



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings from the Chair

by Karen Barker

Hello from WAFLPN!

Hope everyone managed to have a well-deserved break over the long weekend.

This month, we celebrated the 30th year of National Child Protection Week (6-12 September). This year's theme "Putting Children First" is one that has particular resonance for all of us in the family law sector as we work together to support children and their families.

September has also been a busy month for WAFLPN. We presented two webinars from the National FLPN Webinar Series, one with Professor Jennifer McIntosh on 2 September, and another with Angela Lynch on 23 September.

Don't miss the next webinar in this series taking place on 20 October, in which Professors Kate Fitz-Gibbon and JaneMaree Maher will discuss the findings of from their ANROWS project on the views of judicial officers on domestic and family violence perpetrator interventions.

We were also incredibly privileged to have Peter Slattery present a webinar for us on the topic of engaging and connecting with young people. If you missed this webinar, a video recording of the session can be accessed on the [Member Area](#) of the WAFLPN website.



We are going back to some in-person events in October with a Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum in Geraldton on 13 October and a seminar on the new Keep Em Safe Diverse Parent Groups Resource Kit at the Legal Aid office in Perth on 14 October. At the same time, we are planning to continue providing high quality online training that our members can access regardless of their geographical location.

That's all I have for now, but please keep an eye on your emails for more updates from WAFLPN.



*Working Together
in the
Family Law System*

wafpn.org.au



SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Cathy Mills, WAFLPN Regional Representative for Bunbury

In this feature, we shine the spotlight on the amazing people who volunteer their time and skills to WAFLPN. These include members of our Steering Committee, our valued Regional Representatives, and other professionals and organisations who generously donate their services to our Network.

Cathy Mills is the Service Manager for the South West Region with Anglicare WA and WAFLPN's Regional Representative for Bunbury. Though originally from Dublin, Ireland, Cathy emigrated to Western Australia at a young age. Growing up between Geraldton and Bunbury, she developed a deep love for regional WA and their vibrant local communities.

Cathy has a professional background in mental health, education, counselling and management. For ten years, she worked with West Australian Newspapers managing newspapers in Harvey and Bunbury. She then took up a role as the General Manager of the not-for-profit mental health organisation Growing Towards Wellness, replicating services in Bunbury, Busselton, Rockingham and Mandurah which used horticultural therapy to re-engage people in work, formal education and non-accredited training to support their wellbeing.

Her love of travel and study brought Cathy on a memorable trip to Cambodia counselling children who were transitioning from the orphanage system to living in group homes with qualified social workers.

She started working with AnglicareWA in their Children's Contact Service alongside her role as Chaplain for YouthcareWA, with a focus on supporting families with complex needs and promoting children's voices within systems. Cathy moved into the Service Manager position in 2017, which she absolutely loves. In this role, she oversees AnglicareWA services from Harvey/Waroona to Collie, Busselton, Bunbury and everywhere in between.

When not working, Cathy is a very busy mum to three children and two rambunctious puppies. She volunteers as a Board Member to a local sporting club and consults for mental health tenders and submissions. She loves the sun, the beach, walking in nature, reading and chocolate.



Cathy Mills



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@relationshipsqa.org.au

Geraldton Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum featuring a presentation on amica.

WA Family Law Pathways Network is proud to support the Children's Matters Stakeholders Forum organised by the Geraldton Family Relationships Centre, which is scheduled to coincide with the October circuit of the Family Court of Western Australia in Geraldton. This networking event will feature a presentation about amica by Curtis Ward from Legal Aid WA. amica is a new online resource to help people with family law issues, including online dispute resolution if suitable. amica can complement the vital assistance that Family Relationship Services provide every day to people dealing with separation. amica was developed by National Legal Aid with Commonwealth funding and oversight from a Steering Committee involving FRSA, NLA and the Attorney-General's Department.

Tuesday, 13 October 2020
5.30pm-7.30pm (light refreshments served 5.30pm, presentation starts 6pm)
Mary Ryan Centre
1 Maitland St, Geraldton
Free, RSVPs essential
RSVP: 08 9921 2611 or frcadmin@centacaregeraldton.org.au

More information available on the WAFLPN website.

Keep Em Safe Diverse Parent Groups Resource Kit Overview Seminar

Legal Aid WA and WAFLPN are organising a seminar about the new child protection resource - the **Keep em Safe Diverse Parent Groups Child Protection Legal Resource Kit** presented by Jane Stewart (Director Legal Practice Development, Legal Aid) and team. This resource kit is for legal and community service providers working with diverse parent groups engaged in child protection matters in the Perth metropolitan area of WA. It can be adapted for use in other areas. It has been developed in consultation with the Keep em Safe Steering Diverse Parents Group Committee, local legal service providers, and community workers. The resource kit will help service providers to explain key legal concepts and processes around child protection.

Wednesday, 14 October 2020
3.00pm-5.00pm
Legal Aid Office
32 St George's Terrace, Perth
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Legal CPD points available.

For more information, please visit the WAFLPN website.

National FLPN Webinar: Views of Australian Judicial Officers on DFV Perpetrator Interventions

The Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to join a free webinar by Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon and Professor JaneMaree Maher. Despite increasing acknowledgement of the importance of perpetrator interventions in the delivery of integrated responses to family violence and promoting perpetrator accountability, there remains very little understanding of how magistrates and other judicial officers view, manage and use perpetrator interventions. This presentation will present the findings from the presenters' ANROWS national project examining the use, influence and management of perpetrator interventions in sentencing of domestic and family violence offenders.

Tuesday, 20 October 2020
10.00am-11.30am AWST
Online webinar
Free, registrations essential
[Register here](#)

Visit the WAFLPN website for more information.

