



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

JUL/AUG 2022

Greetings from the Chair

by Mark O'Hare

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming in the new year and here we are in September!

At Pathways, Steering Committee members and speakers from the conference have been busy planning Webinars and Forums from our post conference feedback workshop (below) held at Wungening Aboriginal Corporation in August.

We are grateful to all who have given feedback, it helps inform our sub committees and event organisers plan events.

CPD allocations from the

conference have now been finalised and practitioners who registered at the time can view theirs by logging on to the Legal Practice Board (LPB) of WA's online [portal](#).

I am proud to announce, that the recently held annual FLPN election for chair and deputy chair has seen my reappointment for a further twelve months as Chairperson and Mandy Drommer from Relationship's Australia WA as deputy chair.

I would like to acknowledge Marnie Williams (AFLS Kalgoorlie), Kathryn Lawrence (CABWA), Robyn Antenucci (COMMUNICARE), Rita Iago (Centrecare) and Mary



Roseingrave (Lavan Legal) - thank you all for your valuable contributions and time shared.

Welcome new members Libby Cramer (FinWA), Sandra Brown (Women's Legal Service), Tucker Christou (COMMUNICARE), Faith Radosevich and Rochelle Matagi (CENTRECARE Kalgoorlie), Mel Cox (Children's Court of WA) and Melanie Pearse (Anglicare).

In this edition of the eBulletin we have included articles on unconscious bias, news on Superannuation splitting for de facto couples, research updates on FASD and free events in Perth.

I am sure you will agree it is refreshing to see conferences and events across the sector beginning to return to in person giving us great opportunities to catch up with each other.

All the best,
Mark.



EVENTS

Victim Voices Conference 16 SEPTEMBER 2022 Hearing the voices of victims

The Department of Justice is holding a free conference to look at how WA can improve outcomes for victims of crimes.

This event will be hosted by the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice.

Date: September 16, 2022

Time: 8.30am registration, 9am- 4pm

Venue: State Library of Western Australia theatre

Bookings: [Victims Voices Conference](#)

Speakers include:

Parkerville – young victims of crime

Ms Kirsty Pratt – victims of crime and the civil courts

Dr Suz Rock and the justice support dog program (plus appearance of WA’s first justice support dog Winston)

Chief Justice
the Hon Peter Quinlan

Attorney General
the Hon John Quigley MLA

Director General
Dr Adam Tomison

Cybercrime expert
Paul Litherland



Kati Kraszlan

The afternoon session will feature a panel discussion on ‘the victim’s journey’ through the criminal justice system with representatives of each State Government agency taking part, including the WA Police Force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Commissioner Kati Kraszlan, and the Victim Support Service.

The panel will examine the ‘victims’ journey’, with representatives from each phase of the criminal justice system discussing ways to make the experience less traumatic.



FREE WEBINAR



Understanding anger in conflict

10AM | WEDNESDAY
7 September 2022



Explore the emotion of anger.

Understand



Explore the relationship between anger and conflict.

Learn



Take away tools and strategies to effectively manage anger in conflict.

Develop

[Register](#)

WHAT'S NEWS

Current Research Updates on FASD – A Disability Rights Lens

Presented by Professor Dorothy Badry, University of Calgary

Research on FASD is growing at a fast pace and current research in the areas of FASD and child welfare, justice, mental health and suicide is the focus of this presentation.

Several high-profile media cases in Australia are identified in the presentation as systems continue to struggle in responding effectively to the needs of this population.

This population is vulnerable to engagement in key sectors including child welfare, justice, and mental health yet FASD continues to be an under-recognised disability globally.

Individuals living with this disability have a right to have their disability recognised and for effective supports to be provided in their care.

Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at University of Calgary, Dorothy Badry (PhD, MSW, RSW) is also the child welfare research lead for the Canada FASD Research Network.

Her research focus is primarily on FASD and child welfare, disability, advancing knowledge on FASD, issues of loss and grief, Indigenous concerns and FASD, international collaboration and FASD and suicide.

