



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

JUNE 2017

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN! I hope you are keeping warm in this cooler weather and have something exciting planned for the upcoming school holidays! In this month's eBulletin we are excited to announce another event, a twilight seminar featuring colleagues from Queensland's Southport Family Violence Court. You can find all the details about this and other great events on page three of this eBulletin.

It's been a month now since our annual conference, but you can find a recap of it on page two which will make it feel like it was just yesterday! If you would like to access slides or video from the conference, these are now available on our website <http://waflpn.org.au>. Just head to the members section and register to access them and other great materials from our recent events.

As it is that time of year, we are about to get stuck into our strategic planning for 2017-18. If you have any ideas to improve networking, events, information or resources in the WA family law sector, please contact our Network Development Officer Jane



Azzopardi
jane.azzopardi@relationshipwa.org.au

We'd love to hear any ideas or suggestions you might have to improve collaboration in the sector.

I hope you enjoy this eBulletin and I look forward to seeing you at the next event.



Working Together
in the
Family Law System

waflpn.org.au



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

2017 Annual Conference Recap

Professionals from across the WA family law sector gathered at the University Club of WA on May 25 for 'Exploring solutions to complex problems: Responding to alcohol and other drugs in the family law system', WA Family Law Pathways Network's annual conference. A crowd of more than 250 delegates filled the auditorium as WAFLPN Chair and MC for the day, Kate Jeffries, kicked off proceedings. Following a beautiful Welcome to Country from Denice Kickett and Nigel Wilkes, Assistant Police Commissioner Michelle Fyfe took the stage to present the official opening. Ms Fyfe's opening presentation was insightful and informative, and put the theme of the conference in context with a look at how WA Police act as the frontline response to alcohol and other drugs

Following Ms Fyfe's presentation it was time for our keynote address from the National Drug Research Institute's Dr Nicole Lee. Dr Lee's presentation helped to contextualise some of the data we hear about drug use in the media, and explained the way that

methamphetamine affects the neurological functions of the user.

Soon it was time for morning tea, and the delegates spilled out to enjoy the sunshine, cakes and a cup of coffee in the University Club courtyard.

When the delegates returned to the auditorium it was to hear a co-presentation from Magistrate Calverley of the Family Court of WA and Magistrate Horrigan of the Children's Court of WA on how they manage drugs and alcohol as a cross-jurisdictional issue. An insightful presentation leading to a fiery Q&A, this session got the crowd's blood moving. Next to take the stage was Gary Kirby, Director of Prevention Services at the Mental Health Commission, who took the audience through issues around comorbidity on a local level.

The fabulous weather prevailed and delegates were able to enjoy a delicious lunch on the lawn, networking with colleagues and sharing insights from the conference so far.

The lunch hour flew by, and soon it was time for delegates to head to their elected breakout sessions. In the theatre, MC Kate Jeffries hosted a panel of local drug and alcohol service providers including Christine Ockenfels, Roslyn Maloney, Tom Hopkins and Daniel Morrison. Delegates also packed in to see Professor Daniel Fatovich present on recreational drugs in the emergency



department and Heather Jacobson's presentation on family inclusive practice in the seminar rooms.

Following a cup of tea and a snack, the delegates returned to the auditorium for the final session of the day. Facilitated by Jill Rundle, an expert panel including Daniel Morrison, Michele Cohen, Richard Bannerman, Nicole Lee and Linda Jackson discussed a case scenario, which followed the story of a young family with drug and alcohol issues as it navigated the family law system.

With the proceedings at a close, a few members of the network and steering committee ended the day by sharing a drink on the terrace.



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

Twilight Seminar: Southport Family Violence Court

WAFPN is excited to announce a twilight seminar later this month, to be held at the Family Court of WA. Join us as we present colleagues from Southport Family Violence Court for their seminar 'Improving the justice system's response to DFV- the Southport specialist DFV Court experience. What's next?'

Featuring speakers:

- Magistrate Colin Strofield (specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) Magistrate)
- Ms Natalie Parker Director of DFV Court Reform, Magistrates Courts Service in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG), Queensland)
- Magistrate Brian Gluestein (Fremantle and Perth Family Violence Lists)
- Yasmin Gunn (Project Manager, Domestic and Family Violence Court Reform, Magistrates Courts Service)
- Paula Bould (Deputy Court Registrar, Southport FV Court, lead on Southport FV Court Registry).

28 June 2017
4.30pm-6pm

Family Court of Western Australia
Level 3 Forum Room

For more details or to register visit <https://www.waflpn.org.au/Events/Twilight-Seminar-Southport>

AFCC Australia 2017 Conference: 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!'

The Australian Chapter of the AFCC has announced the program for its fourth annual conference. The conference will take place on 17, 18 and 19 August 2017 in Melbourne at Crown Conference Centre. The theme is 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!' and the organisers have designed a rich and varied program with local, national and international presenters.

