



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

**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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

JANUARY 2021

## Greetings from the Chair

by Karen Barker

Hello from WAFLPN!



Hope the new year has been treating everyone well. I am pleased to open our first eBulletin of the year with an exciting announcement: the

WAFLPN Annual Conference will be taking place this year on 25 May, followed by a workshop on 26 May!

The conference will be held at the beautiful Burswood on Swan, with options for attendees to attend either face-to-face or virtually, and contingency plans in place to move to a fully online event if required. Please save the date and stay tuned for more updates to come soon.

This year's conference theme is 'Shaping the Future of Family Law in 2021: Ideas, Innovation and Inspiration'. After a tumultuous 2020 which resulted in the unfortunate cancellation of our premier annual event, this year's conference takes a more optimistic look towards the future. Our aim is to highlight the innovative projects currently occurring within the sector as well as chart the way towards further improvements to the family law system. If you have any suggestions for inspiring local speakers, know of any exciting new initiatives occurring in the family law sector or have any burning topics for discussion, [please email us with your ideas!](mailto:evolve@evolvevents.com.au)

Of course, WAFLPN also has a number of events planned in the lead-up to our annual conference. On the next pages, you will find more information about the first National FLPN Webinar of the year, featuring award-winning journalist and author of *See What You Made Me Do* Jess Hill. We are also proud to continue our support of the Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum. The upcoming forum on 9 February will feature a presentation on the sensitive topic of familicide after separation presented by Dr Carolyn Johnson.

Finally, we are pleased to be resuming our Walk in Their Shoes tours of the Family Court which had to be suspended last year due to COVID-19, albeit with a smaller cohort for health and safety reasons. A strict limit of 15 attendees per tour will apply as directed by the Family Court. Due to the restriction in numbers, we are only able to offer 1 ticket per organisation based on a first come first served basis. Please note that the upcoming tour scheduled for 17 February has already been fully booked out. We apologise for our inability to accommodate everyone interested in attending the tours and ask for your patience and understanding.

That's all I have for now, but you will definitely be hearing more from WAFLPN soon. Enjoy this eBulletin, and here's to a great year ahead!



## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday 25 May 2021 – CONFERENCE  
Wednesday 26 May 2021 – WORKSHOP

Welcoming all professionals working in or alongside the family law system.

Venue: Burswood on Swan

**Shaping the Future of Family Law in 2021**

IDEAS. INNOVATION. INSPIRATION.



WWW.WAFLPN.ORG.AU/2021-CONFERENCE  
PH: (08) 6117 5520 | EMAIL: EVOLVE@EVOLVEVENTS.COM.AU

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

**Save the Date: WAFLPN Annual Conference and Workshop Day**

The WA Family Law Pathways Network invites you to join us for our Annual Conference and Workshop Day to be held on 25 & 26 May 2021 respectively, at the beautiful Burswood on Swan. Options for online attendance will also be available. With the theme *'Shaping the Future of Family Law in 2021: 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: Tuesday, 25 May 2021  
Workshop: Wednesday, 26 May 2021  
9am-4.30pm (exact time TBC)  
Burswood on Swan, 1 Camfield Dr, Burswood WA

[wafvpn.org.au/2021-conference](http://wafvpn.org.au/2021-conference)

More information to be announced soon.

**MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS**

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

<https://wafvpn.org.au/resources/other-relevant-training-and-events>

**National FLPN Webinar with Jess Hill: Understanding Coercive Control**

The Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join a free webinar on 'Understanding Coercive Control' presented by award winning investigative journalist and author Jess Hill. This webinar will provide an overview of the findings and stories from her prizewinning book, *See What You Made Me Do*.

Wednesday, 3 February 2021  
10.00am-11.30am AWST  
Online webinar  
Free, registrations essential  
[Register here](#)

For more information, see the flyer on the next page or visit the [WAFLPN website](#).

**Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum**

WA Family Law Pathways Network is proud to support the Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum organised by the Geraldton Family Relationships Centre. Featuring a presentation by Dr Carolyn Johnson on 'Familiicide-Suicide: From Myth to Hypothesis and Toward Understanding'. Dr Johnson is a social work clinician, researcher and educator with a background in clinical work in WA men's prisons, Family Court and child protection. Dr Johnson's research examines the sensitive topic of familicide following separation, and the links with childhood trauma.

Tuesday, 9 February 2021  
5.30pm-7.30pm  
*light refreshments served from 5.30pm, guest presentation starts at 6pm*  
Mary Ryan Centre (next to Centacare)  
1 Maitland Street, Geraldton WA  
Free, RSVPs essential  
RSVP: [fradmin@centacaregeraldton.org.au](mailto:fradmin@centacaregeraldton.org.au) or 08 9921 2611

More details on the [WAFLPN website](#).

**'Walk in Her Shoes' at the Rockingham Magistrates Court**  
[External/non-WAFLPN event]

A 'Walk in Her Shoes' session for service providers will be running at the Rockingham Magistrates Court. Places strictly limited.

Wednesday, 17 February 2021, 3pm  
Rockingham Courthouse  
Whitfield Street, Rockingham WA

For more information and to register, please email Joanne O'Donnell at [Joanne.ODonnell@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:Joanne.ODonnell@justice.wa.gov.au)

**DFV Sector Training: Agency Use of Technology to Support Survivors**

[External/non-WAFLPN event]

As part of Commonwealth COVID-19 funding, the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing (previously WCDFVS) has organised for WESNET to provide free training to DFV workers on digital technology safety.

Thursday, 25 February 2021  
Session 1: 9am-10am  
Session 2: 11am-12pm  
Online via Zoom

[More details and register here.](#)

**ANROWS National Research Conference: Evidence in Action**  
[External/non-WAFLPN event]

Spread over 5 days, the ANROWS National Research Conference on Violence against Women and their Children, "Evidence in Action", will offer insights from women with lived expertise, researchers, policymakers, practice designers and practitioners in a range of engaging online formats.

