



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

**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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

MAY 2018

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

I'm pleased to introduce this eBulletin for May, which is a very busy month for us here at WAFLPN and for the sector as a whole.

Firstly, it is Domestic Violence Prevention Month, an initiative that aims to raise community awareness of the issue of domestic violence. WAFLPN supported the local Candlelight Vigil event which took place earlier this month, more on that on page 3 of this eBulletin.

It is also Law Week this week, and there is a plethora of events you can attend to learn, network and celebrate the contribution of legal practitioners in our community. For a full list of Law Week events, head to [the Law Society website](#).

Of course, it is the biggest month of the year for us here at WAFLPN too, as we gear up for our Annual Conference on 31 May, and Post-Conference Workshop on 1 June. Registrations have now closed, so if you missed out please [contact Jane Azzopardi](#) directly to secure your place.



I hope you enjoy this eBulletin and get a chance to get along to some of the great events coming up. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Conference and Workshop at the end of the month.



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

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

wafipn.org.au



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

2018

CONTACT INFORMATION  
 Conference Secretariat  
[waflpn@corporatechallenge.com.au](mailto:waflpn@corporatechallenge.com.au)  
 +61 402 015 610

# WA FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Supporting positive childhood attachment*

Join WA Family Law Pathways Network to explore the impact of attachment within families and ways to support positive attachment in children.

We have an impressive lineup of international, national and local speakers covering attachment from its origins to contemporary use; lived experience; impacts in childhood and across the lifespan such as parent-child and adulthood relationships, along with the role of fathers.

An interactive mural will transform throughout the day, providing an opportunity for delegates to inform the design with their learnings and highlights.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

THE HON. JANE CRISFORD  
 KEENAN MUNDINE  
 DR ADAH SACHS

## THURSDAY 31 OF MAY 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

8.30AM - 4.30PM

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$100

*CLOSES ON THE 6TH OF APRIL*

STANDARD REGISTRATION \$120

## ONE DAY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 1 OF JUNE 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

8.30AM - 4.30PM

REGISTRATION \$75

## REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

[CLICK HERE FOR  
REGISTRATIONS](#)

[CLICK HERE  
FOR WEBSITE](#)

31ST OF MAY 2018

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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## Candle Light Vigil

WAFLPN in partnership with the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence (WA); Stopping Family Violence; Department of Communities and Communicare supported the second Candle Light Vigil on Thursday 3rd May during DV Prevention Month of May. It was a cold but important night at the Supreme Court Gardens honouring those people who have died due to domestic homicide. Support was received by over 60 people from government, services and community to join in remembrance. Ms Oriel Green gave the Welcome to Country followed by speeches from the Honourable Simone McGurk MLA (Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence), and a strong voice from survivor Anne-Marie.



## Safe Systems: A Blueprint for Action Launch

On Monday, May 7, WAFLPN attended the launch of *Safe Systems: A Blueprint for Action*. An initiative of the Safe Systems Coalition, the blueprint contains a strategy for a whole-system response to family and domestic violence. The launch featured a presentation by Dr Donna Chung as well as the Honourable Simone McGurk. The Safe Systems Coalition celebrated their success in the appointment of Ms McGurk to the position of Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, and presented the Minister with the *Blueprint for Action*. This is an exciting step for improving the response to family and domestic violence in Western Australia. The blueprint can be accessed via [the Women's Community Health Network WA website](https://www.womencommunityhealthnetworkwa.org).



## 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](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.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 \$120

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.](#)

### Funds for Freedom Movie Fundraiser

Join Funds for Freedom for their movie fundraiser evening featuring "The Bookshop", starring Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson & Bill Nighy.

27 May 2018  
Paradiso Cinema  
James St, Northbridge  
Ticket price \$25.30

Tickets available via <https://www.trybooking.com/371658>

### 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.

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

## 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@relationshi  
pswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshi<br/>pswa.org.au)

Implications for policy and practice are discussed as well as directions for research to strengthen the knowledge base to inform policy.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Mahrer, N. E., O'Hara, K. L., Sandler, I. N., & Wolchik, S. A. (2018). Does Shared Parenting Help or Hurt Children in High-Conflict Divorced Families?. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-24.

child safety issues emerged, however, they often felt powerless, unsupported, and sidelined from decision-making in the best interests of their grandchildren. Participants made strong recommendations for more inclusive processes.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Gair, S., Zuchowski, I., Munns, L., Thorpe, R., & Henderson, D. (2018). Grandparents matter: Optimizing grandparents' involvement after child safety concerns. *Child & Family Social Work*.

