



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

APRIL 2017

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFPN! I hope you have had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed time off with your family and friends.

Our annual conference is just around the corner and we are very excited to 'explore solutions to complex problems' together! Drug and alcohol issues are so prevalent in our sector so we thought we'd take this opportunity to discuss ways to respond. We have a wealth of expertise among our conference speakers, please see page 3 of this eBulletin to find out more about each of them. Registration for the conference is still open, and you can register at [wafpn.com](http://wafpn.com), but get in quick as we are close to selling out!

We are interested in your experiences of working with clients who are affected by drug and alcohol use. Our conference secretariat will be contacting you via email with a short

survey about your experiences. Please take the time to fill this in, as it is useful information and we will be presenting the results in the final session at the conference.

In other news, next time you read a WAFPN eBulletin it will look very different! We are launching a brand new website at the conference, and along with it a totally new brand for WAFPN. We will be matching the national Family Law Pathways Network brand, and WAFPN will now be the WA Family Law Pathways Network (FLPN). To learn more about the national Family Law Pathways Network and get a feel for our new look, you can visit [familylawpathways.com.au](http://familylawpathways.com.au).

That's all from me, I look forward to seeing you at the conference next month!



2017

CONTACT INFORMATION  
 Conference Secretarial  
[conference@corporatechallenge.com.au](mailto:conference@corporatechallenge.com.au)  
 +61 422 265 633

## WA FAMILY PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

**EXPLORING SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS:**  
 Responding to alcohol and other drugs in the family law system

Join the WA Family Pathways Network as we look at one of the most prevalent and topical issues in the family law system, alcohol and other drugs.

Hear from a range of experts from across sectors as we explore ways to manage the impact of this problem and create better outcomes for our community.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICOLE LEE

Beyond the tip of the iceberg:  
 Understanding ice use and  
 its consequences

#### POLICE COMMISSIONER KARL O'CALLAGHAN

### REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

**THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017**

**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**8.30AM - 4.30PM**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$100**

*CLOSES ON THE 27TH MARCH*

**STANDARD REGISTRATION \$120**

[CLICK HERE FOR  
 REGISTRATIONS](#)

[CLICK HERE  
 FOR WEBSITE](#)

25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017  
 UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Family Law  
 PATHWAYS  
 NETWORK

WESTERN  
 AUSTRALIA

# Meet our conference speakers

**Dr Karl O'Callaghan**  
Commissioner for  
WA Police

*Opening address  
9.15am-9.35am*



**Gary Kirby**  
Director of the  
Prevention  
Services  
Directorate,  
Western  
Australian  
Mental Health Commission



*An issue for us all: AOD use and  
comorbidity in WA  
12.30pm-1.00pm*

**Professor Daniel  
Fatovich**

Senior Emergency  
Physician at Royal  
Perth Hospital  
Emergency  
Department, Head  
of the Centre for  
Clinical Research in Emergency  
Medicine, Professor of Emergency  
Medicine, University of Western  
Australia



*Recreational drugs in the Emergency  
Department - the inside story  
1.45pm-2.45pm*

**Christine Ockenfels**  
Clinical Services  
Manager at Holyoake

*Local service providers  
panel  
1.45pm-2.45pm*



More speakers still to be  
announced! Please visit [wafpn.com](http://wafpn.com)  
for updates.

**WA Family Pathways Network  
Conference 2017**

**'Exploring solutions to complex  
problems: responding to alcohol  
and other drugs in the family law  
system'**

25 May 2017  
8.30am-4.30pm  
UWA Club, University of Western  
Australia  
Registration \$120

Register now via this [link](#)

**Dr Nicole Lee**  
Associate Professor  
at the National  
Drug Research  
Institute, Director  
at 360Edge

*Beyond the tip of  
the iceberg:  
Understanding ice use and its  
consequences  
9.35am-11.05am*



**Magistrate Mark Calverley**  
Magistrate of the Family Court of  
Western Australia

*Plenary session  
11.30am-12.30pm*

**Magistrate Andree  
Horrigan**  
Magistrate of the  
Children's Court of  
Western Australia

*Plenary session  
11.30am-12.30pm*



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

### 'Exploring solutions to complex problems: responding to alcohol and other drugs in the family law system' WAFPN Annual Conference 2017

WAFPN is excited to announce that our 2017 annual conference will be held on **May 25 at University Club of Western Australia.**

The theme for the conference will be 'Exploring solutions to complex problems: responding to alcohol and other drugs in the family law system'.

We are pleased to announce our keynote speakers, Dr Nicole Lee, one of Australia's leading experts in methamphetamine policy and practice responses, and Police Commissioner Dr Karl O'Callaghan. Magistrates Mark Calverley of the Family Court of Western Australia and Andree Horrigan of the Children's Court will be co-presenting on managing drugs and alcohol across jurisdictions. Professor Daniel Fatovich will offer his perspective from the Royal Perth Hospital, and we are also happy to welcome Michele Cohen from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support as a panellist. We are looking forward to announcing the

remaining speakers in the coming weeks.

**Registration for the conference is now open. You can register via [this link](#).**

**25 May 2017  
8.30am-4.30pm  
University Club of Western Australia,  
Crawley  
Registration \$120**

If you have any queries regarding the 2017 conference, please contact Jane Azzopardi  
[jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.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/>

## CARING DADS Facilitator Training

This two-day interactive and skill-based facilitator training covers a range of key topics including the need for intervention with fathers, Caring Dads principles and values, program eligibility, referral and intake process, program goals and associated exercises, mother contact, and coordinated case management.

