



**Family Law**  
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KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES IN WA FAMILY LAW

AUGUST 2017

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN! I hope you find this eBulletin full of useful information, publications and events. Keep in mind that we have a more comprehensive list of relevant events on the Resources tab of our website. You'll also find a review of the event we held this month in partnership with the Family Law Practitioners Association and Legal Aid WA featuring Lyn Greenberg, titled Early Systemic Intervention with Resistance-Refusal Dynamics.

I'm pleased to announce that WAFLPN will be resuming the coordination of the service wait times as of September. You will be able to view how long the waiting periods are for local and regional family dispute resolution, child contact services and parenting programs on the Resources tab of the website, <https://waflpn.org.au>

We are currently working on teasing up a number of exciting events for the rest of your calendar year so watch this space!



**Family Law**  
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***Working Together***  
***in the***  
***Family Law System***

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# Review: Lyn Greenberg Seminar - Early Systemic Intervention with Resistance-Refusal Dynamics

On Thursday August 3, WAFLPN partnered with the Family Law Practitioners Association and Legal Aid WA to present Dr Lyn Greenberg at Saxons conference centre in Perth CBD. It was great to have Lyn Greenberg join us for an informative and engaging one day event on Early Systemic Intervention with Resistance-Refusal Dynamics.

Perth attendees were joined by colleagues in both Bunbury and Broome who joined the session via webinar. We had engaging questions on how we can consider the model in Western Australia and a place based setting in our regional and remote areas.

The main points for the day covered:

- The healthiest divorced parents do not do it so well in the first two years.
- High conflict divorce parents and the outcomes for their children
- What can go wrong with these cases
- Therapeutic Practice:
  - Risky practices, impact of resistance-refusal dynamics,
  - Research,
  - Children's outcomes,
  - Factors the therapist can impact,
  - Developmentally-appropriate therapeutic tasks
  - Parent interventions
- How do children cope

- Critical issues
- Early signs of trouble
- Coping-focused approach
- Change our thinking

You can access Lyn's power point, resources and links via the 'Members section' of [our website](#). If you are not yet a member you can sign up free of charge and access all the materials from recent WAFLPN events. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Family Law Practitioners Association and Legal Aid WA, and to promoting more of our Perth events out to regional areas.



Cathy Mills (WAFLPN Bunbury representative, Anglicare WA); Francis Eason (Anglicare WA) and Wendy Oliver (Communicare).



Bunbury webinar event

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

## National Victims of Crime Conference 2017

The 2017 National Victims of Crime Conference: - Victims' Voices – Reform, Innovation and Action will be co-hosted by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (coordinated by Victim Assist Queensland), and the Griffith Criminology Institute.

The Conference will be themed around exploring effective ways of giving victims and survivors a voice in addressing their diverse needs and how their experiences are influencing and reforming innovative service and policy responses.

6 & 7 September 2017  
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre Cnr Grey St and Russell St  
South Brisbane  
Registration from \$250

To view the program or to register visit  
<https://www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-law/griffith-criminology-institute/national-victims-of-crime-conference-2017>

## Child Inclusive Practice Forum

The 2017 Child Inclusive Practice Forum, We're all in this together, recognises the journey that parents and children and practitioners from across the field take through the process of resolving separation disputes. Reflecting this, international and local keynote and invited speakers will cover wide ranging topics to enrich the practice of Child and Family Therapists, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners, Family Law and Childhood Specialists.

18-20 October 2017  
Adelaide Hills Convention Centre  
Registration from \$240

For more details or to register visit  
<https://frsa.org.au/child-inclusive-practice-forum-2017/>

## National Family &amp; Domestic Violence Summit

The 2017 National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will put a new focus on business and technology, alongside case-studies of innovative and successful family and domestic violence programs, analysis from experts and stakeholders, and reports from police and government organisations.

The 3rd Annual National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will bring together professions, advocates, survivors, scholars, executives, and citizens, crossing social boundaries and uniting with a single purpose; the prevention and end of family and domestic violence in Australia.

