



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

AUGUST 2020

Greetings from the Chair

by Karen Barker

Hello from WAFLPN!

Can you believe that spring is just around the corner? I hope that you find the time to enjoy the warmer weather and spend some quality time with your family in the coming months.

As for myself, I am settling in well into my new role as Chair of the WAFLPN Steering Committee. Things have been pretty busy behind the scenes, and I am excited to be working with the Steering Committee on a number of interesting projects.

This month, WAFLPN had the privilege of hosting a webinar with Professors Harry Blagg and Vickie Hovane, who discussed their recently published ANROWS report '[Understanding the role of law and culture in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities in responding to and preventing family violence](#)'. Thank you to everyone who actively participated and asked questions, making this a fantastic interactive learning experience. If you missed the webinar, you can still access the replay on the [Member Area](#) of the WAFLPN website.

WAFLPN has an engaging selection of webinars planned for September. We are kicking off the second National FLPN Webinar Series, which will feature monthly webinars with high profile speakers jointly organised by FLPNs across Australia.



On 2 September, join members of FLPNs all over Australia for a session on child inclusive and developmentally focused dispute resolution with Professor Jennifer McIntosh.

WAFLPN is also proud to present a webinar on culturally responsive practice in domestic and family violence with Elizabeth Lang on 10 September.

On 23 September, Peter Slattery will present a webinar on engaging and connecting with young people. This webinar has been organised based on feedback from our members, and this renowned speaker comes highly recommended by our colleagues in the sector.

You can find more details about these webinars on the [page 2](#) of this eBulletin. Even if you are unable to attend a webinar at the specified time, you should still register in order to have access to the recording after

the livestream ends. Please note that some webinar recordings are only available for a limited time (generally 1-2 weeks), so don't put it off for too long!

Other than that, WAFLPN is currently exploring our options for a conference or roadshow-style event in 2021, so stay tuned for further updates about that. Our priority is ensuring that the event can take place safely and be accessible to as many of our members as possible, so we are exploring virtual and hybrid modes of event delivery. If you have any suggestions or advice, please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#).

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.org.au

National FLPN Webinar: Child Inclusive and Developmentally Focused Dispute Resolution

Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join a free webinar by renowned clinical and developmental psychologist, Professor Jennifer McIntosh. In this webinar, award winning researcher Professor Jennifer McIntosh will describe the rationale for applying a developmental perspective to family law dispute resolution, and detail two evidence-based approaches to this work, covering infancy through to late adolescence. The principles of *Child Inclusive Mediation* and of the *Young Children in Divorce and Separation* program are briefly outlined, followed by a Q&A and group discussion. The online training for both programs, housed on the [Children Beyond Dispute website](#), is discussed.

Wednesday, 2 September 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

More information available on the [WAFLPN website](#).

Webinar: Advanced Culturally Responsive Practice in Domestic and Family Violence

WAFLPN is proud to present a webinar with Elizabeth Lang, Founder and CEO of Diversity Focus. This 1.5 hour webinar is designed to equip those working directly with people impacted to better understand the nature of domestic and family violence using an intersectional framework. Topics covered to better understand DFV context include unconscious bias; conceptual framework of domestic and family violence including dynamics and diversity of experiences in cross-cultural contexts; cross-cultural considerations for disclosure; strengths-based approaches for engagement; addressing safety and wellbeing of children; and engaging perpetrators.

Participants will develop skills and knowledge of:

- Categories of unconscious bias
- Impact of bias and effective mitigation strategies
- Cultural challenges and sensitivity around DFV disclosure and asking question
- Cultural considerations when assessing risk and safety
- Knowledge of children's safety and risk of abduction
- Engaging perpetrators

Thursday, 10 September 2020
1pm-2.30pm AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Legal CPD points available:
1 Professional Skills | 0.5 Ethics & Professional Responsibility

For more information, please visit the [WAFLPN website](#).

Webinar: Engaging & Connecting with Young People

Organised by WAFLPN, this webinar with Peter Slattery will help practitioners establish successful working relationships with young people. Participants will learn practical strategies to connect with young people one-to-one, simultaneously with young persons and family member/s, and in the presence of a third party. The webinar will also cover forms of communication and language that is more likely to be successful with young people. Most importantly, Peter will talk about being inventive and unexpected so as to invite a spirit of curiosity in the young person, and alongside that, a sense of safety, of interest, and a sense of having some control or agency.

