



Family Law PATHWAYS NETWORK

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

JULY 2018

Greetings from the Chairs

by Neil Anderson & Rod West

Hello from WAFLPN, where we are pleased to introduce not one but two new Chairs! The Steering Committee has decided to appoint Neil Anderson and Rod West as Co-Chairs for the forthcoming year. You can read about them below.

About Neil

Neil is a lawyer admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2000 and in Queensland in 2003. He became an Independent Children's Lawyer in 2008.



From 2000 to 2010 Neil worked in private law firms in Perth and Brisbane, commencing in general practice. By 2005-6 he had moved predominantly into family law and child protection work.

Neil joined the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) in 2010 as a senior family lawyer, and was appointed manager of ALSWA's Family Law Unit in 2014.

Neil now practices exclusively in family law and child protection, and is active on a number of committees and working groups relevant to family law, child protection and indigenous justice issues.

About Rod

Rod is a qualified Social Worker who joined Centre-care in 2006 after previously working with the Department of Communities, Department of Health and Department of Corrective Services. He has been an Executive Manager with Centrecare since 2010 and during this time he has been responsible for a diverse range of social services including family and domestic violence programs for men, women and children, youth outreach programs, housing and accommodation support, problem gambling counselling, and family dispute resolution. Rod is a Board member of the Zonta House Refuge Association, WA Representative for



the National Association for Gambling Studies and Ambassador for White Ribbon Australia's campaign to stop violence against women.

Neil and Rod are looking forward to continuing to develop WAFLPN, with particular focus on increasing our events in regional WA.

Neil and Rod would like to thank Kate Jeffries, the outgoing Chair. Kate was Chair of WAFLPN from July 2016 until June 2018. During her time as Chair, Kate oversaw a large increase in the number of regional events delivered by WAFLPN, an improvement in partnership building with fellow organisations and the launch of the WAFLPN website. Thank you Kate for your contribution to WAFLPN and the broader family law sector in WA.

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@relationshi
pswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshi
pswa.org.au)



*Working Together
in the
Family Law System*

wafpn.org.au



WESTERN
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Albany Family Court WA Circuit Twilight Seminar

You are invited to join us in Albany for drinks and nibbles for family law professionals located in the Goldfields region and travelling from Perth on the Magistrates circuit of the Family Court of Western Australia.

Featuring Family Consultant Kevin Hanavan delivering presentations on parental alienation and fathering & attachment.

Kevin is a Registered Psychologist with a breadth of experience in working with children, adolescents and adults. Over the last 20 years, Kevin has worked with young people at risk of social and psychological harm and their families.

Kevin has also specialised in the area of family and domestic violence working with both women and men. Kevin has a particular interest in working with men to maintain their psychological wellbeing but also in their role as husbands and partners or fathers. He also has experience in the area of men's groups as well as in teaching both children and adults.

25 July 2018
5.30-7.30pm
The Albany Club
23 Aberdeen St, Albany

For more information [visit our website](#) or register now through [trybooking.com](#)

DFV Discussion with Dr Carol Kaplanian and Dr Lorraine Sheridan

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) invites you to join the discussion with two outstanding speakers, each an expert in their field.

Dr Carol Kaplanian – Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence

Dr Lorraine Sheridan – Domestic & Family Violence and Stalking

27 September 2018
8.45am-12.30pm
Conference Room 7
City West Lotteries House
2 Delhi St, West Perth
Registration fee \$25

For more information or to register please contact kedykristal@womenscouncil.com.au by 13 September 2018

WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFPN'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.

FIND DATES AND REGISTER TO ATTEND <https://wafpn.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://wafpn.org.au/Resources/Other-Relevant-Training-and-Events>

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 WAFPN members please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshi
pswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshi
pswa.org.au)

The relationships between child well-being, caregiving stress, and social engagement among informal and formal kinship care families

Children in kinship care families are increasing in number. These children can be vulnerable due to adverse experiences before the placement and exposure to risk factors associated with social isolation in kinship care families. However, the well-being of children in kinship care families and associated factors are understudied. This study investigates child health and psychological well-being among kinship families and associated factors: caregiving stress and social engagement of kinship caregivers. Data from 1623 kinship care families in the 1999 and 2002 National Survey of America's Families were analyzed to examine whether caregiving stress and child well-being are related and whether social engagement moderates this relationship. Kinship family type was also examined as potential moderator. Findings reveal that caregiving stress is negatively related to children's positive behavior, but is not significantly related to child health. Social engagement is found to be a significant moderator; specifically, kinship caregiver weekly engagement in volunteer activities

buffers the negative effect of caregiving stress on children's behaviour for younger children (aged 6–11). Informal kinship families are found to be a more protective caregiving environment for older children (aged 12–17) to adjust the negative effects of kinship caregivers' caregiving stress. The significant findings are expected to contribute to field practices with kinship care families as well as child welfare research on child well-being and social support among kinship care families.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Lin, C. H. (2018). The relationships between child well-being, caregiving stress, and social engagement among informal and formal kinship care families. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities in the context of trauma

Child neglect is a significant concern for Aboriginal families and communities both in Australia and internationally. Service responses to child neglect are largely informed by child neglect theories, which explain the nature and causes of child neglect. However, child neglect is a problem that is worsening for Aboriginal children, suggesting that these theories are not appropriate. This paper argues that to meet the needs of Aboriginal families and communities where there is child neglect, policy and practice needs to acknowledge and address the impact of trauma in shaping the

lived experiences of Aboriginal people.

International literature discusses the impact and consequence of historical trauma within Indigenous families and communities, and separately, child maltreatment theorists have discussed the ecological nature of child neglect. However, the literature and evidence-base linking the two, child neglect and historical trauma in Indigenous contexts, are very scant. This paper aims to fill this gap and emphasize the importance of addressing child neglect within Aboriginal families and communities in the context of historical trauma. Although this paper focuses on the post-colonial experiences of Aboriginal people in Australia, the arguments can extend to many Indigenous cultures universally where child welfare interventions have resulted in significant and ongoing trauma.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Newton BJ. Understanding child neglect in Aboriginal families and communities in the context of trauma. *Child & Family Social Work*. 2018; 1–9.

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.org.au

Supporting safer, stronger families in regional areas

The State Government will more than treble the number of community service organisations delivering earlier intervention and enhanced family support services to improve outcomes for vulnerable families across Western Australia.

The new Family Care Support Service aims to keep children with family carers and reduce the number of children entering foster care by building on families' abilities to provide a stable environment for children who cannot remain with their parents.

The Family Care Support Service is part of the State Government's wider Out of Home Care Strategy (OOHC), which focuses on diverting families from the child protection and out-of-home care systems.

The State Government, through the Department of Communities, developed the Family Care Support Service in response to challenges facing the current system including an increasing rate of Aboriginal children entering care.

Contracts have been awarded to 12 Aboriginal community controlled

organisations to enable the delivery of more culturally sensitive services in regional areas, and ensure that children receive the most culturally appropriate care.

The Family Care Support Service will be provided in all metropolitan districts along with the East Kimberley, West Kimberley, Pilbara and Wheatbelt regional districts.

Australian Law Reform Commission Review of the Family Law System eNews

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.

You can keep up to date with the latest developments of the Review via the eNews on the Australian Law Reform Commission's website. WAFLPN will link to the [latest eNews](#) in our eBulletin each month and on our website <https://waflpn.org.au>

Review of the Family Law System – Issues Paper 48 was released on 14 March 2018.

[View Issues Paper.](#)

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 commonly used 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>

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au

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