



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Greetings from the Chair

by Rod West



Hello from WAFLPN!

I am very excited to announce that early bird tickets for our Annual Conference and Workshop Day are now available

for purchase! We have also updated the [program](#), [keynote speakers](#) and [Workshop Day](#) information on our website, so make sure to check it out. This year, our Workshop Day will feature two workshops, with options to attend either half-day workshop, or both workshops for a full day of learning and knowledge sharing. Don't forget to [get your tickets](#) before 23 March 2020 to take advantage of the early bird prices!

WAFLPN is also organising another workshop on Addressing Violence Against Aboriginal Women with professors Harry Blagg and Vickie Hovane in Broome on 5 March following its success in Kununurra late last year. Additionally, we will be partnering with Legal Aid WA to deliver a free seminar on 24 March about the new Keep Em Safe Resource Kit. More information about our upcoming events can be found on [page 3](#).

WAFLPN often delivers events in collaboration with other organisations, and we welcome partnership opportunities with other organisations, groups and individuals to support initiatives and events

which are in line with our strategic goals. Recently, the WAFLPN Steering Committee has formalised and published our [Partnership Policy and Event Request Form on our website](#) to make WAFLPN's partnership process more transparent and accessible. Please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#) with any queries, ideas and proposals.

This month we observed Ochre Ribbon Week (12-19 February), an Indigenous-led campaign which aims to raise awareness of the impacts of domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. I would like to end this eBulletin by expressing my appreciation for the important work done by Aboriginal family law and family and domestic violence services all over Western Australia, and show my support to all Aboriginal survivors of family and domestic violence.



WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS
NETWORK CONFERENCE 2020

Shaping the Future of Family Law

IDEAS. INNOVATION. INSPIRATION.

Conference:

Tuesday 12 May 2020

Workshop Day:

Wednesday 13 May 2020

www.waflpn.org.au/2020-conference



SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Marnie Williams, WAFLPN Regional Representative for Kalgoorlie

In this new feature, we shine the spotlight on the amazing people who volunteer their time and skills to WAFLPN. These include members of our Steering Committee, our valued Regional Representatives, and other professionals and organisations who generously donate their services to our Network.

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce **Marnie Williams**, who works as a solicitor for Aboriginal Family Law Services (AFLS) in Kalgoorlie and has recently taken up the role of Kalgoorlie Regional Representative for WAFLPN.

One of WAFLPN's Steering Committee member agencies, AFLS is a family violence prevention service providing legal and casework services to victims of domestic violence in regional areas. Legal services provided are in the areas of family law, care and protection, family violence restraining orders and criminal injuries compensation.

The Kalgoorlie office covers the Goldfields area, from Esperance and up to Leonora and Laverton.

Marnie started with AFLS in 2018, in the Carnarvon office, before moving to Kalgoorlie in July 2019. "I love working in regional areas," Marnie says, "and AFLS provides me great opportunities to see WA."

Prior to becoming a lawyer she worked as a trauma counsellor for 15 years with culturally diverse people, including people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Marnie has had a varied career that includes working for the Association of Services to Survivors of Trauma and Torture (ASeTTS), Victim Support Services with the Department of Justice, Anglicare and the Department of Corrective Services.

As a Regional Representative, Marnie will work closely with the WAFLPN Steering Committee and play a key role in organising relevant professional development and networking events for our members in Kalgoorlie.

Marnie says that she is "looking forward to working with WAFLPN to provide a regional perspective on issues and promote WAFLPN events."



Marnie Williams



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

WAFLPN 2020 Annual Conference and Workshop Day

Early bird registrations are now open for the WAFLPN 2020 Annual Conference and Workshop Day on 12 and 13 May 2020 respectively.

With the theme '*Shaping the Future of Family Law: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration*', this conference will be of interest to professionals from a range of disciplines who work as part of, or alongside, the family law system. Keynote speakers include Forensic Psychologist and Author, Robert A. Simon, Ph.D. (USA) and Judge Tom Altobelli, Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

The **Workshop Day** features two workshops:

- Morning workshop by Judge Tom Altobelli and Dr Phil Stahl - '*Decision making in the future: shedding the baggage of cognitive, implicit, and cultural biases*'
- Afternoon workshop by Robert A. Simon, Ph.D., the Honourable Justice Simon Moncrieff and Robin Cohen (title TBA)

Conference: 12 May 2020
8.45am-4.30pm
Burswood on Swan,
1 Camfield Dr, Burswood WA

Workshop Day: 13 May 2020
9am-12.15pm | 1pm-4.15pm
Burswood on Swan,
1 Camfield Dr, Burswood WA

[Register now!](#)

See flyer on the next page or visit waflpn.org.au/2020-conference for more information.

