



**Family Law**  
**PATHWAYS**  
**NETWORK**

**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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

JANUARY 2019

## Greetings from the Chair

by Rod West



Hello and happy new year from all of us here at WAFLPN! Thank you to everyone who participated in the anonymous survey as part

of the national evaluation of the FLPN program. The evaluation is currently in its second stage and the research team will be in touch with those who opted in to participate in personalised interviews.

We are starting the year at full throttle with a range of [training and networking opportunities](#), including the Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum on 12 February, Family Violence Amendments Training on 15 February, and Separation and Same-Sex Parented Families workshops with Dr Luke Gahan on 20 and 22 February. Don't forget to save the date for the 2019 WAFLPN Annual Conference 'No One is Perfect: Exploring the connection between parenting capacity and children's wellbeing' on 30 May and the post-conference workshop with Rose Cuff and Dr Margaret Spencer on 31 May – more details will be announced soon.

The Perth workshop with Dr Luke Gahan has now sold out, however tickets are still available for the Busselton workshop and Abbey Beach Resort is offering discounts

on room rates to all Busselton workshop attendees who quote the promo code 'WAFLPN' when booking. Early bird pricing will close on 1 February, so book now to avoid missing out!

2019 has also brought about a series of changes in the broader family law sector, with [three new appointments to the Family Court of Western Australia](#), who commenced their roles on 7 January. The WA Family Law Pathways Network congratulates Justice Gail Sutherland, Magistrate Ciara Tyson and Mr Neil Anderson on their respective appointments as Chief Judge, Judge and Magistrate.

Mr Neil Anderson has stepped down as co-Chair of the WAFLPN Steering Committee so that he can take up his new role as Magistrate of the Family Court. The WAFLPN Steering Committee would like to acknowledge Mr Neil Anderson's outstanding contributions to the network and thank him for his leadership over the years as Chair of the Regional Subcommittee and co-Chair of the Steering Committee.

Enjoy this month's edition of the eBulletin and don't forget to check [our website](#) regularly for updates.



**Family Law**  
**PATHWAYS**  
**NETWORK**

**WA FAMILY LAW**  
**PATHWAYS NETWORK**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**No One Is Perfect:**  
*Exploring the connection between parenting capacity and children's wellbeing*

**THURSDAY 30 MAY 2019**

**ONE DAY WORKSHOP**  
**FRIDAY 31 OF MAY 2019**

[waflpn.org.au](http://waflpn.org.au)



**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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

**Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum**

WAFLPN and the Geraldton Family Relationships Centre present the Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum, featuring Kevin Hanavan's 'Fathering & Attachment' presentation.

12 February 2019  
5.00pm-7.00pm  
Mary Ryan Centre  
1 Maitland Street, Geraldton  
Free, RSVP essential.

Please RSVP to Nicola James at [fradmin@centacaregeraldton.org.au](mailto:fradmin@centacaregeraldton.org.au) by 29 January 2019.

For more information, visit the [WAFLPN website](http://www.waflpn.org.au).

**Family Violence Amendments Training**

You are invited to join us for an information session with Consumer Protection's Senior Policy Officer Trish Blake on the upcoming FDV related tenancy law changes – the Residential Tenancies Legislation Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2018.

The changes to WA's residential tenancies and residential parks laws should come into effect in the first half of 2019. Key amendments include enabling renters affected by FDV to:

- exit a tenancy with seven (7) days' notice without going to court;
- remove a perpetrator from a lease by applying to the courts; and
- change locks or increase security without a landlord's permission.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions after the session.

15 February 2019  
3.00pm-4.30pm  
State Library of Western Australia  
25 Francis St, Perth  
Free event, registrations essential  
[www.trybooking.com/BANQU](http://www.trybooking.com/BANQU)

More information available on the [WAFLPN website](http://www.waflpn.org.au).

**Separation and Same-sex Parented Families Workshops by Dr Luke Gahan – Perth and Busselton**

WAFLPN is proud to host Dr Luke Gahan from La Trobe University for full-day workshops in Perth and Busselton. Dr Luke Gahan will present his findings from the Australian Separated Same-Sex Parent Study and help service providers learn how to work effectively with same-sex parents experiencing separation.

**BUSSELTON WORKSHOP**

22 February 2019  
9.00am-4.30pm  
Abbey Beach Resort  
595 Bussell Hwy, Busselton  
Early bird tickets from \$45  
[www.trybooking.com/ZVPT](http://www.trybooking.com/ZVPT)

**PERTH WORKSHOP – SOLD OUT**

More information is available on the flyer on the next page and on the [WAFLPN website](http://www.waflpn.org.au).