Wednesday, 23 September 2020
11am-12.30pm AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Legal CPD points available:
1 Professional Skills | 0.5 Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Visit the [WAFLPN website](#) for more information.

MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

<https://waflpn.org.au/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 WAFLPN members, please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin.

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au

The meaning of Home for Children and Young People after Separation

This paper explores 68 Australian children and young people's understandings of what 'home' means for them after their parents' separation. Home – a familiar yet complex concept of great personal and social significance – has been a research focus for many other disciplines but not family law. The authors found that home, as an idea and lived experience, was complex. Children and young people's descriptions of home conveyed an interaction of tangible and intangible dimensions. Home was rarely defined by children and young people solely in terms of a physical residence; rather it was a fundamentally relational idea and experience, largely created through everyday interactions with significant others. This study suggests that home is not simply the outcome of conforming to a defined list of 'good' post-separation parenting practices, or dependent on the amount of time spent at each parent's residence: it has an existential significance for children and young people that matters deeply to them.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Campo, M., Fehlberg, B., Natalier, K. & Smyth, B. (2020). The Meaning of Home for Children and Young People after Separation. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. DOI: 10.1080/09649069.2020.1796218

Mothering - a mode of protecting rather than parenting in the aftermath of post separation family violence in Australia

The focus of this qualitative study was on separated mother's (N=36) lived experiences of mothering in the context of post separation family violence and the Australian family law system. Thematic analysis of interviews was guided by a theoretical framework, this being the Three Planets Model. Analysis of the data resulted in two themes relating to mothering being identified. Firstly, that women demonstrated a mode of protecting rather than parenting indicating that mothering was often undertaken in isolation and fear, within an adversarial family law system, and in the presence of a perpetrator of family violence. The second theme related to the aftermath of separation and the long dark shadow cast by family violence. After having left a controlling and violent relationship, separated mothers reported that there was no opportunity to recover, nor to healthily extricate themselves from family violence, which resulted in cumulative harm not only for their wellbeing but also for their children.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Francia, L., Milllear, P. & Sharman, R. (2020). Mothering – a mode of protecting rather than parenting in the aftermath of post separation family violence in Australia. *Children Australia*, 1-8. DOI:10.1017/cha.2020.24

Building and Enhancing Efficacious Coparenting in Parenting Coordination

Parenting coordination is a dispute resolution process to assist the subset of separating/divorcing parents who remain entrenched in high conflict coparenting post-separation/divorce. Based on factors known to impact positive child outcomes, its goals include assisting parents to protect children from their conflict and implementing a framework that will assist the child to have a good relationship with both parents. Despite significant efforts, parenting coordination often falls short of achieving its intended goals, which include healthy child adjustment and efficacious coparenting. This article raises questions and concerns about the extent to which child outcomes may be limited if the goals of parenting coordination are limited to establishing and implementing a disengaged, parallel model of coparenting, while avoiding or giving up on efforts to build and enhance cooperative coparenting. Two innovations are discussed: one that aims to strengthen individual parent readiness and responsiveness, and another that brings parents together in a child-centered team-building approach. Though cooperative coparenting is a challenging and unrealistic goal for some parents, further research is necessary to understand more fully which interventions help which families, when and in what manner.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Fidler, B. J. & McHale, J. (2020). Building and Enhancing Efficacious Coparenting in Parenting Coordination. *Family Court Review*, 58, 747-759.

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@relationshipsqa.org.au

FCWA Notice - Mandatory eLodgment by Lawyers

As part of its digital strategy, the [Family Court of Western Australia](#) is introducing a phased approach leading to a digital Court file. The first phase includes the mandatory eLodging by lawyers of all documents that can be eLodged via the Commonwealth Courts Portal.

As from **1 September 2020**, all documents that can be eLodged via the Commonwealth Courts Portal must be eLodged, if they are lodged by a lawyer.

[Download Practice Direction - Mandatory eLodgment by Lawyers.](#)

Community Legal Centre Services and Fees

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are not for profit, non-government organisations that provide legal and welfare services to people in need. Some CLCs offer legal advice in Family Law matters.

The services provided by CLCs may include legal information, advice and representation to individuals and groups; community education and law reform programs and advice to governments on policy issues. Most services are free or very low cost.

Did you know that Citizens Advice Bureau maintains a comprehensive list of Community Legal Centres in Western Australia, including current services and fees? [This list is available under 'Resources' on the WAFLPN website.](#)

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*Working Together
in the
Family Law System*

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FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our ebulletin, please email them to sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipsqa.org.au