



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

MARCH 2018

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN! In light of International Women's Day on March 8, WAFLPN would like to especially acknowledge and extend our appreciation to all the women working in the family law sector.

This month, the WAFLPN committee will be busy reviewing our strategic plan. You may have received a survey about the kind of events you would like to see from WAFLPN going forward. Thank you to all who have responded – your feedback is extremely important to us and will inform our strategic direction so that we continue meeting our members' needs.

I am also excited to announce that registrations are now open for the 2018 WAFLPN Conference on 31 May and the exclusive post-conference workshop by Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre UK on 1 June. Check out the events section on page 3 of this eBulletin and visit the [conference website](#) for more information. I look forward to seeing you there.



I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the eBulletin. Read on for recaps of the Broome Legal Network Meeting and the International Women's Day High Tea on the next page, as well as a curated selection of the latest news and research in our sector.

Have a fantastic month and do not forget to check [our website](#) regularly for updates.



**Family Law**  
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*Working Together*  
*in the*  
*Family Law System*

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# March events

Recap on our recent WAFLPN events

## International Women's Day Sparkling High Tea 2018

International Women's Day was celebrated by the Women's Council for Domestic and Family violence (WA) to raise funds for 'Funds for Freedom'. Funds for Freedom (FFF) is an annual event supporting women and children to live a life free from domestic and family violence.

FFF aims to help women make a fresh start after fleeing their home due to violence. They endeavor to give women and children a life that is free from fear and with love and help out with costs for white goods and other payments to ease the burden of starting a safe life.

This year's event was attended by special guests Hon. Simone McGurk MLA and Dr Anne Aly MP. Guests including representation from WAFLPN; Department for Communities; Members of Parliament; Stopping Family Violence; Women's Refuge Sector; Womens Support Services and Community members came together to celebrate empowering women and show off their creative art through a Hat Wearing Competition.

Attendees also had the privilege of hearing Dr Anne Aly speak about her own experiences of domestic and family violence, the impact this had on her and how she remained silent until 2017.

## Broome Legal Network Meeting

On Wednesday, 28 February, the Broome Legal Network Meeting took place at the Kimberley Family Relationship Centre, seeing representation from the WA Family Court, lawyers and other professionals in the sector.

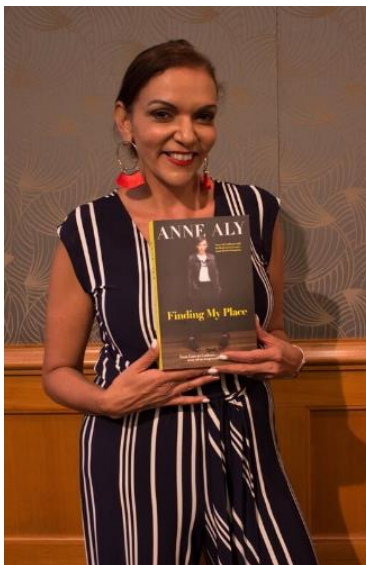
Magistrate Kaeser opened with a presentation entitled *What is happening between Family Court and Children's Court*, providing some background on legislation around the various Courts and the differences between their mandates and powers.

This was followed by an introduction to the FASS team at the Broome Circuit Family Court and an exploration of interest in Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice (ICP) in Kimberley. The need for a Child Contact Service in Broome was also raised during the meeting.

The meeting concluded after two hours of worthwhile conversation in good spirits over some healthy snacks and drinks. Everyone was thanked for their presence and contributions.



International Women's Day Sparkling High Tea attendees taking part in the Hat Wearing Competition



Dr Anne Aly at the International Women's Day Sparkling High Tea

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

### WAFLPN Conference 2018: Supporting positive childhood attachment

Registrations are now open for the 2018 WAFLPN Annual Conference. This year's conference theme is 'Supporting positive childhood attachment', and alongside previously announced speakers, The Hon. Jane Crisford and Keenan Mundine, we are pleased to announce Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre UK who will be presenting a plenary at the conference and a post-conference workshop on 1 June.

31 May 2018  
University Club of Western Australia, Crawley  
Ticket price from \$100 (Early Bird)

Visit the [conference website](#) or [click here to register now](#).

### WAFLPN Post-Conference Workshop with Adah Sachs

WAFLPN is pleased to announce a full-day post-conference workshop with conference plenary speaker, Dr Adah Sachs of the Bowlby Centre UK. The post-conference workshop is titled *Attachment theory in one day: the evolving concept of attachment*.

The workshop will:

- Survey the historical development of attachment theory from its forerunners (starting with Darwin) to the present
- Explain the main concepts and terms of the theory and their relevance to how families function.
- Invite participants to bring case examples (anonymised) to be discussed from an attachment perspective.