13 & 14 November 2017  
Radisson Blu Plaza, Sydney  
Early bird registration from \$695

Early bird closes 31 August 2017. For more details and to register visit  
<https://www.informa.com.au/event/national-family-domestic-violence-summit/>

## 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@relationships.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au)



## 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@relationshiptswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshiptswa.org.au)

## Young Children in Divorce and Separation: Pilot Study of a Mediation-Based Co-Parenting Intervention

This article reports on a cluster randomized pilot study of a mediation-based intervention for separated parents of very young children, Young Children in Divorce and Separation (YCIDS). The control group intervention was "Mediation plus Reading." Participants were separated parents attending mediation over a co-parenting dispute concerning a child under the age of 5 years (n=33 cases). Nine of the 16 key child and parent outcomes were significantly better for the intervention group, with the remainder nonsignificant between groups. Mediators reported 35 per cent lower referral on to legal action for YCIDS cases following mediation. Implementation complexities of the YCIDS program led to the development of an online intervention format, now the subject of a further study. Further implications of this pilot study are discussed.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

McIntosh, J. E. and Tan, E. S. (2017), Young Children in Divorce and Separation: Pilot Study of a Mediation-Based Co-Parenting Intervention. *Family Court Review*, 55: 329–344.

## Entrenched Postseparation Parenting Disputes: The Role of Interparental Hatred?

There is an emerging view that the term "high conflict" oversimplifies the nature of destructive family dynamics, especially with respect to the small but resource-intensive group of separated parents who remain deeply enmeshed in legal battles and parental acrimony. In this Article we propose that interparental hatred may be a key relationship dynamic driving the behaviour of some in this group. We suggest a distinction between two types of interparental hatred: one that arises from responses to separation-related stresses (reactive hatred) and the other (entrenched hatred) that is indicative of more embedded, dysfunctional interpersonal dynamics and/or personality structures. While reactive hatred is typically time limited and amenable to professional intervention, entrenched hatred tends to overwhelm rationally informed attempts to mediate, negotiate, or even adhere to orders regarding suitable parenting arrangements. We contend that while effective intervention in these cases requires all the generic skills and responses necessary for dealing with highly conflicted disputes, it is also important to name and appropriately challenge interparental hatred when it is detected.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

Smyth, B. M. and Moloney, L. J. (2017), Entrenched Postseparation Parenting Disputes: The Role of Interparental Hatred?. *Family Court Review*, 55: 404–416.

## Serving families with child maltreatment and substance use disorders: A decade of learning

An increase in parental substance use disorders (SUD) and the number of infants and toddlers entering foster care has prompted federal and state efforts to change the treatment paradigm toward more integrated and family-centered strategies. The Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) program demonstrated that family-centered strategies can improve child and parent outcomes. The current challenge is to bring effective strategies to scale. This conceptual article highlights the lessons learned from 10 years of implementing and evaluating programs to meet the needs of families affected by parental SUD and child maltreatment. Effective family-centered strategies identified by the RPG program are illustrated with specifics from the Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team program. These effective strategies could be implemented in any jurisdiction and include (1) collaboration toward integrated services between child welfare and SUD treatment, (2) timely access to SUDS treatment, (3) recovery management and support, (4) tailored family services, and (5) adaptation to local jurisdiction needs. When these strategies are operational, children are more likely to be safe and remain in parent custody, and parents are more likely to achieve sobriety and improve their parental capacity. Future research might examine the unique impact of each of the five strategies independently.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Huebner, R. A., Young, N. K., Hall, M. T., Posze, L., & Willauer, T. (2017). Serving families with child maltreatment and substance use disorders: A decade of learning. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 1-18.

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

## New Online FVRO Resource

Legal Aid WA and the South West Community Legal Centre, have produced a new free, online self-help guide about "How to get an Interim FVRO".

It has step-by-step practical information, videos and downloadable materials around 4 keys areas – Keeping safe, How to apply for an FVRO, Going to court and the Next steps after court.

It is not intended as a substitute for legal advice but will complement existing information and supports for FVROs.

To use it, workers or the public can go to the Legal Aid website or the link to our CORE online resources: <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/LegalResources/Pages/CORE.aspx>

## Issues paper: Family and domestic violence perpetrator programs

This issues paper was put together by Stopping Family Violence and authored by Rodney Vlasis, Sophie Ridley, Damian Green and Donna Chung. The paper grapples with a range of issues influencing how the Men's Behaviour Change Program field might evolve in the years to come.

To view the issues paper visit <http://sfv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FDV-perpetrator-programs-issues-paper.pdf>

## WAFLPN website

Have you visited the WAFLPN website yet? It is the best place to check out upcoming WAFLPN news and events. Sign up as a member to view papers and resources from previous events. Membership is free!

<https://waflpn.org.au>

## Follow WAFLPN on Twitter!

If you want to keep up to date with info and articles we find interesting, follow WAFLPN on Twitter: [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

## UNSUBSCRIBE?

If you would like to stop receiving the WAFLPN monthly eBulletin please send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to [WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au)

## FEEDBACK

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