



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

MAY 2017

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WA Family Law Pathways Network! Firstly I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended our conference last week! Your interest and participation made it one of our best conferences yet! A huge thanks to all the speakers and our conference subcommittee for making it happen. We are still in the process of collating all the photos and collecting your feedback, so you can expect a full write up of the conference in next month's eBulletin.

As you may have heard us mention at the conference, WAFLPN is now online at <http://waflpn.org.au>! I encourage you to go check out the site. If you register as a member you will be able to access members only material, such as the live stream and presentations from the conference and other WAFLPN events.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and participation in WAFLPN, we couldn't do it without you! We have some more exciting events coming up for the second half of 2017, so keep an eye out for emails from Jane with all the details.



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Working Together
in the
Family Law System

waflpn.org.au



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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@relationshipsqa.org.au

AFCC Australia 2017 Conference: 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!'

The Australian Chapter of the AFCC has announced the program for its fourth annual conference. The conference will take place on 17, 18 and 19 August 2017 in Melbourne at Crown Conference Centre. The theme is 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!' and the organisers have designed a rich and varied program with local, national and international presenters.

17th-19th August 2017
Crown Conference Centre
8 Whiteman St
Southbank, Melbourne
Registration from \$760

Early bird rates end 17 June 2017. To view the program or to register visit <http://afccnet.org.au/>

White Ribbon Supporter Forum & Networking Evening

Enjoy this unique networking opportunity with other local White Ribbon heroes. An afternoon of facilitated training and workshop, followed by a networking evening

with other community change makers.

23 June 2017

White Ribbon Supporter Forum
4:30pm – 6:30pm
Facilitated training sessions with discussions to support you in delivering the White Ribbon message.

White Ribbon Supporter Networking Evening
7:00pm – 10:30pm
Hear from keynote speakers and be updated on White Ribbon Australia's plans for the coming year.
Cost: \$35 - canapes and beverages provided

For more information or to register visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/supporter-forum-networking-evening-tickets-34492269306>

Collaboration for Impact 2017

The Collaboration for Impact conference is for people from all sectors who are leading collaborative change and working to get better outcomes for their communities and organisations.

Collaboration for Impact is Australia's leading organisation for enabling people to tackle big, tough problems and create large-scale social impact through collaboration. This July 2017, we invite you to join us in Canberra for our annual conference.

This is a learning conference. You will learn about "what works" from Collective Impact initiatives and cross-sector collaborations across Australia. We bring together a rich network of practitioners and experienced enablers from different sectors who are working to achieve large-scale social change.

If you are working in a cross-sectoral collaborative or collective impact initiative (or thinking about starting), this will be your best learning experience of the year.

17-19 July 2017
National Convention Centre,
Canberra
Registration from \$750

For more details or to register visit <http://www.collaborationconference.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@relationshipsqa.org.au

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@relationshi
pswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshi
pswa.org.au)

Australian methamphetamine user outcomes

Illicit drug use costs Australia billions of dollars every year in lost productivity and healthcare and crime costs. This paper examines the demographics of methamphetamine users and their employment, education and health outcomes using data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey, the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program, the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services data collection and the National Prisoner Health Data Collection. Across all data sources, methamphetamine users reported worse employment, education, housing and health outcomes than those who used other illicit drugs and those who did not use drugs. In the general population, this effect was more pronounced for crystal methamphetamine users than for users of other forms of methamphetamines.

[Read full article.](#)

Goldsmid, S., Johnston, I., Kapira, M., Claydon, C., Petricevic M., & Webber, K. (2017). Australian methamphetamine user outcomes. Australian Institute of Criminology, Statistical bulletin no. 03.

Fathering attitudes and behaviors among low-income fathers

This study evaluated the effectiveness of a fatherhood intervention designed to improve the fathering attitudes and behaviors of fathers who are low income from metropolitan and rural communities in Louisiana. The study was successful in recruiting a sample of predominantly African American fathers (N = 57) and retaining the participants over time. An adequate number of fathers achieved the intervention goals to obtain employment, increase their earnings, and complete educational (i.e., Graduate Equivalency Diploma [GED]) training. In addition, after having completed the program, there was a statistically significant improvement in fathers' relationship with the mothers of their children. Additionally, there were increases in fathers' positive attitudes about being a father, perceived closeness with their children, amount of contact with their children, and satisfaction with the amount of time spent with their children; however, none of these differences were statistically significant. Most of the fathers gave favorable reports regarding the fatherhood program's goals and delivery.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Barthelemy, J. J., & Coakley, T. M. (2017). Fathering attitudes and behaviors among low-income fathers. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 1-17.

Contesting family-based violence: sole parenting possibilities and alternatives

This paper considers problematic recognisability and deficit constructions of sole parent families which contribute to conditions that can perpetuate family-based violence. Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's safety (ANROWS) state that one in four women in Australia have experienced at least one incident of violence by an intimate partner, equating to 2.2 million women who, since the age of 15, have experienced male intimate partner violence. A proliferation of discourses constructing the deficit 'single mother' tends to reinscribe the centrality and normative power of the hetero-nuclear family. When we obscure and restrict choice and alternatives to familial forms we restrict the possibilities of these alternatives becoming liveable lives. When deficit constructions of sole parenting are reinforced, people in dangerous and untenable violent family circumstances are less likely to view sole parenting as a possibility for constituting an alternative and happy family life.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Hook, G. (2017). Contesting family-based violence: sole parenting possibilities and alternatives. *Journal of Family Studies*, 1-10.

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

AIFS research project: Call for participants

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) is currently recruiting children aged 10-17 and their families for its Children and Young People in Separated Families Research Project.

The project will help children and young people to tell their stories about what services helped them when their parents separated.

An information card for you to give to clients is available at

<https://aifs.gov.au/takepart>. For more information, please call Dr Rachel Carson on 1800 720 142 or email childrenandfamilylaw@aifs.gov.au

Survey on Working with High Conflict Families

A/Prof Bruce Smyth, Australian National University, is currently conducting a

short web-based practitioner survey of working with high-conflict cases.

Participation is entirely voluntary. The survey is anonymous, and takes about 15-20 minutes to complete (computer, tablet, or smart phone).

To take the survey, please click on the link:

<https://live.srcentre.com.au/mrlWeb/mrlWeb.dll?l.Project=SRC1775&i.user1=4>

More detailed information is available in the Participant Information Sheet:

[https://live.srcentre.com.au/Public/1775/Practitioner Info Sheet.pdf](https://live.srcentre.com.au/Public/1775/Practitioner%20Info%20Sheet.pdf)

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the study, please contact Bruce on (+61) 1800 702 927 (toll free, business hours AEDT) or email:

Bruce.Smyth@anu.edu.au

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the Australian National University Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2013/574).

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FEEDBACK

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