## Does Shared Parenting Help or Hurt Children in High-Conflict Divorced Families?

Despite a recent shift in the allocation of parenting time arrangements following divorce, there is no clear consensus regarding the effects of shared parenting on children's adjustment in high-conflict families. We propose key questions and methodological options to increase the ability of results from well-designed empirical studies to inform practice and policy. We review 11 studies of relations between parenting time and parenting quality with children's adjustment in high-conflict divorced families. Despite heterogeneity of methods used across the studies, some tentative conclusions can be made based on findings of multiple studies. Higher levels of shared parenting were related to poorer child adjustment in samples with high conflict many years following the divorce, but typically not in samples that assessed conflict during the divorcing process or in the 2 or 3 years following the divorce. There is also evidence that the effects of shared parenting on child adjustment in the presence of high conflict differs by gender, and that high quality of parenting by at least 1 parent is associated with better child adjustment in high-conflict divorces.

## Grandparents matter: Optimizing grandparents' involvement after child safety concerns

Across Australia and internationally, growing numbers of grandparents are becoming primary carers for grandchildren, both within and outside of formal state care arrangements. Underlying factors include family breakdown, family circumstances where parents are unable to care for their children, or where there are child safety concerns. Some grandparents report a pattern of initially providing care for grandchildren but then experiencing reduced or lost contact that sometimes is not restored, in turn impacting ongoing relationships with grandchildren. A prevailing concern is the disproportional numbers of Aboriginal children in state care in all Australian states. Reported here are findings from a recent partnership research project focused on optimizing grandparent contact and ongoing relationships with grandchildren after child safety concerns. Qualitative in-depth interviews and focus groups were conducted with 77 participants. Findings revealed grandparents yearned to maintain a significant role in grandchildren's lives after

## Reasons That Could Lead People to Divorce in an Evolutionary Perspective: Evidence from Cyprus

In the current research, we aimed to identify the reasons that could drive people to get a divorce. The study found that being a harmful spouse was the most important factor for divorce, followed by incompatibility and in-law problems. We also found significant sex differences in several factors such as women indicating a higher willingness than men to divorce a harmful spouse. In addition, participants with children were less willing to divorce a harmful spouse than those who had no children. Finally, using second-order principal components analysis, we classified the 7 factors into 2 broader domains of reasons for getting a divorce.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Apostolou, M., Constantinou, C., & Anagnostopoulos, S. (2018). Reasons That Could Lead People to Divorce in an Evolutionary Perspective: Evidence from Cyprus. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-20.

## 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.](#)

### Lifeline WA offers free Separated Parents Counselling

Lifeline WA's Separated Parents program is a unique free service that provides support to parents before, during and after separation. Our counsellors provide one-on-one guidance for parents who need help with:

- negotiating shared care arrangements for their children
- effective communication with the other parent
- preparation for mediation and the mediation process
- understanding the complexities of the Family Court and the legal system
- access to practical and emotional support and assistance
- a parenting plan designed specifically to meet the needs of their children.

For more information, visit our website <http://lifelinewa.org.au/Services>, call us on 9261 4451 or email [reception@lifelinewa.org.au](mailto:reception@lifelinewa.org.au) for an appointment.

### Legal Aid WA announces new Director

The Chair of the Legal Aid Commission of WA has announced that Dr. Graham Hill has been appointed as Director of Legal Aid WA for a period of five years, commencing on Monday 7 May 2018.

Dr Hill was most recently the Director of the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania and the Chair of National Legal Aid.

Prior to becoming Director of the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania, Dr Hill spent eight years as the Director of the legal branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Victoria.

Dr Hill was admitted to practice in 1990 and served for a year as an Associate to a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, before spending 14 years in private practice in Melbourne.

### 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)

### UNSUBSCRIBE?

If you would like to stop receiving the WAFLPN monthly eBulletin please send an email with the subject "unsubscribe" to [WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au)