680871796737>

Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

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[@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

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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