**12 & 13 June 2017  
Technology Park Function Centre,  
Seminar Room 3  
2 Brodie Hall Drive, Bentley  
Registration from \$550**

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/caring-dads-workshop-tickets-32176950124>

## 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](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.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@relationshipswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.org.au)

## Bias in the Family: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Custody Disputes

This essay examines the role of racial, ethnic, and cultural bias in custody cases. It analyzes cases where the court explicitly considered the parents' racial, ethnic, or cultural background and cases where the court did not acknowledge these factors but where it is clear from the court's opinion that biases influenced its decision. It then briefly describes the literature on implicit bias to demonstrate how biases may influence the assessments of custody evaluators, lawyers, and judges despite best efforts to make fair and impartial decisions. Drawing on studies suggesting that individuals can reduce their implicit biases and their effects on decision making, the essay explores individual strategies and institutional reforms to address bias in custody disputes.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Maldonado, S. (2017). *Bias in the Family: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Custody Disputes*. *Family Court Review*, 55(2), 213-242.

## Factors Linked with Coparenting Support and Conflict After Divorce

We examined the relationship between personal and interpersonal indicators of postdivorce adjustment and dimensions of coparenting (support, overt conflict, covert conflict) using data from 176 recently divorced mothers. Mothers' satisfaction with the divorce decree, perceptions of fathers as important for child development, and being satisfied with fathers' parenting were associated with more supportive coparenting. Mothers' satisfaction with the divorce decree and fathers' parenting were associated with less overt conflict. Factors differed for mothers' reports of their own and their former spouses' use of covert conflict behaviors, with these factors linked to satisfaction with the divorce decree and perceived stress, respectively.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Petren, R. E., Ferraro, A. J., Davis, T. R., & Pasley, K. (2017). *Factors Linked with Coparenting Support and Conflict After Divorce*. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-16.

## Attachment Perspective on Marital Dissolution and Relational Family Therapy

Divorce or dissolution of a long-term intimate relationship is an event on the continuum of an individual's experience of attachment injury that is reawakened and played out again in this process. An attachment injury means the experience of rejection and betrayal of trust at a critical time of distress when one is in need of support. By means of the case study method, the article presents a case of a female client dealing with divorce. The history of traumatic relations

through a lens of attachment theory is presented, along with divorce as the reawakening of an attachment injury and its processing in a relational family therapy model.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Simonič, B., & Rijavec Klobučar, N. (2017). *Attachment Perspective on Marital Dissolution and Relational Family Therapy*. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-14.

## Initial Coparenting Patterns and Postdivorce Parent Education Programming: A Latent Class Analysis

Many judges now require divorcing or legally separating parents with children under age 18 to attend parent education programs (PEPs). Evaluations of these programs have shown their effectiveness, although these have often not been rigorous. Individuals display different patterns of coparenting following divorce, yet researchers have not empirically assessed participants' coparenting patterns prior to participation in PEPs. Using data from participants in a PEP class (N = 1,540), we describe participants' coparenting patterns prior to participating in PEP and consider pre-posttest differences in parenting and coparenting outcomes for each coparenting pattern. Results from this evaluation suggest a need for a more tailored approach to parent education programming and have broader implications for family life education.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Galovan, A. M., & Schramm, D. G. (2017). *Initial Coparenting Patterns and Postdivorce Parent Education Programming: A Latent Class Analysis*. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-15.

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

## New Minister for Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Community Services

Simone McGurk, Labor Member for Fremantle has taken on the ministerial portfolios of Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services in the new Labor State Government.

Ms McGurk was elected to the Thirty-Ninth Parliament for Fremantle on 9 March 2013 and re-elected in 2017. She was previously the Shadow Minister for Community Services; Children's Interests; Women's Interests from 26 June 2015 to 11 March 2017.

For more information or to contact Ms McGurk, please visit the [WA Parliament website](#).

## New book: 'Engaging men's responses to family violence: A book of tools', by Andrew King

Effective early intervention is critical in stopping low and moderate-risk cases of family violence escalating into high-risk situations. This book focuses on how community, health and welfare counsellors and other workers, and

practicing psychologists, can better engage with men to increase their motivation to access further support to address family violence issues. The first section explores a practice framework that unites the use of feminist, strengths-based and psychological tools.

The second section provides ten tools that have proved effective in involving men in deep, structured discussions that can overcome their resistance to confronting attitudes and behaviours that stand in the way of them achieving positive, sustainable change. At all times, safety is a core focus: the safety of the person experiencing the violence, children who may also be exposed to violence, the intervening worker or practitioner (you), and the person who uses the violence. In short, this book aims to promote safer relationships through insight.

Andrew King (BA Wel Stu; MAEd) is the Practice Specialist, Groupwork, and Community Education Manager at Relationships Australia, NSW. He is a specialist trainer who has worked with professionals in Australia, Asia and Canada, and published a range of professional articles. He has also coordinated a large fathers' centre, worked in parenting education, and dealt directly with many cases spanning family violence issues, young people with drug, alcohol and mental health problems, and families with special-needs children.

For more information or to purchase the book please visit the [Group Solutions website](#).

## Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

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



## Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