1 June 2018  
University Club of Western Australia, Crawley  
Ticket Price \$75

Visit the [conference website](#) or [click here to register now](#).

### MORE TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

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

### 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.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND [jane.azzopardi@relationshipspswa.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationshipspswa.org.au)

### Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence Forum 2018

The upcoming 2018 Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence Forum will help organisations tailor their programs and policies to effectively assist indigenous family violence survivors. The sterling speaker panel for this two-day conference features Elders from the Top End and The Hon. Michael Gunner MLA, Northern Territory Chief Minister and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Learn how to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma with a panel of professionals from indigenous youth & child services and hear from a panel of social workers to gain insight into what it's like to work at the coal face of services for Indigenous family violence.

16-18 May 2018  
Darwin

For more details or to register visit <http://www.ifv.aventedge.com>

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

### National comparison of cross-agency practice in investigating and responding to severe child abuse

The response to severe child abuse (namely abuse requiring police investigation) requires many different workers across agencies and disciplinary backgrounds to work together effectively. This paper reports on the arrangements in place in each state/territory to support a cross-agency response based on characteristics associated with effective cross-agency responses identified in the research literature. This paper was prepared to provide practitioners and policy makers with a national view on cross-agency policies to encourage cross-jurisdictional learning and sharing of approaches. The authors also hope that this paper will lead to a national discussion around effective policies and practices in cross-agency responses. Each state/territory was compared on the characteristics of their response to severe child abuse, arrangements for joint planning, interviewing and investigation, the degree of integration of therapeutic and supportive services, and governance arrangements.

[Read full article.](#)

Herbert, J. L. & Bromsfield, L. (2018). National comparison of cross-agency practice in investigating and responding to severe child abuse. CFCA Paper No. 47.

### Interagency Working in Child Protection and Domestic Violence

Integrated responses to domestic violence bring together key related areas such as child protection. This study examined important learning from an established integrated response in Queensland. Progress was evident in the operation of the model, often harnessed by increased collaboration and trust. Challenges remained regarding how differing mandates created inherent tensions, as well as differences in philosophical orientations to domestic violence and child protection. Gaps in understanding and a reliance on informal relationships were most evident amongst front-line workers. Results helped conceptualise a model for measuring integration within inner and outer circles. Social work has a key role in creating a dynamic model that is able to continually critically evolve to meet safety needs of women and children experiencing domestic violence.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

O'Leary, P., Young, A., Wilde, T. & Tsantefski, M. (2018). Interagency Working in Child Protection and Domestic Violence. Australian Social Work.

### Children's residence in divorce disputes – examination of social work reports to the court

This paper examines how children's residency is portrayed in the reports of social workers to courts in cases of contested divorce. In addition, light will be shed on how the descriptions contained in the reports pass into the court orders. The reports are approached through a micro-sociological lens: as assessment practices of social work which define children's residency and welfare. The results show that extensive and detailed descriptions of the physical residential situation of the child's mother and father were the most prevalent in the reports. People in the home and their interpersonal relationships together with the atmosphere of the home were also reported on. However, in the summaries of their reports the social workers place particular value on the cooperative parental relationships and stabilised circumstances of the child. Similar arguments were central in the judges' orders. The results raise questions of the appropriateness of the reports when settling the cases.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Forsberg, H., Kääriäinen, A. & Ritala-Koskinen, A. (2018) Children's residence in divorce disputes – examination of social work reports to the court. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, 21-36.

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

### 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.](#)

### AIHW Report on Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released its first comprehensive report on family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia.

The report brings together, for the first time, information from more than 20 different major data sources to build a picture of what is known about family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia. It also highlights data gaps and offers suggestions to help fill these gaps.

The report, *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia, 2018*, covers family violence (physical violence, sexual violence and emotional abuse between family members, as well as current or former partners), domestic violence (a subcategory of family violence, involving current or former partners), and sexual violence (a range of nonconsensual sexual behaviours, perpetrated by partners, former partners, acquaintances or strangers).

[View Report.](#)

### 2018 ANU Reconciliation Lecture

On 23 February, Peter Yu presented this year's ANU Reconciliation Lecture on *Reconciliation, Treaty Making and National Building*.

Mr Peter Yu is a Yawuru Man from Broome in the Kimberley region in North West Australia with over 35 years' experience in Indigenous development and advocacy in the Kimberley and at the state, national and international level.

In this year's lecture, Peter challenged the audience to shake off complacency and demand more from our nation's leaders.

[View Lecture.](#)

#### UNSUBSCRIBE?

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#### FEEDBACK

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