[Click here to subscribe for fortnightly conference updates.](#)

Addressing Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Join Professors Vickie Hovane and Harry Blagg, authors of the ANROWS report *Innovative models in addressing violence against Indigenous women*, for a workshop based on their findings. Suitable for professionals working with Aboriginal people and communities, this workshop will focus on creating a response to family violence that reflects the needs of local women.

5 March 2020
2pm-5pm
Broome Lotteries House
Hall 1, Lot 620 Cable Beach Road,
Broome WA
Free event, registrations essential
www.trybooking.com/BIFKL

For more information, visit waflpn.org.au/events/addressing-violence-against-aboriginal-women

Keep Em Safe Resource Kit Overview Seminar

Legal Aid WA and WAFLPN are organising a seminar about the new Blurred Borders *Keep Em Safe* Child Protection Resource Kit presented by Jane Stewart (Director Legal Practice Development, Legal Aid).

Originally developed for legal and community service providers working with Aboriginal people in the in the East and West Kimberley regions of WA, the *Keep Em Safe* kit can be used explain legal concepts and clearly convey key information to wider audiences. This seminar will provide an overview of the kit and its application as a resource in the Child Protection, legal and educational contexts.

24 March 2020
4pm-5pm
Legal Aid Training Room
32 St George's Terrace, Perth WA
Free event, registrations essential
www.trybooking.com/BIFJS

For more information, visit waflpn.org.au/events/keep-em-safe-resource-kit-overview-seminar

MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

waflpn.org.au/resources/other-relevant-training-and-events



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WWW.WAFLPN.ORG.AU/2020-CONFERENCE

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WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Shaping the Future of Family Law

IDEAS. INNOVATION. INSPIRATION.

The WA Family Law Pathways Network invites you to join us for our Annual Conference and Workshop Day to be held on 12 & 13 May 2020 respectively.

With the theme '**Shaping the Future of Family Law: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration**', this year's conference will be of interest to professionals from a range of disciplines working in, or alongside, the family law system.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- > Robert A. Simon Ph.D. (Forensic Psychologist and Author, USA)
- > The Honourable Justice Simon Moncrieff (Judge of the Family Court of WA)
- > Robin Cohen (Independent Children's Lawyer, Legal Aid WA)
- > Judge Tom Altobelli (Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia)
- > Judy Small AM (Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, retired)
- > Corina Martin (CEO, Aboriginal Family Law Services)

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS WITH:

- > Judge Tom Altobelli and Dr Phil Stahl (Forensic Psychologist, USA)
- > Robert A. Simon Ph.D, The Honourable Justice Simon Moncrieff and Robin Cohen

Conference:
Tuesday 12 May 2020

Workshop Day:
Wednesday 13 May 2020

Venue: Burswood on Swan

Conference registration:

- > Early bird \$125
- > Standard \$150

Full-day workshop registration:

- > Early bird \$75
- > Standard \$85

Half-day workshop registration:

- > Early bird \$40
- > Standard \$50

Two day registration: (Conference + Full-day workshop)

- > Early bird \$185
- > Standard \$215

Early bird registrations close:

- > 23 March 2020

Registrations close:

- > 23 April 2020

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

Working together to keep children and families safe: Strategies for developing collaborative competence

This practice paper focuses on improving cross-sectoral relationships between child protection and child and family welfare practitioners, who are often required to work together to keep children and families safe. This paper aims to build practitioners' *collaborative competence*; that is, their skills in developing and sustaining effective cross-sectoral relationships in the many and varied circumstances of daily practice.

[Read full article.](#)

Price-Robertson, R., Kirkwood, D., Dean, A., Hall, T., Paterson, N. & Broadley, K. (2020). Working together to keep children and families safe. CFCA Paper No. 53.

A court file analysis of child protection cases: What do children say?

