



Family Law
PATHWAYS
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WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

APRIL 2018

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN! I hope you had a lovely Easter break with your family. WAFLPN has been busy gearing up for our Annual Conference which is now just six weeks away! We are particularly excited to be welcoming Dr Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre, one of the preeminent institutes of attachment research, who is joining us as a conference keynote speaker and delivering a full-day Post-Conference Workshop on June 1. Places are still available for both the Conference and Post-Conference Workshop, and you can find all the details on [page 3](#) of this eBulletin.

There has been an increase of publications in the field of shared parenting, with Australian and international journals publishing special issues on the topic this month. You can find select articles on [page 4](#) of this eBulletin.

That's all from me, please keep an eye out for emails from our Conference Secretariat and staff members Jane and Sofia for updates



on all things conference-related. Or for more details in the meantime, head to our website <https://waflpn.org.au>



*Working Together
in the
Family Law System*

waflpn.org.au



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Conference Secretariat

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WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Supporting positive childhood attachment

Join WA Family Law Pathways Network to explore the impact of attachment within families and ways to support positive attachment in children.

We have an impressive lineup of international, national and local speakers covering attachment from its origins to contemporary use; lived experience; impacts in childhood and across the lifespan such as parent-child and adulthood relationships, along with the role of fathers.

An interactive mural will transform throughout the day, providing an opportunity for delegates to inform the design with their learnings and highlights.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

THE HON. JANE CRISFORD
KEENAN MUNDINE
DR ADAH SACHS

THURSDAY 31 OF MAY 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

8.30AM - 4.30PM

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$100

CLOSES ON THE 6TH OF APRIL

STANDARD REGISTRATION \$120

ONE DAY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 1 OF JUNE 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

8.30AM - 4.30PM

REGISTRATION \$75

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

[CLICK HERE FOR
REGISTRATIONS](#)

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FOR WEBSITE](#)

31ST OF MAY 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Family Law
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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@relationshipspswa.org.au

WAFLPN Conference 2018: Supporting positive childhood attachment

Registrations are now open for the 2018 WAFLPN Annual Conference. This year's conference theme is 'Supporting positive childhood attachment', and alongside previously announced speakers, The Hon. Jane Crisford and Keenan Mundine, we are pleased to announce Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre UK who will be presenting a plenary at the conference and a post-conference workshop on 1 June.

31 May 2018
University Club of Western Australia,
Crawley
Ticket price \$120

Visit the [conference website](#) or [click here to register now.](#)

WAFLPN Post-Conference Workshop with Adah Sachs

WAFLPN is pleased to announce a full-day post-conference workshop with conference plenary speaker, Dr Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre UK. The post-conference workshop is titled *Attachment theory in one day: the evolving concept of attachment*.

The workshop will:

- Survey the historical development of attachment theory from its forerunners (starting with Darwin) to the present
- Explain the main concepts and terms of the theory and their relevance to how families function.
- Invite participants to bring case examples (anonymised) to be discussed from an attachment perspective.

1 June 2018
University Club of Western Australia,
Crawley
Ticket Price \$75

Visit the [conference website](#) or [click here to register now.](#)

WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFLPN'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@relationshipspswa.org.au

MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

Check out the 'Resources' section on our website for more relevant training and events.

<https://wafpn.org.au/FPNWA-Resources/Other-Relevant-Training-and-Events>

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@relationshipsaustralia.org.au

Factors associated with successful shared parenting following family dissolution

The article provides a brief introduction to a special issue focused on shared parenting. The articles in the special issue provide up-to-date summaries of the research and scholarship relating to key questions and controversies around the effects of divorce and contrasting custody arrangements. Two articles focus on infant-parent attachments in separated families, two on the factors affecting the adjustment of children whose parents have separated, and two on the thorny issues posed by relocation disputes.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Braver, S., Lamb, M. E., & Holstein, N. (2018). Factors associated with successful shared parenting following family dissolution. *Journal of Child Custody*, 15(1), 1-3.