1-5 March 2021  
Online symposium  
Registrations from \$100\*

Ticketing and program details on the [ANROWS conference website](#).

# Family Law Pathways Network Webinar

## Jess Hill: Understanding Coercive Control



Wednesday, 3 February 2021  
10:00-11:30am WA

The Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join a **free webinar** by award winning investigative journalist Jess Hill

This webinar will provide an overview of the findings and stories contained within Jess Hill's prizewinning book, *See What You Made Me Do*.

Domestic abuse is a national emergency: one in four Australian women has experienced violence from a man she was intimate with. But too often we ask the wrong question: why didn't she leave? We should be asking: why did he do it?

Jess Hill puts perpetrators – and the systems that enable them – in the spotlight. *See What You Made Me Do* is a deep dive into the abuse so many women and children experience – abuse that is often reinforced by the justice system they trust to protect them. Critically, it shows that we can drastically reduce domestic violence – not in generations to come, but today.

There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions during the livestream of the webinar using the 'chat' function.

**Jess Hill** is an investigative journalist who has been writing and researching about domestic abuse since 2014. She was a producer for ABC Radio, a Middle East correspondent for The Global Mail, and an investigative journalist for Background Briefing. Her book *See What You Made Me Do* combines forensic research with riveting story-telling and radically rethinks how to confront the national crisis of fear and abuse in our homes.

[Register Here](#)

Registered participants will be emailed a link for the webinar and will also have access to a recording of the webinar for 14 days following the live stream.



Australian Government



Family Law  
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## 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 WAFLPN members, please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin.

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

### Fathering programs in the context of domestic and family violence

This paper from the Australian Institute of Family Studies examines how men's behaviour change programs, domestic and family violence specific fathering programs, and Aboriginal men's healing programs address fathering issues for men who use violence. It presents findings from a scoping review of Australian and international literature to highlight similarities, differences and gaps in programs and explores how these programs could be more inclusive of fathering in the context of domestic and family violence.

[Read full article.](#)

Chung, D., Humphreys, C., Campbell, A., Diemer, K., Gallant, D. & Spiteri-Staines, A. (2020). Fathering programs in the context of domestic and family violence. CFCA Paper No. 56. Australian Institute of Family Studies.

### COVID-19, Technology and Family Dispute Resolution

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unparalleled disruption to the Australian legal system, particularly in the family law domain. Those commencing or considering commencing the separation process are experiencing heightened levels of financial and emotional disruption. In a bid to support and facilitate family dispute resolution (FDR) during the pandemic period, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) methods have been viewed as potential supportive solutions. The authors of this article argue that two principal ODR innovations have emerged at the forefront of enabling FDR processes to adapt appropriately to the impacts of the pandemic, viz videoconferencing technology and justice apps. This article explores the advantages and disadvantages of employing such technologies to facilitate FDR given traditional modes of face-to-face dispute resolution are unavailable. In addition, there is a focus on how the recent growth in justice apps may support more viable forms of ODR both during the pandemic and into the future.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Sourdin, T., Li, B., Simm, S. & Connolly, A. (2020). COVID-19, Technology and Family Dispute Resolution. *Australian Dispute Resolution Journal*, 30(4), 270-283.

### Child protection in the time of COVID-19

Child protection services aim to protect children from abuse and neglect in family settings. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected daily life, potentially limiting opportunities for child abuse to be detected. This report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare presents child protection data from March to September 2020 (covering the 'first wave' of COVID-19 restrictions for Australia, and part of the 'second wave' of restrictions for Victoria) with comparisons to the same period in 2019. Selected information is also presented on a number of risk factors for child abuse and neglect, including income and housing stress, parental mental health and substance use, and domestic violence. This report complements the regular annual reporting on child protection, for example, *Child protection Australia 2019-20* (AIHW forthcoming 2021).

[Read research summary or download full report.](#)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021). *Child Protection in the time of COVID-19*. Cat. no. CWS 76. Canberra: AIHW.

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

### The 2021 FDV Conference is coming! Abstract submissions now open

Stopping Family Violence and the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing are pleased to announce the 2021 FDV Conference: Bringing Children and Young People into View, strengthening policy and practice responses for children and young people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

Taking place on the 13 – 15 September 2021 at Crown Perth, the Conference will bring together family and community services and government sectors to discuss and explore policy and practice responses to better support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

It is increasingly understood that children and young people can be affected by family, domestic and sexual violence in a range of ways which may be independent of their affected parent, and their needs can be different to those of adults. At times children and young people's needs have been overlooked or conceived as secondary to those of adults when strategies and responses have been put in place to address family, domestic and sexual violence. The purpose of this Conference is to strengthen our understanding of children and young people's experiences and needs, and to consider the

responses we can put in place to support their safety, health and wellbeing, and improve their opportunities.

Stopping Family Violence and the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing invite you to share your knowledge and expertise. To submit your interest in presenting at the Conference, please fill in the online abstract submission form by Friday 19 February 2021. Here you'll also find more information regarding submission guidelines including content themes and presentation types. Should you have any questions regarding the submittal process, please reach out directly to [admin@fdvconference.com.au](mailto:admin@fdvconference.com.au).

Now is the time to act! The impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence on children and adolescents are serious and long-lasting. Let's come together to create a brighter future for all.



BRINGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INTO VIEW

**DISCLAIMER**

Content included in this eBulletin originates from a range of sources including contributors from the wider community. The opinions and viewpoints contained do not necessarily reflect those of WAFLPN or its affiliates.



## Working Together in the Family Law System

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



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