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 WAFLPN members, please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin.

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.org.au

An Assessment of Services for Custodial Parents During Supervised Visitation

Supervised visitation programs provide court-mandated services in cases with purported risks to (a) child(ren), or during custody or visitation disputes. The purpose of this study was to determine if there is a need to provide support services for the custodial and/or foster parent during supervised visitation sessions. The researcher conducted a mixed methods study with a cross-sectional comparative design, using an internet-based simultaneous quantitative and qualitative needs assessment. Participants included custodial/foster parents, and visitation centers staff. Results indicated that custodial/foster parents share experiences of emotional stress, fear for their child(ren)'s safety during visitations, lack of coherence, and changes in the family dynamic. Resources of formal kinship; spouse/partner support; and information, logistical, mental health, and therapeutic support could help custodial/foster parents.

[Read abstract or purchase article](#)

Cefarelli, N. (2020). An assessment of services for custodial parents during supervised visitation. *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody & Child Development*, 17(2), 135-160.

Family Engagement and Collaborative Decision-Making Processes Provide Multiple Benefits in Child Welfare Cases

This article is about the importance of family engagement and collaborative decision making in child welfare cases. It briefly reviews the history of mediation and family group meetings and suggests that juvenile courts and child welfare agencies should thoughtfully prioritize and expand their use of the techniques and processes of interdisciplinary collaborative decision-making and dispute resolution that have been successful for over thirty-five years.

Key Points for the Family Court Community:

- The use of collaborative decision-making and dispute resolution techniques in child welfare cases provides multiple benefits for the families and professionals involved in these cases;
- Brief history of the development of mediation and family group meetings in child welfare;
- Discusses the importance of creating an interdisciplinary collaborative relationship between families, attorneys and child welfare agency professionals;
- Parent engagement and empowerment, use of confidentiality, information exchange and expanded role of the professionals and parties are all benefits of these processes.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Browe Olson, K. (2020). Family Engagement and Collaborative Decision-Making Processes Provide Multiple Benefits in Child Welfare Cases. *Family Court Review*. DOI: 10.1111/fcre.12527

Infant Removal and the Lack of Representation for Parents

This paper throws a spotlight on the systemic disadvantage experienced by parents who have their children removed from their care. With data drawn from the annual reports of the Legal Aid of Western Australia, the child protection agency in Western Australia, and the Productivity Commission, the authors illustrate the disconnection between the agency's policy to reunify children once removed from their birth parents; the resources made available to support families to overcome their difficulties; and how the gap is further widened when parents without financial means and who are disempowered face legal proceedings on their own. We profile the increasing numbers of infants who are removed, the decreasing numbers of these infants who are discharged from care, and the shortfall of grants of legal aid that are provided to parents when they go to court. For this group of parents, permanent loss of their children is a reality. The aim of the paper is to capture the extent to which there is a fundamental blemish on the principles of due process and fairness, and once statutory processes are triggered, the best interests of the child and the support of parents are contingent, with poverty being the key mediating factor.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Harrison, C., Bahemia, C., & Henderson, D. (2020). Infant removal and the lack of representation for parents. *Children Australia*, 1-7. DOI:10.1017/cha.2020.34

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@relationshipswa.org.au

FCWA Practice Direction 2 - Fee Forms

Practice Direction 2 of 2020 has been issued by the Family Court of Western Australia in relation to the approval of a number of forms relating to fees that have had minor modifications.

[Download Practice Direction 2 - Fee Forms.](#)

New Resource: Keep Em Safe Diverse Parent Groups Child Protection Legal Resource Kit

A new child protection resource from Legal Aid WA is now available- the Keep em Safe Diverse Parent Groups Child Protection Legal Resource Kit.

This resource kit is for legal aid community service providers working with diverse parent groups engaged in child protection matters in the Perth metropolitan area of WA. It can be adapted for use in other areas. It has been developed in consultation with the Keep em Safe Steering Diverse Parents Group Committee, local legal service providers, and community workers. The ATSI KES Child Protection Legal Resource Kit released in 2019 for use in the East and West Kimberley is also still available.

The resource kit will help service providers to explain key legal concepts and processes around child protection.

The resource kit contains:

- Key legal messages in child protection
- Story cards that use pictures and plain language to help explain key legal concepts in child protection
- Fact sheets (28)
- Two process maps to help deliver information more clearly
- Individualised wallet cards to provide a visual reminder of key dates, relevant conditions and orders, and other useful information
- A user manual, which apart from the fact sheets, contains:
 - o Community Legal Education (CLE) activities that use stories to reinforce key messages
 - o Practical tips
 - o A CLE checklist
 - o Referral information and links to further information
 - o Posters containing key legal messages.
 - o A summary of all the story cards with the wordings alongside.

[The story cards, posters and fact sheets can be accessed here.](#)

Additional resources from the kit including the manual, process maps, and stories for use in CLE activities can be accessed through the login on this page. If you don't have a log in please email cle@legalaid.wa.gov.au to obtain one.

Please note, due to rising costs the price of the kits has gone up. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the kit, [the order form can be accessed here.](#)

Community Legal Centre Services and Fees

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are not for profit, non-government organisations that provide legal and welfare services to people in need. Some CLCs offer legal advice in Family Law matters.

The services provided by CLCs may include legal information, advice and representation to individuals and groups; community education and law reform programs and advice to governments on policy issues. Most services are free or very low cost.

Did you know that Citizens Advice Bureau maintains a comprehensive list of Community Legal Centres in Western Australia, including current services and fees? [This list is available under 'Resources' on the WAFLPN website.](#)

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our ebulletin, please email them to sofia.kouznetsova@relationshipswa.org.au

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