[Watch the webinar here](#)



Lighthouse Project Update

The Court is committed to the protection of vulnerable parties and children in family law proceedings.

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (the Court) are leading the way in helping families that have experienced family violence and other safety risks to navigate the family law system.

The Lighthouse Project will play a central role in the Court's response to cases which may involve family violence, by shaping the allocation of resources and urgency given to such cases.

It will improve the safety of litigants who may have experienced family violence and children who may have experienced associated risks such as child abuse.

[continue reading](#)

De facto couples now captured under superannuation splitting laws

Western Australian separating de facto couples will be able to split their superannuation in the same way as their eastern States counterparts following the passage of new laws through State Parliament.

There are more than 200,000 Western Australians in de facto relationships. The long-anticipated reform will mean they are no longer disadvantaged with regard to splitting superannuation assets in the event that their relationship breaks down.

Prior to the reform, the Family Court of Western Australia was unable to make an order splitting superannuation assets when it came to de facto couples. This was in contrast to married couples in WA, as well as married and de facto couples elsewhere in Australia.

The substantive provisions of the new law, although passed, will commence on a date to be proclaimed by the Governor.

[continue reading](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Attachment Theory: 2021 International Consensus Paper discussion in Perth

On 30 June 2022, Ngank Yira Institute for Change at Murdoch University, hosted a round table discussion in which the Minister for Child Protection, Simone McGurk, took part to consider the international research and [Western Australian experiences of the misapplication of Attachment theory](#).

The basis for this discussion was the 2021 International Consensus paper by T. Forslund et al '[Attachment Goes to Court: child protection and custody issues](#)' with one of the authors of the paper addressing the round table.

This issue needs further discussion and consideration, especially in how Attachment theory is misapplied with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with devastating effects.

Tommie Forslund, Pehr Granqvist, Marinus H. van IJzendoorn, Avi Sagi-Schwartz, Danya Glaser, Miriam Steele, Mårten Hammarlund, Carlo Schuengel, Marian J. Bakermans-Kranenburg, Howard Steele, Phillip R. Shaver, Ulrike Lux, John Simmonds, Deborah Jacobvitz, Ashley M. Groh, Kristin Bernard, Chantal Cyr, Nancy L. Hazen, Sarah Foster, Elia Psouni, Philip A. Cowan, Carolyn Pape Cowan, Anne Rifkin-Graboi, David Wilkins, Blaise Pierrehumbert, George M. Tarabulsy, Rodrigo A. Carcamo, Zhengyan Wang, Xi Liang, Maria Kazmierczak, Paulina Pawlicka, Lilian Ayiro, Tamara Chansa, Francis Sichimba, Haatembo Mooya, Loyola McLean, Manuela Verissimo, Sonia Gojman-de-Millán, Marlene M. Moretti, Fabien Bacro, Mikko J. Peltola, Megan Galbally, Kiyomi Kondo-Ikemura, Kazuko Y. Behrens, Stephen Scott, Andrés Fresno Rodríguez, Rosario Spencer, Germán Posada, Rosalinda Cassibba, Neus Barrantes-Vidal, Jesus Palacios, Lavinia Barone, Sheri Madigan, Karen Jones-Mason, Sophie Reijman, Femmie Juffer, R. Pasco Fearon, Annie Bernier, Dante Cicchetti, Glenn I. Roisman, Jude Cassidy, Heinz Kindler, Peter Zimmermann, Ruth Feldman, Gottfried Spangler, Charles H. Zeanah, Mary Dozier, Jay Belsky, Michael E. Lamb & Robbie Duschinsky (2022) Attachment goes to court: child protection and custody issues, *Attachment & Human Development*, 24:1, 1-52, DOI: 0.1080/14616734.2020.1840762

Bias against Indigenous Australians: Implicit association test results for Australia

Abstract

Reported experiences of discrimination amongst Indigenous Australians may reflect an implicit bias inherent in Australian society.