17th-19th August 2017
Crown Conference Centre
8 Whiteman St
Southbank, Melbourne
Registration from \$760

Early bird rates end 17 June 2017. To view the program or to register visit <http://afccnet.org.au/>

Preparation for mediation, tips in mediation and therapeutic mediation

Facilitated by Chris Phillips (www.mediationsouthwest.com.au) and Diana Phillips (www.bunburypsychotherapy.com.au)

19 July 2017
5pm

Bunbury Tower, Level 10
Registration from \$20

For more information or to register contact MHuber@als.org.au

Child Inclusive Practice Forum

The 2017 Child Inclusive Practice Forum, We're all in this together, recognises the journey that parents and children and practitioners from across the field take through the process of resolving separation disputes. Reflecting this, international and local keynote and invited speakers will cover wide ranging topics to enrich the practice of Child and Family Therapists, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners, Family Law and Childhood Specialists.

18-20 October 2017
Adelaide Hills Convention Centre
Registration from \$240

For more details or to register visit <https://frsa.org.au/child-inclusive-practice-forum-2017/>

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.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au

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@relationshiptswa.org.au

How mothers perceive their own domestic violence victimization and how it impacts their children

Children's exposure to domestic violence has been associated with various negative outcomes. This study explores the effects of children's exposure to domestic violence through the lenses of the primary victims of abuse. Specifically, the consequences associated with their children's exposure to domestic violence, the coping mechanisms employed, and identified preventative measures to address this social problem. Semistructured interviews were conducted to obtain the mother's perspective. Participants for this study were randomly obtained from the database of the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority. Findings revealed that children are used as a bargaining tool by both mothers (to prevent DV) and perpetrators (to exert control). The coping mechanisms that mothers believed their children used included listening to music, adopting care taking roles, and positioning themselves away from the violence.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Louis, M.S., & Johnson, E. J. (2017). How mothers perceive their own domestic violence victimization and how it impacts their children. *Journal of Child*

Custody, 14(1), 34-48.

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects Of International Child Abduction 1980: The New Zealand courts' approach to the "grave risk" exception for victims of domestic violence

This article explores the current approach by New Zealand courts to the "grave risk" exemption in cases of domestic violence. New Zealand courts, similarly to other jurisdictions, have adopted a narrow approach, requiring the abductor to show that the habitual residence cannot adequately protect the child, in order to establish the defence. Due to the principle of comity, which emphasises respect for another nation's legislative and judicial jurisdiction, it is rare that courts will make such a finding as this may be seen to undermine the principle. Thus, the current approach effectively blocks the latter discretionary inquiry which balances Convention purposes and a child's welfare and best interests in deciding whether a return order should be made.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Maxwell, A. (2017). The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980: The New Zealand Courts' approach to the "grave risk" exception for victims of domestic violence. *Vuwlr*, 48, 81-185.

The lived experience of non-offending mothers in cases of intrafamilial child sexual abuse: Towards a preliminary model of loss, trauma and recovery

The non-offending mother in cases of intrafamilial child sexual abuse has received limited empirical attention in comparative to the considerable body of literature examining victims and perpetrators of child sexual abuse. There is growing evidence that demonstrates that nonoffending mothers' experience significant loss and trauma following the discovery of their children's sexual victimisation by a family member, particularly where the perpetrators are their partners. An understanding of the non-offending mother's experience is crucial to guiding statutory agencies and therapeutic interventions when working with these families. However, there is currently not a model or framework that conceptualises mothers' post-discovery experience, and the factors that might impede or facilitate their recovery. The aim with the present study was to address the gap in the existing literature, by conducting an exploratory investigation of the lived experience of non-offending mothers in order to generate a preliminary model outlining their recovery journey in the aftermath of discovery, drawing from existing theories of loss and trauma

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Thompson, A. J. (2017). The lived experience of non-offending mothers in cases of intrafamilial child sexual abuse: Towards a preliminary model of loss, trauma and recovery.

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.org.au

Call for abstracts extended: Child Inclusive Practice Forum

The Child Inclusive Practice Forum Committee invites abstracts from all professionals who promote consultation with children and centrally incorporate the experience of the child in their practice. A limited number of concurrent presentation times will be offered, for a 30 or 60-minute verbal presentation (including question time). Abstracts should embrace the 2017 theme, We're all in this together. Some suggested subject areas are:

Practice developments

- Hearing and responding to the voice of the infant
- Cross cultural applications
- Innovations in Child Focused Practices
- Collaborative Practice

Management Issues

- Creating a child inclusive organisation
- Clinical supervision: what is needed to support new learning and complex cases
- The timing of child inclusive interventions

Legislative context

- The Hague Convention and what it means in our work

- Child inclusive approaches within Legal Aid and Family Courts

Complex clinical scenarios:

- Reunification, relocation, trauma
- Gender issues in child inclusive work

- Teenagers, young adults and child inclusive mediation – methods and outcomes

- New partners, and other relevant voices

Research

- Updates on new CI research
- New developmental evidence

Submissions close 5PM AEST Friday 30 June, 2017. Applicants will be advised of acceptance late July.

Visit the website: www.frsa.org.au/child-inclusive-practice-forum-2017/

Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

If you want to keep up to date with info and articles we find interesting, follow WAFPN on Twitter: [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

UNSUBSCRIBE?

If you would like to stop receiving the WAFPN monthly eBulletin please send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to

jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au