



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

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

DECEMBER 2017

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN and welcome to the final eBulletin of 2017. It has been a huge year for all of us in the Western Australian family law sector, capped off with some interesting developments at a government level.

The change of State government in March has led to a reshuffling of departments and ministerial duties, and the State finally gained a Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. At the Commonwealth level, the Attorney-General's Department has in just the last few months announced a review of the Family Law Act, an increase to family law service funding and the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (read more about this on page 5 of this eBulletin).

It will be interesting to see these changes take shape over the next year, and as always WAFLPN looks to help facilitate informative discussion around any changes that affect our practice in the family law space. However if you spot an opportunity we may have missed, please contact



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Please save the date for our annual conference 31 May 2018, and note our newly announced twilight seminar on February 6 (see page 3). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, I wish you all a well deserved break to a busy year, relax, enjoy the sunshine and have plenty of laughter with your family and friends.



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The 27th Annual Silent March

WAFLPN participates in the Annual Silent March

WAFLPN members participated in the 27th Annual Silent March hosted by the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA (WCDVFS). The Silent March coincides with the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

On the 17th November community members, families, professionals from both government and non-government organisations marched together as one through central Perth taking a stand saying "No to Violence".

WAFLPN acknowledge the lives of women, children and men who have experienced violence and the alarming numbers that continue to be at risk of further acts of violence and ultimately death. The Silent March highlights 13 coffins, symbolising 13 women, children and men who have lost their lives to family and domestic violence in Western Australia over the past 12 months.

We would like to acknowledge some pictures may cause distress. If you would like support call the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800 007 339 or the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800 000 599.

Pictures sourced from Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence (WA).



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

Save the date! WAFLPN Conference 2018: Supporting positive childhood attachment

Save the date for the 2018 WAFLPN Annual Conference. This year's conference theme is 'Supporting positive childhood attachment', featuring an official opening presentation from The Honourable Jane Crisford and a keynote presentation from Keenan Mundine, who will discuss child attachment from the perspective of his lived experience. With more speakers to be announced in the coming weeks, the 2018 conference is shaping up to be a

31 May 2018
University Club of Western Australia, Crawley
Registration opens early 2018

Twilight seminar: Non-fatal strangulation

WAFLPN and Stopping Family Violence are pleased to present the following twilight seminar by Dr Debbie Smith of SARC, 'Non-fatal strangulation in sexual assault: a study of clinical and assault

characteristics highlighting the role of intimate partner violence'.

Dr Debbie Smith is a Fellow of the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine of the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia and is currently completing a Masters in Forensic Medicine at Monash University. She has been employed as a Senior Medical Practitioner at SARC Perth for over 15 years. Over this time Debbie has provided medical and forensic care to adolescents and adults after recent sexual assault, many relating to intimate partner violence. She has been involved in research at SARC, co-authored the SARC medical forensic manual, provides under-graduate and post-graduate education and appears as an expert witness in court in sexual assault cases.

Dr Debbie Smith will present a recent study at SARC on non-fatal strangulation in sexual assault. The research provides quantitative data on the association of non-fatal strangulation in sexual assault by an intimate partner.

6 February 2018
4.30pm-6.00pm
South of Perth Yacht Club
Coffee Point Road, Applecross

For more details and to register, visit <https://waflpn.org.au>

WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFLPN'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

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@relationshiptswa.org.au

Testing in child custody evaluations: An overview of issues and uses

The use of tests in child custody evaluations is controversial. Few tests were designed specifically for use in the custody context or include norm samples of parents involved in custody disputes. Use of data derived from tests administered in the custody context can create both scientific and ethical concerns in some cases. However, surveys of child custody evaluators indicate that test usage is common and has in fact increased substantially over the past several decades. The current article reviews the literature regarding the use of tests with adults and children involved in custody disputes and cases with alleged intimate partner violence. Psychometric properties of commonly used tests are discussed, as well as the risks and limitations of test usage in custody evaluations.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

Valerio, C., & Beck, C. J. (2017). Testing in child custody evaluations: An overview of issues and uses. *Journal of Child Custody*, 1-21.

