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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFLPN! I hope you are enjoying the warmer spring weather, and looking forward to spending time with your family over the school holidays.

Planning is underway for the 2018 WAFLPN Annual Conference. We will be holding it once again at the beautiful University Club of WA. Please save the date – 31 May 2018. We will be in touch with more details in the coming months.

WAFLPN is also pleased to announce we will be partnering with Stopping Family Violence to present Elena Campbell and Rob Hulls from RMIT hosting a twilight seminar on their recent work on *Pathways to Accountability*. You may remember Elena Campbell presented at our Perpetrators Conference back in December 2015. We are excited to have Elena back with her colleague Rob to discuss how the Centre for Innovative Justice has been continuing its work in perpetrator accountability. You can find more details and register in the *Dates for your diary* section on page 2 of this eBulletin.



Kalgoorlie, we are heading your way! The WAFLPN regional subcommittee is currently working to arrange networking and information sessions for the October Family Court of WA circuit. We will be in touch with more details over the next few weeks.



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Working Together
in the
Family Law System

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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.org.au

Twilight Seminar: Pathways to Accountability

WA Family Law Pathways Network and Stopping Family Violence present Rob Hulls and Elena Campbell from RMIT presenting on *Pathways to accountability*

10 October 2017
South of Perth Yacht Club
Coffee Point, Applecross

For more information or to register visit <https://waflpn.org.au>

Family Violence: Responding to the next generation

Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University Melbourne and Edith Cowan University WA present *Family Violence: Responding to the next generation*.

Join speakers from justice agencies; specialist family violence agencies; academia and wider community-based programs as they share their first hand experiences of working with young people who use violence against family members; the intersection with youth offending; and the need for innovative, holistic and community based responses

Facilitated by Rob Hulls & Elena Campbell, Centre for Innovative Justice, and featuring panellists Magistrate Andrée Horrigan, Children's Court, WA, Dr Vicki Banham, Edith Cowan University and Tanya Langford, Family Support Practitioner, Peel Youth Services.

11 October 2017
Edith Cowan University
Building 10, Level 1, Room 131
2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

Find more information or register via [this link](#)

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/>

National Family & Domestic Violence Summit

The 2017 National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will put a new focus on business and technology, alongside case-studies of innovative and successful family and domestic violence programs, analysis from experts and stakeholders, and reports from police and government organisations.

The 3rd Annual National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will bring together professions, advocates, survivors, scholars, executives, and citizens, crossing social boundaries and uniting with a single purpose; the prevention and end of family and domestic violence in Australia.

13 & 14 November 2017
Radisson Blu Plaza, Sydney
Early bird registration from \$695

Early bird closes 31 August 2017. For more details and to register visit <https://www.informa.com.au/event/national-family-domestic-violence-summit/>

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@relationships.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

Divorced Yet Still Together: Ongoing Personal Relationship and Coparenting Among Divorced Parents

This study examined the ongoing personal and emotional involvement between former spouses and its association with perceptions of the quality of the coparenting relationship. Dyadic analysis of 54 formerly married couples revealed that both men and women rate their coparenting relationship as better when they also report ongoing personal and emotional involvement with their former spouse. Furthermore, when men reported ongoing involvement, their former wives reported better coparenting. The opposite effect was not found. This pattern held for both Black Americans and White Americans. Clinical implications of the findings of this study are also discussed.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

Gürmen, M. S., Huff, S. C., Brown, E., Orbuch, T. L., & Birditt, K. S. (2017). Divorced Yet Still Together: Ongoing Personal Relationship and Coparenting Among Divorced Parents. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-16.

