



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

FEBRUARY 2015

Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! With conference planning in full swing I am pleased to announce our keynote speaker for 2015, David Mandel. We were lucky to have David here for a few seminars last year, which were hugely popular. David has done an extensive amount of work in working with perpetrators of domestic violence in terms of responsible fatherhood, and his training programs have been provided in multiple countries. You can read more about David Mandel and the Safe and Together program at <http://endingviolence.com/> or see David's full CV [here](#).

Further details on the conference will be announced in the coming weeks and keep an eye out for the opening of earlybird registrations next Monday. For the full details so far, see the events section of this bulletin.

Following a very successful FDV Networking and Referral forum hosted at the Family Court of WA in late January, we now turn our attention to our next Twilight Session, Case Law Catch Up. This CLE session discusses two recent Court of Appeal decisions regarding restraining orders, and like the FDV forum filled up in less than a day! We are looking into ways of making these seminars more widely available, however in the meantime be sure to get in quick to register so you don't miss out of WAFPN events.

As always, if you have any suggestions for training or networking events you would like to see from WAFPN, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Network Development Officer, Jane Azzopardi

jane.azzopardi@wa.relationships.com.au



Spotlight on: Mandy Drommer

Senior Manager, Family Dispute Resolution Services, Relationships Australia WA



My name is Mandy Drommer and I represent Relationships Australia WA on the Family Pathways Network Steering Committee.

Relationships Australia was founded over 60 years ago. Today we provide many programs to meet the needs of the Western Australian community. These services include:

- Counselling services for individuals and families;
- The Child Contact Service provides professional and child-focused changeover and supervision services to foster safe and positive interaction between children and their parents, and to strengthen these relationships;
- Support for people who are thinking about or wishing to give evidence at the Royal Commission;
- Moorditj Yarning and Djinda Services are programs specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our overall aim in service delivery is to not to make the people fit the service, but to make the service fit the people;
- Education workshops where everyone can learn how to relate better, either at home, at work or with friends. Whatever stage of life you are at or situation you are in, the benefit of enhancing your relationships is worth time and effort. Relationships Australia offers a range of one-night seminars and longer courses for individuals, couples and families. Our courses cover a variety of topics including pre-marriage, guidance for couples, and parenting;

- Family Abuse Integrated Response (FAIR) and Men's Domestic Violence Program. Relationships Australia has a long standing history of commitment to providing services which support people affected by violence. Based on best practice principles and guidelines, programs have been developed for perpetrators of violence, women who have experienced violence and children who have witnessed violence;
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a way for organisations to support their employees by promoting personal well-being and quality of human relationships in the workplace. The services are completely free to employees whose employer has a contract with Relationships Australia (WA) for EAP provision;
- Find & Connect support services have been set up to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants uncover their history, trace and reclaim their identities, help build relationships with their families and come to terms with their past;
- 4Families a free service that provides whatever support families and carers need, linking them to a variety of services to reduce family stress and enable children and young people to reach their full potential. 4families is only available for those living in the Kwinana, Cockburn and Albany catchment areas;
- Strength to Strength provides educational group sessions which are designed to assist families and individuals who have entered on the Humanitarian Entrants Program, to

enhance their abilities in relating to one another. Topics that may be addressed include Parenting and Communicating Effectively.

I have been working at Relationships Australia for 14 years and am employed as the Senior Manager of Family Dispute Resolution. I am an accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and an accredited International Cross Border Mediator. My responsibilities include the Mediation Services and Family Relationships Centres along with the delivery of the Graduate Diploma of FDR.

Mediation Services include the provision of parenting and property FDR at West Leederville, Fremantle, Midland, Kwinana and Albany. Additionally Mediation Services is available for resolving work place disputes onsite or at one of our office locations throughout WA.

Relationships Australia provides parenting FDR from the Perth FRC and Bunbury FRC.

The Bunbury FRC has outreach locations at Busselton, Manjimup, Margaret River, Albany and Esperance.

For more information about any of Relationships Australia WA's programs or to book in for an education course or register for professional training, please visit our website

www.wa.relationships.com.au

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

“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>

Earlybird registration opens on Monday, February 16th.

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

Case Law Catch Up

WAFPN is hosting an exciting event to discuss two decisions of appeal in

relation to the Restraining Orders Act. Once again, this seminar was very popular and filled up almost immediately. We are looking into ways of making it available to those who missed out, keep an eye out for an email from us.

We are looking into doing more “Case Law Catch Up” events in the future, be sure to get in quick!

Lessons Learnt from the Royal Commission

Anglicare WA would like to invite senior managers responsible for their agency’s child protection policies to a workshop presented by Dr Barbara Meddin, director of Human Services Consulting.

The workshop will assist participants to ensure that their agency’s policies and procedures are comprehensive and reflect a commitment to acting in the best interests of children and young people when there are allegations or concerns of significant risk of child abuse.