An Empirically Based Framework for Content Selection and Management in Divorce Education Programs

Contemporary research has shown that divorce education programs are becoming mandated or recommended in numerous states throughout the nation. Cooccurring with the popularity of these programs is the variation in content of divorce education programs. The focus of this project was to systematically explore the research literature on factors related to divorce adjustment and identify findings to be used in content selection and development for divorce education programs. The divorce-stress-adjustment perspective was utilized to frame the divorce process affecting both children and adults. A systematic literature review resulted in identification of 103 published studies that fit the project criteria. Selected research findings identified in the literature review process were organized according to a conceptual framework designed to categorize content in a tiered approach useful for selecting and managing content in divorce education programs. Implications of the project findings for content identification in divorce education, program development, and program evaluation are explored.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

Schramm, D. G., Kanter, J. B., Brotherson, S. E., & Kranzler, B. (2017). An Empirically Based Framework for Content Selection and Management in Divorce Education Programs. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 1-27.

The effects of child care subsidies on children's health and developmental outcomes

Using a subsample of the Fragile Families and Child Well-being data set of 1430 low-income families with young children, the present study examines the direct and indirect effects of child care subsidies on children's health and developmental outcomes. The current investigation focuses on the indirect mediating effects of child care subsidies on child development as they are transmitted through mothers' employment, income, depression, and parenting. The results indicate that child care subsidies were positively indirectly associated with child cognitive development. Mothers who received child care subsidies were more likely to be employed and have higher incomes than were those that did not, and these characteristics were associated with better cognitive development in their children. There were also significant pathways found from child care subsidies to mothers' employment, family income to maternal depression, and parenting quality to children's cognitive development. No significant effects of child care subsidies on children's health and behavior problems were found in the current data set. The findings suggest that child care subsidies are beneficial to mothers and indirectly beneficial to their children. Thus, these findings suggest policy interventions and implications for practice.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Choi, J. K., & Moon, S. K. (2017). The effects of child care subsidies on children's health and developmental outcomes. *Journal of Family Studies*, 1-17.

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@relationships.wa.org.au

If a DVO was issued on or after 25 November 2017, it will be automatically recognised nationally and no further action is required. If you have enquiries relating to your personal situation, contact your local court.

Visit the [AGD website](#) for more information.

updated its database of Community Legal Centre services and fees. To view the updated database please visit

<https://waflpn.org.au/en/Resources/LC-Services>

National Domestic Violence Order Scheme

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department have made changes affecting how domestic violence orders are recognised in interstate courts. All Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) issued in an Australian state or territory from 25 November 2017 are automatically recognised and enforceable across Australia.

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme aims to better protect victims and their families. Existing state and territory laws protecting victims and affected family members from domestic violence have not changed. Local police will enforce the conditions regardless of where the DVO was issued.

If a DVO was issued prior to 25 November 2017, it can be declared at any time to ensure victims are protected nationwide by applying to any local court in Australia. It does not need to be a local court in the state or territory where the DVO was issued. A DVO does not need to be declared as nationally recognised if the victim is not travelling interstate and the primary residence is the same state or territory that the domestic violence order was issued.

Family Matters Report 2017

Family Matters has released its 2017 report showing us all what the picture of child protection for Aboriginal children now looks like in Australia.

Family Matters is a national level initiative of a number of agencies, led by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children. The Family Matters Report is a collaborative effort of SNAICC, the University of Melbourne, Griffith University and Save the Children Australia and aims to gather and present information about current and projected trends for Aboriginal children in the child protection system. The report was launched at Parliament House, Canberra, on 29 November 2017.

[Read the Family Matters Report 2017](#)

[View the Snapshot Data Report Card](#)

[View the list of Family Matters Publications](#)

[Visit the SNAICC website](#)

Update to Community Legal Centre Service database

The Citizens Advice Bureau WA has

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au

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