Case discussion: A 'Thorne' in the side for family lawyers in Australia: undue influence and prenuptial contracts

The decision in *Thorne v Kennedy* [2017] HCA 49 is significant, as it

provided an opportunity for Australia's highest court to clarify the uncertainty surrounding the law of financial agreements since they were made binding in the year 2000.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Rowan, E. (2018). A 'Thorne' in the side for family lawyers in Australia: undue influence and prenuptial contracts. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, 1-3.

"Being a father": constructions of fatherhood by men with absent fathers

Family dynamics and parenting styles are influential on children's wellbeing [Walsh, F. (2016). *Strengthening family resilience* (3rd ed.). New York: Guilford Press]. Additionally, childhood experiences and how an individual experienced being parented can impact on how individuals as mothers and fathers choose to parent their own children [Herland, M. D., Hauge, M.-I., & Helegland, I. M. (2015). Balancing fatherhood: Experiences of fatherhood among men with a difficult past. *Qualitative Social Work*, 14(2), 242-258]. However, growing up in a home with an absent parent may create challenges associated with parenting for individuals, due to not having these experiences themselves. Therefore, the article reports findings on men who grew up in a father-absent household and how their experiences influenced their understanding of fatherhood and becoming a father. Twenty-one men participated in this qualitative study. Findings revealed that although men felt unprepared for fatherhood they attempted to learn to be a father and expressed the

importance of not wanting their children to experience father absence. The study findings provide important insights in the provision of support for fathers who have experienced father absence.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

East, L., Hutchinson, M., Power, T., & Jackson, D. (2018). "Being a father": constructions of fatherhood by men with absent fathers. *Journal of Family Studies*, 1-11.

Shared Parenting After Parental Separation: The Views of 12 Experts

This article summarizes panel discussions that took place at an international conference on shared parenting (SP) held in May 2017. The panelists were internationally recognized experts on the legal and psychological implications of custody arrangements and parenting plans. Seven broad themes dominated the discussions: whether or not there was persuasive evidence that SP provides real benefits to children whose parents separate; what specific factors make SP beneficial; what symbolic value SP might have; whether there should be a legal presumption in favor of SP, and if so, what factors should make for exceptions; whether high parental conflict, parents' failure to agree on the parenting plan, or dynamics of parental alienation should preclude SP; and what should happen when a parent wants to relocate away from the other parent.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Braver, S. L., & Lamb, M. E. (2018). Shared Parenting After Parental Separation: The Views of 12 Experts. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-16.

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

Australian Law Reform Commission Review of the Family Law System eNews

On 9 May 2017 the Turnbull Government announced its intention to direct the ALRC to conduct the first comprehensive review into the family law system since the commencement of the Family Law Act in 1976, with a view to making necessary reforms to ensure the family law system meets the contemporary needs of families and effectively addresses family violence and child abuse.

You can keep up to date with the latest developments of the Review via the eNews on the Australian Law Reform Commission's website. WAFLPN will link to the [latest eNews](#) in our eBulletin each month and on our website <https://waflpn.org.au>

Review of the Family Law System – Issues Paper 48 was released on 14 March 2018.

[View Issues Paper.](#)

Communicare announce new Children's Contact Service

Communicare is excited to introduce the start of a Children's Contact Service (CCS) that will operate from their offices in Cannington from 30 April 2018.

This will be a fee-for-service designed to help separated families experiencing conflict or difficulties with parenting arrangements. The CCS will provide a comprehensive intake, screening and assessment process; on site child orientation; facilitated changeovers; supervised and supported contact visits.

For enquiries, referrals or any further information please contact Rhian Roberts (Coordinator) on 0447670420 or on CCS@communicare.org.au.

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If you would like to stop receiving the WAFLPN monthly eBulletin please send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to

jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au