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety  
Consumer Protection



**No place for family violence**  
Do you work with people affected by family and domestic violence (FDV)?



## SEPARATION AND SAME-SEX PARENTED FAMILIES WORKSHOPS BY DR LUKE GAHAN

Recent social, cultural, and political changes in Australia have led to greater acceptance of same-sex parented families. However, separated same-sex parents face ongoing challenges in accessing service providers who they believe can meet and understand their specific needs.

Dr Luke Gahan will present his findings from the Australian Separated Same-Sex Parent Study at full-day workshops in Perth and Busselton. Some of the topics covered include same-sex parents' experiences of separation services, post-separation shared care, and the legal recognition of non-biological parents after separation. Service providers will gain a better understanding of same-sex parented families and learn how to work effectively with same-sex parents experiencing separation.

<p><b>PERTH WORKSHOP</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> Wednesday, 20 February 2019 9:00AM – 4:30PM</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Saxons Training Facilities, Level 1, 240 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000</p> <p><b>Tickets:</b> Early bird tickets from \$45 Book now at <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/ZVPN">www.trybooking.com/ZVPN</a></p>	<p><b>BUSSELTON WORKSHOP</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> Friday, 22 February 2019 9:00AM – 4:30PM</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Abbey Beach Resort, 595 Bussell Hwy, Busselton WA 6280</p> <p><b>Tickets:</b> Early bird tickets from \$45 Book now at <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/ZVPT">www.trybooking.com/ZVPT</a></p>
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Legal CPD points available. Quote "WAFLPN" for discounted rates at Abbey Beach Resort for Busselton Workshop attendees (effective from 17 December 2018). More information available at [waflpn.org.au](http://waflpn.org.au).

Should you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Sofia at [Sofia.Kouznetsova@relationswva.org.au](mailto:Sofia.Kouznetsova@relationswva.org.au) or (08) 6164 0382.

### ABOUT DR LUKE GAHAN

Dr Luke Gahan is a sociological researcher at the National Ageing Research Institute and completed his PhD research at Victoria's Family Institute: The Bouverie Centre, and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society – both located at La Trobe University. He was formerly the Secretary of The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) and has previously convened the TASA Sociology of Families, Relationships and Gender Thematic Group. Dr Luke Gahan's Australian study on separated same-sex parented families was published in the Journal of Family Strengths under the title [Separated Same-Sex Parents' Experiences and Views of Services and Service Providers](#) in December 2017.

## Save the date! 2019 WAFLPN Annual Conference

Save the date for the 2019 WAFLPN Annual Conference. Titled "No One is Perfect: Exploring the connection between parenting capacity and children's wellbeing", the conference will feature keynote speakers Rose Cuff, Statewide FaPMI (Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness) Coordinator at the Bouverie Centre; and Dr Margaret Spencer, University of Sydney lecturer with a research interest in Disability and Parenting. There keynote speakers will also present at a post-conference workshop on 31 May 2019. Stay tuned for more information in the months leading up to the conference.

Conference: 30 May 2019  
Workshop: 31 May 2019  
University Club of Western Australia,  
Crawley  
Registrations open early 2019

## Strangulation Prevention Training

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services and the Red Rose Foundation are organising a 2 day conference with international speakers on the topic of non-fatal strangulation, featuring acclaimed specialist trainers from the San Diego Institute on Strangulation Prevention, Dr William Smock, MD and Gael Strack, Esq.

1 & 2 April 2019  
9.00am-5.00pm  
University Club of Western Australia  
Tickets: \$550.00 + GST

[View event flyer.](#)

For more information, contact  
[info@redrosefoundation.com.au](mailto:info@redrosefoundation.com.au)

## 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.

<https://waflpn.org.au/en/events/walk-in-their-shoes>

## MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

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

# WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## NO ONE IS PERFECT:

*Exploring the connection between parenting capacity and children's wellbeing*

SAVE THE DATE!

# THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS - Dr. Margaret Spencer and Rose Cuff

## RESEARCH &amp; 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@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au)

### Intimate partner violence in Australian refugee communities

This paper looks at what is currently known about intimate partner violence in Australian refugee communities, and what service providers can do to ensure appropriate support is available to this client group. The first half of the paper provides a scoping review of current research. The second half of the paper looks at real-life case studies of service practice through consultations with organisations of importance to refugee communities in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria.

#### [Read full article.](#)

El-Murr, Alissar. (2018). Intimate partner violence in Australian refugee communities: Scoping review of issues and service responses. Australian Institute of Family Studies, CFCA Paper No.50 – December 2018.