Children's participation in legal proceedings affecting them personally has been gaining importance. So far, a primary research concern has been how children experience their participation in court proceedings. However, little is known about the child's voice itself: Are children able to clearly express their wishes, and if so, what do they say in child protection cases? This study, extracted information about children's statements from court file data of 220 child protection cases in Germany. It was found that 182 children were asked about their wishes. The majority of the statements found came either from reports of the guardians ad litem or from judicial records of the child hearings. Using content analysis, three main aspects of the statements were extracted: wishes concerning main place of residence, wishes about whom to have or not contact with, and children granting decision-making authority to someone else. Children's main focus was on their parents, but others (e.g., relatives and foster care providers) were also mentioned. Intercoder agreement was substantial. Making sure that child hearings are as informative as possible is in the child's best interest. Therefore, the categories developed in this article might help professionals to ask questions more precisely relevant to the child.

[Read full article.](#)

Kratky, N. & Schröder-Abé, M. (2020). A court file analysis of child protection cases: What do children say? *Child & Family Social Work*, 1-9. DOI: 10.1111/cfs.12744.

Help me help you: Identifying and addressing barriers to child support compliance

Many custodial mothers and their children rely on child support to meet basic needs; yet, most do not receive all of the support they are owed. Understanding why some fathers do not meet their formal support obligations is important for the well-being of children in single-parent families. This article contributes to the evidence base on barriers to compliance with formal child support obligations by the sharing perspectives of staff who work with noncustodial fathers struggling to find work and pay child support on overcoming these barriers, and comparing their perspectives to those of noncustodial fathers. Results indicate 5 types of practical, system-based, and experiential factors contributing to noncompliance: (1) an array of barriers to employment; (2) insufficient income to meet obligations; (3) child support system-initiated barriers; (4) resistance to paying support without visitation access; and (5) prior interactions with the child support system. Findings suggest a number of policy changes that could help facilitate compliance among struggling noncustodial fathers.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Vogel, L. K. (2020). Help me help you: Identifying and addressing barriers to child support compliance. *Child and Youth Services Review*, 110. DOI: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104763.

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

Submission Open: A Therapeutic Approach (Pilot Court) for Protection and Care in the Children's Court of WA - Discussion Paper

Interest in a more therapeutic approach towards protection and care proceedings has been developing for some time in Western Australia and continues to be an ongoing topic of discussion between the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Department of Communities (DoC).

The Discussion Paper provides basic background information and context about some of the significant issues that have been identified for consideration and asks questions about potential courses of action and strategies that may assist the DoJ in partnership with key stakeholders to move towards a more therapeutic approach to protection and care proceedings, with the possibility of a pilot program.

Stakeholders, interested persons or organisations are therefore invited to make written submissions in response to the questions raised and any other considerations they believe may be relevant to this Discussion Paper.

The closing date for submissions is **Monday, 16 March 2020**.

Submissions can be emailed to SBDAdmin@justice.wa.gov.au or mailed via post.

To view the discussion paper and for more information regarding submissions, please visit https://www.childrenscourt.wa.gov.au/D/discussion_paper.aspx

Volunteers Needed: ASeTTS SAFE Project

Safety and Family Education (SAFE) Project is an ASeTTS initiative in collaboration with Arabic, Farsi, Hazaragi, Karen and Somali speaking communities living in the Perth metro areas.

Working together with the communities and key stakeholders, the project aims to:

- Build the capacity of community members of influence to help prevent family and domestic violence (FDV);
- Build the capacity of FDV victims and at-risk individuals to access protection resources such as crisis refuge and legal services.

The program includes the delivery of a FDV forum which will include service providers, the prevention team and the protection team.

Two volunteer roles are available:

1. **Prevention volunteer** involved in the prevention team. It is a requirement that community facilitators have a refugee-like background. This role involves organising community engagement activities to promote family and community safety and to improve understanding of domestic violence.
2. **Protection volunteer** involved in the protection team. Experience working in a previous family or domestic violence role is preferred but not essential. This role involves working directly with individuals or families affected by domestic or family violence and providing practical support, advice and information.

The project period commences February 2020 and runs until July 2021. Five days of initial training will be provided, in addition to group meetings every three months and supervision for volunteers.

For more information visit <https://asetts.org.au/volunteer-opportunity>

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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Follow [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA) on twitter for the latest information and interesting articles relating to family law

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipsqa.org.au