



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

APRIL 2015

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello and I hope you had a fantastic Easter break!

It is the busiest time of the year for us here at WAFPN, with our annual conference just around the corner. It will be held on Thursday, May 14 at Technology Park, Bentley. This year's theme is 'When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?'

We are on track for making it another memorable conference, and I am looking forward to exploring the difficult issue of children resisting contact with other practitioners in the sector. Alongside our previously announced keynote speaker David Mandel, I am pleased to announce Dr Catherine Boland will also be presenting. Dr Boland is a Clinical Psychologist who specialises in working with children in high conflict families, and has special knowledge

in the field of children resisting contact. You can find out more about Dr Boland in this eBulletin or by visiting her website <http://www.therelationspace.com.au/who/dr-catherine-boland/>

We will also be hosting a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, May 13 at Technology Park, Bentley with David Mandel. This workshop will build on David's previous training sessions WAFPN held in Perth on the 'Safe and Together' model, with particular focus on violence as a parenting decision. It will provide a broader context for the content David will discuss in his presentation at the conference.

To register for the conference or the pre-conference workshop, please visit <http://wafpn.com>

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you in May!



# Get to know our conference speakers

## David Mandel

David Mandel has been working in the domestic violence field for 25 years.

David's international training and consulting focuses on improving systems' responses to domestic violence when children are involved, and responsible fatherhood. David has developed the Safe and Together™ model to improve case practice and cross system collaboration in domestic violence cases involving children. David and his staff have consulted to United States' child welfare systems in a number of states including New York, Louisiana, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Vermont, Oregon and Ohio. This includes overseeing a statewide network of domestic violence consultants for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families; training domestic violence subject matter experts for Florida's Department of Children and Families; improving collaboration between child welfare and domestic violence advocates in Colorado; and the development of certified Safe and Together trainer network to support the roll out of differential response in all 88 Ohio county child welfare agencies. David Mandel and Associates collaborates with domestic violence agencies such as the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. In 2012, David Mandel & Associates also provided training in the United



Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Singapore. David has written journal articles on batterer's perceptions of their children's exposure to domestic violence and the intersection of domestic violence and child welfare practice. His chapter on "Batterers and the Lives of Their Children" was published in the Praeger Series Violence Against Women in Families and Relationships

From <http://endingviolence.com/our-programs/about-us/our-staff/david-mandel-ma/>

## Catherine Boland

Dr. Catherine Boland is a Clinical Psychologist with expertise in working with children, young people and parents who are experiencing relationship issues and are in situations of family conflict and separation. She is an accomplished speaker, author and clinician who understands the complex realities of child and adolescent mental health and provides evidence-based direction to those who work with them. Catherine is an experienced therapist offering services to families in Court proceedings where children are involved. Catherine has developed a model by which families ordered to attend therapy are assessed, treated and reported. She is frequently called upon to interview families in



the context of providing expert opinion and report.

Catherine holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, a Master Of Clinical Psychology (Hons), a Bachelor of Psychology (Clinical, Hons) and a Bachelor of Education. Catherine is a full member of the Australia Psychological Association (APS), the Australian Association for Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (AACBT) and the Association for Contextual Behavioural Science (ACBS). She also provides supervision and training for clinical psychologists.

Catherine has worked in a range of sectors as a clinical psychologist. She has worked in hospital, educational and community settings prior to working in private practice. Catherine now works exclusively in private practice as Principal of The Relationspace.

Catherine has authored a number of papers in the field of clinical psychology. She frequently appears in the popular media providing commentary on parenting and family relationships. She speaks at conferences and workshops on topics of child development, parenting and clinical intervention in high conflict families.

From <http://www.therelationspace.com.au/who/dr-catherine-boland/>

**WA Family Pathways Network Conference 2015**  
**'When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?'**  
 14 May 2015  
 9am-5pm  
 Technology Park, Bentley  
 Registration \$100

<http://wafpn.com>

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

**“When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?” WAFPN Annual Conference 2015**

WAFPN are excited to announce that our 2015 annual conference will be held on **May 14 at Technology Park, Bentley.**

The theme for the conference will be “When children resist contact: How does the family law system respond?”

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker, David Mandel. Details on David’s work can be found at <http://endingviolence.com>

Registration is via the conference website <http://www.wafpn.com/>

**14 May 2015**  
**9am-5pm**  
**Technology Park, Bentley**  
**Registration \$100**

If you have any queries in regards to the 2015 conference, please contact Jane Azzopardi  
[jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au)

**Women’s Council Peer Support and Networking Forum featuring Professor Margareta Hydén**

Professor Hydén (Linköping University Sweden)’s major area of research concerns interpersonal violence. She has been internationally acknowledged for her innovative research on violence towards women, and is renowned for moving the research field beyond a mere static victim’s perspective and for engaging in examinations of the complex ways in which women negotiate their power.