### Understanding resilience: Similarities and differences in the perceptions of children, parents and practitioners

The purpose of this paper is to highlight how commonalities and differences between Australian children, parents and practitioners in terms of how they understand child resilience could inform the design and delivery of initiatives that aim to promote child resilience. A qualitative analysis of data from focus groups with children (n = 44), parents (n = 42) and practitioners (n = 107) undertaken in six Australian states and territories found key differences between the three groups in terms of: what they think resilience looks like in a child; and the factors that influence child resilience. The analysis also found a common agreement about the importance of supportive relationships to children's resilience. The findings suggest that initiatives that aim to promote child resilience may be more engaging and useful to children and parents if they: educate parents about the factors that influence child resilience; communicate the aims of resilience interventions to parents and children; focus on building supportive relationships for children; and explore community attitudes towards risk-taking.

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

McDonald, M., McCormack, D., Avdagic, E., Hayes, L., Phan, T. & Dakin, P. (2019). Understanding resilience: Similarities and differences in the perceptions of children, parents and practitioners. Children and Youth Services Review, DOI: [10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.01.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.01.016).

### Cumulative harm in the child protection system: The Australian context

Cumulative harm is a major child protection concern, with significant consequences for child well-being and development often into adult life. This systematic literature review examines how the construct of cumulative harm is understood and operationalized within current Australian child protection legislation, policy, and practice and situates this within an international context. Scholarly articles and grey literature were qualitatively analysed to explore two main research questions: How is cumulative harm to children identified, assessed, and ultimately incorporated into child protection and legal structures? And what are the most effective responses to cumulative harm identified for child protection practice?

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

Sheehan, R. (2019). Cumulative harm in the child protection system: The Australian context. Child and Family Social Work, DOI: [10.1111/cfs.12621](https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12621).

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

### State Government commences consultation to reduce family and domestic violence

The Department of Communities has commenced State-wide consultation to inform development of a strategy to reduce family and domestic violence in the Western Australian community over the next 10 years.

There is a range of ways people can get involved and have their say including:

- an on-line survey;
- written responses to a consultation paper;
- a short 'Message to the Hon Simone McGurk, MLA Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence'; or
- face to face forums and workshops (dates and locations to be announced in early 2019).
- Tailored face to face engagement, and other on-line formats, will also be used to support access and engagement for people with disability, or from diverse cultural backgrounds or geographic locations.

For further information and to have your say, go to [www.communities.wa.gov.au/fdv](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/fdv)

If you have any questions please direct them to [FDVStrategy@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:FDVStrategy@communities.wa.gov.au)

### Family Court of WA Subpoena Changes

The Family Court of WA implemented changes to how it deals with subpoenas to produce documents, effective from 1 January 2019. When a subpoena is issued by the Court, instead of allocating a court hearing date, a 'production date' will be given.

The party who sought the issue of the subpoena (the 'issuing' party) must serve a copy of the subpoena on all relevant parties no later than 10 days before the production date.

The issuing party is then required to file and serve a 'notice of request to inspect' on or after the production date, confirming that all relevant parties have been served.

Provided the Court has not received an objection to the production, inspection or copying of the documents to be produced, the parties will then be able to inspect and copy documents (other than police or criminal records, medical records and records from the Department of Communities).

A person whose medical records have been subpoenaed may choose to inspect their records before the production date to decide if they wish to object to inspection by the other parties.

If the Court receives any objections to production, inspection or copying of any documents, there will need to be a Court hearing. All relevant parties will be required to attend the hearing.

Please see [Practice Direction 2 of 2018](#) and the [Subpoenas page](#) for more information about the process.

### Australian Law Reform Commission Review of the Family Law System

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.

Review of the Family Law System: Discussion Paper (DP 86) was released on 2 October 2018, putting forward 124 proposed changes to the family law system. Key proposals include supporting increased participation by children in the family law system; and the establishment of the Family Law Commission to oversee the operation of the family law system and provide accreditation to family law practitioners.

[View Discussion Paper.](#)

The report will be delivered to the Attorney-General on 31 March 2019.

## Service wait times

If you are often referring to clients to family law services in your role, you may find the WAFLPN compilation of service wait times useful.

Each month, WAFLPN collates the wait times for government-funded family law services in the Perth metropolitan area and some parts of regional WA.

In the document you can find up-to-date waiting periods for services like children's contact centres, family dispute resolution, parenting programs and men's behaviour change programs.

To view the current service wait times on the WAFLPN website visit <https://wafpn.org.au/Resources/Service-Wait-Times>

## FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

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](mailto:sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipsqa.org.au)

## UNSUBSCRIBE?

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in the  
Family Law System*

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