Moral injury among Child Protection Professionals: Implications for the ethical treatment and retention of workers

This study considers any "moral injury" occurring among professionals working within the Child Protection System (CPS). Moral injury refers to the lasting psychological, spiritual and social harm caused by one's own or another's actions in high-stakes situations that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations. We administered a modified version of the Moral Injury Events Scale (MIES) (Nash et al., 2013) to 38 CPS professionals. We then conducted in-depth, semi-structured, audio-recorded individual interviews with them to elaborate their responses to the MIES. Professionals' MIES scores and descriptions of their responses suggest that some professionals do experience moral injury as a result of their CPS involvement. Similar to parents involved with CPS, professionals described harm to themselves occurring through under-resourced systems, problematic professionals, unfair laws and policies, abusive parents, an adversarial system, systemic biases, harm to children by the system and poor-quality services. They also communicated feelings associated with moral injury such as anger and sadness, emotional numbing, and guilt and shame. These feelings have been reported by CPS-involved parents and are described in the existing moral injury literature. Many also described troubling, existential issues including their ability to function in an ethical and moral manner within a system they viewed as deeply flawed, and in an unsupportive working environment steeped in human misery. Nearly a third of all professionals described themselves or colleagues as actively seeking employment elsewhere. We discuss implications for the related

issues of the ethical treatment and retention of professionals working within CPS.

[Read abstract or purchase full article.](#)

Haight, W., Sugrue, E. P., & Calhoun, M. (2017). Moral injury among Child Protection Professionals: Implications for the ethical treatment and retention of workers. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Single mothers, the role of fathers, and the risk for child maltreatment

Single motherhood has long been linked to the risk for child maltreatment. However, little is known about the role of fathers in buffering mothers' risk for child maltreatment. Using data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, this paper investigates (1) the ways in which non-resident fathers' economic contributions and involvement in parenting may moderate associations between mothers' transitions to being single and the risk for child maltreatment, and (2) whether these processes vary by race/ethnicity. Results indicate that mothers' transitions to being single are not strongly associated with the risk for child abuse. However, mothers' transitions to being single are associated with an increase in the risk for child neglect, and this is moderated by non-resident father involvement. Last, Black but not other mothers' transitions to being single are associated with the risk for child abuse, and are largely not moderated by non-resident father involvement.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Schneider, W. (2017). Single mothers, the role of fathers, and the risk for child maltreatment. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 81, 81-93.

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

Parliament hears from people affected by family violence

A parliamentary committee has heard from over 3,000 Australians affected by family violence, and will start releasing some of these insights publicly.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence was launched five months ago. In that time, the Committee has received formal written submissions from family law experts, non-government organisations, academics and individuals who have been affected by family violence.

The Committee's work has also been informed by those with personal experience at the intersection of family violence and the family law system. The Committee has made available an anonymous, online questionnaire and has encouraged anyone wishing to make a personal contribution to the inquiry to take the time to complete the questionnaire.

Committee Chair, Sarah Henderson MP, said, "From the outset, the

Committee wanted to ensure that it received the valuable insights of members of the community who have experienced family violence and who have been through the family law system."

The questionnaire has now been completed by over 3,800 Australians, 82 per cent of whom have been affected by family violence.

"It is of course a great tragedy that so many Australians have experienced family violence. This Committee has sought to give those people a voice," Ms Henderson said. "The Committee understands that, for individuals affected by family violence, revisiting these experiences can be very distressing. We are therefore particularly grateful to the thousands of people who have completed the online questionnaire and shared their experiences and insights with us. One of the great strengths of this inquiry has been the opportunity for Members of Parliament to hear directly from community members about their experiences."

Responses to the questionnaire were made anonymously. However, respondents had the option of allowing the Committee to share their comments publicly. The Committee has collated and analysed responses, and will be publishing a series of 'snapshots' over the coming weeks.

The first two questionnaire snapshots has been released by the Committee. Further snapshots addressing different aspects of the family law system will be released in the coming weeks.

Further information about the inquiry, including questionnaire snapshots, can be accessed from the inquiry web page at:

www.apf.gov.au/fvlawreform

Survey: eFiling in Family Law

The Family Court of WA is keen to seek your feedback on the Family Law e-Filing portal service. The Court is keen to gather as much feedback as possible to assist in future developments of the system.

The survey is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/e_Filing

The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and the responses are anonymous unless you leave an email address for follow up contact.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Elisabeth Womersley via email at elisabeth.womersley@justice.wa.gov.au or (08) 9224 8202.

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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