The workshop explores

- Agency obligations where there are current or historical allegations
- Identify what should go into agency policies to ensure a child focused approach
- Drafting specific sections of a child protection policy for their agency
- Strategies to ensure staff are aware of agency expectations, procedures and obligations

4 March 2015

9.30am-4.30pm

The Rise, 28 Eighth Ave, Maylands

\$220 per person

For more information or to register, contact training@anglicarewa.org.au

SARC Professional Development Opportunities 2015

The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) has released its professional development events for 2015.

Workshop topics include:

- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault;
- Vicarious Trauma;
- Working with Adolescents who have Experienced Trauma;
- Schema Therapy;
- Imagery Rescripting;
- Dealing with Disclosures of Sexual Violence and self-care, for Aboriginal Workers; and
- The Impact of Trauma and Basic Skills in Working with Complex Trauma.

SARC also offers free 1 hour presentations to work teams on:

- Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault; and
- The Impact of Trauma.

For further details, please visit <http://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/sarc/education.htm>

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

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@wa.relationships.com.au

'Changing the way we do child protection': The implementation of Signs of Safety® within the Western Australia Department for Child Protection and Family Support

This paper describes a six-year large scale implementation of the Signs of Safety practise framework in a complex statutory child protection context in Western Australia. The case study documents both the practitioner-led and organisational-led implementation journey as part of the State's child protection system reform drawing on Roger's diffusion of innovation theory and Fixsen's five stage implementation model as conceptual frameworks, and highlighting the key facilitators and barriers.

Abstract:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740914004095>

Salveron, M., Bromfield, L., Kirika, C., Simmons, J., Murphy, T., & Turnell, A. (2015). 'Changing the way we do child protection': The implementation of Signs of Safety® within the Western Australia

Department for Child Protection and Family Support. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 48, 126-139.

Reforming Relocation Law: A Reply to Prof. Thompson

This article provides a response to Prof. Thomson's critique, noting many points of agreement and also the broader consensus that is emerging among experts in the field. The research evidence, and the wider body of knowledge on children's well-being generally, supports the proposition that relocation is a risk factor for children after parental separation but provides no support for a general presumption either in favour of, nor against, relocation. Nor should it be assumed that the interests of children are the same as those of their primary caregiver. This article defends three questions arguing the need in an adult-centric debate to focus resolutely on children's interests rather than on adult rights. Both Prof. Thompson's approach and this article's involve guided decision making with the child's best interests as the paramount consideration—his through weak presumptions based upon research about how judges respond to relocation issues and this through focused questions based on research on how parents and children respond to relocations issues.

Full article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/fcre.12130/pdf>

Parkinson, P., & Cashmore, J. (2015). *Reforming Relocation Law: A Reply*

to Prof. Thompson. *Family Court Review*, 53(1), 56-65.

A Mentalizing-Based Approach to Family Mediation: Harnessing Our Fundamental Capacity to Resolve Conflict and Building an Evidence-Based Practice for the Field

This article presents the results of a research study into mentalizing in family mediation. The study employed a mixed-method approach, which included quantitative and qualitative empirical analysis of mediation transcripts and postmediation surveys. The research identified that, when the mediators adopted a mentalizing stance to facilitate the parties to engage their mentalizing capacities and, in particular, to mentalize for the child, the mediation process became more constructive and meaningful. The article makes recommendations for incorporating a mentalizing-based approach into the research and education of mediation and building an evidence-based practice for the field.

Full article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/fcre.12132/pdf>

Howieson, J., & Priddis, L. (2015). *A Mentalizing-Based Approach to Family Mediation: Harnessing Our Fundamental Capacity to Resolve Conflict and Building an Evidence-Based Practice for the Field**. *Family Court Review*, 53(1), 79-95.

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

Family Justice Research Bulletin

Check out this excellent free resource for new research in the area of family justice, from the UK Ministry of Justice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-justice-research-bulletin-5-january-2015>

2015 training for people working with children: hosted by Anglicare WA

Anglicare WA has a number of workshops available in 2015 for people who work with children in therapeutic or educational roles. View Anglicare's training calendar online at

<http://anglicarewa.org.au/training>

Or email training@anglicarewa.org.au

Salvation Army 'Safe From the Start' training

Safe from the Start research highlighted the point that 'a child exposed to violence is forever changed, but not forever 'damaged' - and there is a lot we can do to improve their future prospects' provided the positive message that one encounter with a child affected by violence could bring healing for that child.

Over 1000 family violence, AOD and child protection workers, counsellors, foster carers, family and children's services workers have attended training nationally in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

The Safe from the Start training covers:

- The research findings on the impact on children who have witnessed or experienced family violence.
- How to assess situations of family violence, 'activity-based-play' and how to use contents in the Resource Kit

Each participant will receive Safe from the Start research report, Training Manual, SFTS DVD, PowerPoint presentation, Therapeutic Play DVD-Not in My House, brochures and posters and Attendance Certificate.

For more information contact leah.ellery@aus.salvationarmy.org

Or visit <http://salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart>

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

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