**15 April 2015**  
**10.45am-12.45pm**  
**City West Lotteries House**  
**2 Delhi St, West Perth**  
**Meeting Room 7 (Conference Room)**

**Please RSVP by 13 April to**  
[bernie@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:bernie@womenscouncil.com.au)

**Introduction to Australia's Family Law System**

Anglicare WA would like to invite professionals with clients in the family law system to a workshop presented by Jennifer Hannan, Principal Clinician and Family Law Services Consultant.

This one day workshop reviews the current system of family law in Australia, including the structure of the Family Courts of Australia and Western Australia and the Federal Magistrates’ Court. Working within this system can be complex and this workshop will clarify the different roles and responsibilities of family law practitioners.

The workshop explores

- The working of the Family Court, associated legal system and legal processes
- Implications of material collected through interviews with clients
- Recording and reporting system requirements of the family law
- The important roles and responsibilities of legal representatives in the Family Law context
- The roles and responsibilities of the child consultant in the family law context

**22 April 2015**  
**9.30am-4.30pm**  
**Anglicare, Maylands**  
**\$215 per person**

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please send registrations to [training@anglicarewa.org.au](mailto:training@anglicarewa.org.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@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au)

## RESEARCH &amp; 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@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@wa.relationships.com.au)

## The economic consequences of divorce in six OECD countries

This report presents a cross-national comparison of the short- and medium-term economic effects of divorce.

Estimates for men and women are derived from longitudinal data from Australia, Germany, Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

It details how the main sources of income for women change following divorce, and the relative contribution of these sources. The findings show that though divorce has a negative effect on the equalised household incomes of women in all of these countries, the extent and duration of these negative effects differ markedly between the nations.

The report concludes by briefly considering the possible causes of these differences.

Full report:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/public/resreport31/rr31.pdf>

de Vaus, D., Gray, M., Qu, L., & Stanton, D. (2015). The economic

consequences of divorce in six OECD countries (Research Report No. 31). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## A review of kinship carer surveys: The "Cinderella" of the care system?

Across the English-speaking world, child protection authorities are increasingly placing children with extended family rather than in foster care or residential care. Many more children are in such arrangements informally. A number of surveys of kinship carers have been conducted in recent years in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This paper systematically reviews these surveys to identify messages for policy and practice about the characteristics and support needs of kinship care families. Some comparisons are made with population studies of kinship care. The review will be of interest to Commonwealth and state government policy-makers, service providers and caseworkers, as well as kinship care families.

Full report:

<https://www3.aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/review-kinship-carer-surveys/introduction>

Kiraly, M. (2015). A review of kinship carer surveys: The "Cinderella" of the care system?. CFCA Paper No. 31. Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## Children Resisting Contact With a Parent Postseparation: Assessing This Phenomenon Using an Ecological Systems Framework

The process of separation and divorce demands significant changes among family relationships requiring the ongoing negotiation of roles and responsibilities. Most children of separated parents will continue to want contact with both parents, but a small subgroup of children will align with one parent and simultaneously resist or reject the other. Several names and etiological suggestions have been coined to label these extreme alignments, but many of these oversimplify the complexity of these strained parent-child relationship dynamics. This article critically reviews the research literature using an ecological systems framework to better understand the nature of these complex strained parent-child relationships. Courts, legal, and mental health professionals that work with these families are encouraged to assess and respond to these dynamics using an ecological approach.

Abstract:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2015.1012698>

Polak, S., & Saini, M. (2015). Children Resisting Contact With a Parent Postseparation: Assessing This Phenomenon Using an Ecological Systems Framework. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(3), 220-247.

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

### Webinar: Child Custody Evaluations and Domestic Violence: New Research and Implications for Practice

AIFS presents Professor Daniel Saunders, School of Social Work, University of Michigan, U.S.A.

When couples separate, the risk of intimate partner violence, abuse, harassment and homicide often continues or increases.

Safety and human rights concerns in custody-visitation proceedings are gaining increased attention because professionals often do not detect abuse, do not take it seriously, or apply non-legal factors in their determinations.

This presentation will highlight new research findings on child custody evaluations in cases involving domestic violence, focusing on the beliefs and recommendations of the professionals involved in these determinations. Implications of the research for policy and practice will be described.

Thursday, April 30  
8.00 – 9.15am WST

To register visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9197438221025566722>

For more information visit:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/>

## 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)

## NEWSWORTHY: Headlines that caught our eye this month

['New family violence crisis line to shine a light in multicultural communities'](#) from The Age

['Chloe Valentine inquest: SA child protection system broken, massive overhaul needed, coroner says'](#) from ABC News

['Legal services for vulnerable groups spared cuts amid growing pressure'](#) from The Guardian

['Remove the burden of family violence from the victims, to the courts'](#) from The Conversation

['Australian children reunited with mother after being abducted by father and taken to Afghanistan in 2012'](#) from ABC News

## UNSUBSCRIBE?

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## FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to [jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au)



### Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services