



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

JULY 2019

Greetings from the Chair

by Rod West



Hello from WAFLPN! This month, we celebrated NAIDOC Week, which took place between 7 and 14 July. This year's theme was "Voice.

Treaty. Truth. Let's work together for a shared future", acknowledging the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have an enhanced role in decision-making in Australia.

Thank you to all who attended our twilight seminar in Kalgoorlie on 26 June and the recent workshops on Supporting Trans and Gender Diverse Clients with Kai Schweizer in Perth and Bunbury on 23 and 25 July. Future training and networking events can be found listed on the [next page](#) as well as on [our website](#).

As many of you may have noticed, the WAFLPN website (wafvpn.org.au) has now been updated. Unfortunately, there have been some issues with the members area, which have now been resolved. We apologise for any delays our members may have experienced in being able to access the materials from the annual conference. We will also be moving to a different login system for our members area soon, which will enable members to set their own personalised passwords, so please look out for an email prompting you to do so.

Any feedback on our website would be highly appreciated and can be submitted either through the [feedback form](#) on our website or emailed directly to our Network Development Officer at sofia.kouznetsova@relationships.wa.org.au.

That's all I have for now, stay tuned for all the exciting WAFLPN events and projects that we have planned for the 2019-20 financial year. Enjoy this month's edition of the eBulletin!



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Working Together
in the
Family Law System

wafvpn.org.au



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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@relationshipsWA.org.au

Bunbury Family Court Circuit Twilight Networking Event

Join WA Family Law Pathways Network for a twilight networking session for family law professionals located in Bunbury and travelling from Perth on the Magistrates circuit of the Family Court of Western Australia.

Featuring a presentation about the role of Family Consultants at the Family Court of Western Australia by Linda Biffen.

13 August 2019
5.00pm-7.00pm
Quality Hotel Lighthouse
Carey Street, Bunbury WA 6230
Free of charge, registrations essential
www.trybooking.com/BEGND

Legal CPD points available.

More information available at wafpln.org.au

Half Day Workshop with Dr Philip Stahl

Presented in conjunction with Legal Aid WA and the Family Law Practitioner's Association (FLPA), WA Family Law Pathways Network is pleased to invite you to a half-day workshop with Dr Philip Stahl, forensic psychologist, who will be sharing some of his expertise in the areas of:

- Personality Traits of Parents
- High Conflict and Alienation
- Developmentally-Based Parenting Plans

Please note that WAFLPN only has a limited number of tickets available for our members at the subsidised \$50 price point. If you are a FLPA member, please register your attendance at FLPA website: www.flpawa.com.au

27 August 2019
9.00am-12.00pm
Seminar Room 3
Saxons Training Facilities Level 1
140 St George's Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Tickets: \$50, spaces limited
www.trybooking.com/BEFAA

MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

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

Intersectionalities in Domestic Violence Conference

Stopping Family Violence and The Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence are proud to be bringing together a broad cross section of the community services sector to discuss and consider the strengths and challenges of delivering FDV informed practice across the broad spectrum of services who intersect with women, children and men impacted by FDV.

As a first in Australia this conference proposes to bring together practitioners, researchers and policy makers from a wide range of disciplines to discuss how FDV intersects with these other disciplines and the delivery of FDV informed practice within this context.

Led by key note speakers Allan Wade and Rosie Batty this conference promises to bring together some of the world's thought leaders on FDV informed practice and intersecting disciplines including alcohol and drug services, mental health and disability services to name a few.

Conference: 15-16 October 2019
Pre-Conference Workshops:
14 October 2019
Crown Perth

[More information and register here](#)

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

Why Listening to Children and Young People is Important in Family Justice

During the last 30 years, there has been a growing body of evidence indicating that children and young people often feel marginalized when their parents are making critical decisions that will shape their young lives, and they are calling for family justice professionals to hear their voices. This article explores the research evidence, examines the relevant theories about child development, and demonstrates how a focus on age-related competency fails to take account of children's subjective meanings about their lives. The authors consider a model of participation first designed to understand adult participation in government and show how this can be usefully applied to understanding children's participation in family justice.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Walker, J. & Misca, G. (2019). Why Listening to Children and Young People is Important in Family Justice. *Family Court Review*, 57 (3). DOI: 10.1111/fcre.12417

Grandparent Carers, Child Protection Practice, and the Best Interests of Children: A Case Study

Increasingly, grandparents are involved in the care of grandchildren, particularly after child safety concerns. Some grandparents, because of changed circumstances, relationships, or decisions made, can experience reduced or lost contact with grandchildren. A recent qualitative, collaborative study explored how relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren could be optimised after child safety concerns. Many grandparents in that study spoke of the frustration of being overlooked in decision-making about their grandchildren, even when they had been providing primary care for the grandchildren. The purpose of this article is to provide a brief background study context, before presenting a case study of one family's ongoing struggles to maintain the children in the grandparents' care. The presented case study has relevance for social work education and training and more widely, for all students and practitioners in the child protection field.

- Critical analysis of authentic research case studies can highlight gaps in the implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Listening to the lived experiences of grandparent carers in interactions with child protection services can contribute to decision-making in the best interests of children through reflective praxis

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Gair, S. & Zuchowski, I. (2019). Grandparent Carers, Child Protection Practice, and the Best Interests of Children: A Case Study, 72 (3), 299-311.

The child in child protection: Invisible and unheard

The paper presents findings from a qualitative study of four child death reviews published in Australia. The study was informed by the theoretical concept of childism. A critical social research methodology facilitated the exposure of childist dynamics in statutory child protection. The transformation of child protection practices and systems has traditionally relied on the imposition of never-ending structural changes, policies, and procedures. This paper proposes that transformation and the erosion of childist dynamics is contingent on humane and ethical statutory child protection agencies.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Bastian, C. (2019). The child in child protection: Invisible and unheard. *Child & Family Social Work*. DOI: 10.1111/cfs.12671

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

Personal Cross-examination Ban in Family Law Proceedings with Family Violence Allegations

From 10 September 2019, personal cross-examination will be banned in family law proceedings in certain circumstances where allegations of family violence have been raised.

If any of the following circumstances apply, the ban will apply automatically:

- either party has been convicted of, or is charged with, an offence involving violence, or a threat of violence, to the other party.
- a family violence order (other than an interim order) applies to both parties.
- an injunction for the personal protection of either party is directed against the other party under sections 68B or 114 of the Family Law Act.

The court may make discretionary judgements to enact bans even if those circumstances do not apply.

[Read info sheet produced by the Attorney-General's Department.](#)

Family Court of Western Australia Mediation Pilot

The Family Court of Western Australia is conducting a pilot program to provide additional mediation services to litigants involved in Family Court proceedings, specifically those who are self-represented litigants.

The program will run from 15 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Parties participating in the program will attend a one day confidential conference ("Pre-Trial Conference") with a Registrar.

The List Judge will determine which matters should be offered a Pre-Trial Conference under the program. Initially, priority will be given to both parenting and/or financial matters that are already in the Defended List and are awaiting the allocation of a Callover.

Please see the [Pre-Trial Conference information sheet](#) for further information.

Family Court of Western Australia Fee Increases from 1 July 2019

Family Court filing fee and hearing fee increases came into effect on 1 July 2019.

Please see the [Fees page](#) of the Family Court website for details.

A new [Fees Brochure](#) is also available.

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://waflpn.org.au/resources/service-wait-times>

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Follow [@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

UNSUBSCRIBE?

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