Such a bias may predispose vast swathes of the population towards considering Indigenous Australians through a negative lens, perhaps unconsciously.

This paper explores previously unpublished data from the internationally renowned Implicit Association Test that attempts to measure the implicit biases that Australians may hold against Indigenous peoples.

Other data collections on this issue focus on self-reported experiences of discrimination from the victims of verbal or physical racially motivated abuse (e.g. the Australian Reconciliation Barometer).

This new data source, which comes from the social psychology domain, provides a means to measure the positive and negative implicit associations that Australian participants make about Indigenous and Caucasian Australians.

The data reported in this paper contains observations from 11,099 unique individuals captured over the last decade across different cross sections of the Australian population, including based on gender, age, ethnic background, education level, occupation, religion

and political leaning.

The findings of this paper suggest that most Australian participants on average - regardless of background - hold an implicit bias against Indigenous Australians.

Full article

Shirodkar, S. (2019). Bias against Indigenous Australians: Implicit association test results for Australia. *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues*, 22(3-4), 3-34. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.150032703197478>

An attitude toward people or associating stereotypes with them without our conscious knowledge is known as Implicit (or unconscious) Bias. These terms refer to various social stereotypes and judgments that people unknowingly assign to others based on various factors that include age, gender, race, physical appearance, demographic status or sexual orientation.

Take the test

This test is not a prediction tool but an opportunity to reflect.

Read more



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Noticed someone's here but not really here?

Have you noticed changes in a colleague? Perhaps they seem distracted or like they've got a lot on their mind?

If your gut instinct is telling you something's worrying a workmate, start a conversation to see how they're going.

You could:

- Find a time that is convenient for them to have a chat
- Go for a coffee to get away from the office and other distractions
- Mention specific things that have made you concerned for them: 'You seem less chatty than usual. How are you travelling?'

If they're not ok, listen and don't judge them and encourage them to connect with appropriate support.

For more tips to help a workmate, visit ruok.org.au



Walk in Their Shoes Tours



The next tour will take place on 19 October 2022 at the Family Court

Register [here](#)



FVRO Walk in Her Shoes



COMING SOON

at the

Perth Magistrate's Court



KEY DATES

September

1	Indigenous Literacy Day
5	Father's Day
8	RU OK Day
10	World Suicide Prevention
13	Pink Ribbon Day
13	Anniversary of UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People
24	Term 3 ends
25	AFL Grand Final
27	Queen's Birthday



Djilba

First spring

August-September

Season of conception

Mixture of wet days with increasing number of clear, cold nights and pleasant warm days



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@relationshipsWA.org.au



> 13YARN is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

> Free and confidential service available 24/7 from any mobile or pay phone

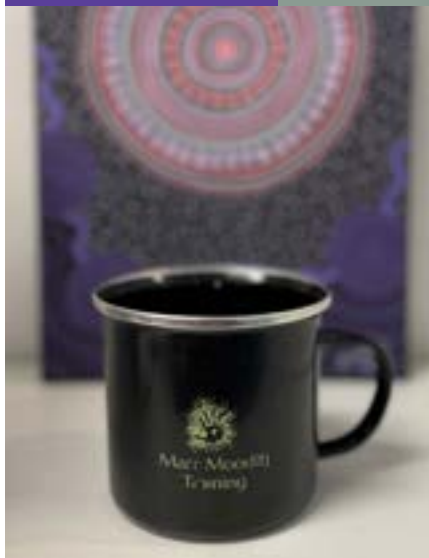
> Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters to yarn to

> www.13yarn.org.au



IS THIS YOUR CUP BELOW?

Left at Burswood on Swan Contact 6164 0380 to pickup



Service Wait Times

Find waiting periods for WA Family law services on our website [here](#)

Register your service

The FLPN Service Directory is an online referral tool. It is an easily accessible database containing information on government-funded & organisation-run services which work with families who are separating, or have separated Register your service [here](#).

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Feedback

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our ebulletin, please email them to annette.marie@relationshipsWA.org.au

