



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

APRIL 2016

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! Just one month until our annual conference 'Are you hearing me? Listening to the voice of the child in the family law system'. In this bulletin we will introduce you to our main speakers, and give you a bit of an overview of what will be happening on the day. I am excited to announce that Cafcass in the UK are developing a video especially for the event, which will introduce us to their Family Justice Young People's Board – the children and young people with whom they consult to ensure their family law system is child friendly and child inclusive.

We will also have a young person, Mikayla, speaking about her experiences going through the WA family law system.

The breakout sessions in the afternoon will help us get an idea of how the local FRCs, FDRPs and

Family Court Consultants include the voice of the child in their practice, and how expert witnesses ensure they stay child-focused when writing reports in cases where there is family violence.

Early bird registration for the conference has now closed, however you can still register for the very reasonable price of \$120 via the [conference website](#).

For all the details head to the [conference website](#) or if you have any further queries feel free to [contact Jane Azzopardi](#), WAFPN's Network Development Officer.

Also in this bulletin you will find details of other events, the latest research in the field, news of the Royal Commission into Family Violence's report and recommen-

datations as well as the COAG Advisory Panel's report.

That's all from me, and I look forward to seeing you at the conference next month!





**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Conference Secretariat  
[conference@corporatchallenge.com.au](mailto:conference@corporatchallenge.com.au)  
 +61 422 265 633

# WA FAMILY PATHWAYS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

**ARE YOU HEARING ME?**  
**Listening to the voice of the child in the family law system**

**WAFPN** invites you to participate in our annual conference to explore how we can bring children and young people into the centre of the family law system.

Children and young people's voices can often be overlooked in the family law system; this conference will seek to address practice and strategies that invite children and young people to express their voice to ensure we actively listen.

With a number of national and local expert speakers, this WAFPN conference will be of interest to all professionals in the family law system.



**THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016**

**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**8.30AM - 4.30PM**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$100**

*CLOSES ON THE 15TH APRIL*

**STANDARD REGISTRATION \$120**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

HON. JUSTICE SIMON MONCRIEFF

COLIN PETTIT

DR PETER KRABMAN

TUNYA PETRIDIS

**REGISTER HERE**

**VISIT WEBSITE**

**26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**





# Meet our conference speakers

## The Hon. Justice Simon Moncrieff

Justice Simon Moncrieff currently holds a dual commission as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia; his Honour was appointed to the Court in 2009.

Justice Moncrieff graduated from the University of Adelaide with an LLB (Hons). Following his admission in 1975 he practised as a barrister and solicitor, and was called to the Bar in South Australia in 1991, where he worked until 1999, joining the Western Australian Bar in 2000. Justice Moncrieff was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008.

His Honour has also served as a member of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (as a specialist legal officer); a delegate of The Child Support Registrar (1992-2005) and on various community boards.

Justice Moncrieff currently represents the Family Court of Western Australia on the National Children's Committee and National ICL Stakeholders Committee.

## Colin Pettit

Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit has almost 40 years' experience in working with children and young people in the education sector across Western Australia and Tasmania in teaching, administration and executive roles.



In all of his education roles Colin has had a focus on improving the wellbeing of children and young people.

Colin was appointed Commissioner in November 2016 and has a statutory responsibility to monitor, protect and advocate for the wellbeing of the more than 585,000 children and young people under the age of 18 in Western Australia.

## Dr Peter Krabman



Dr Peter Krabman is a child, adolescent and family psychiatrist, in private practice in Sydney.

He spent seven years as medical director of Coral Tree Family Service, which is a state-wide program providing intensive family interventions for the families of children with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Dr Krabman prepares single expert reports in family law matters. In addition to his general clinical work, he has a particular interest and expertise in the provision of therapy to parents and children in the context of current family law proceedings, or of the requirement to adapt to final orders.

He serves on the Professional Advisory Group to the Children's Court Clinic in NSW.

He has a background in research, addiction medicine and military medicine.

He enjoys meeting with troubled and troubling children, and the adults charged with protecting, nurturing and raising them.

## Tunya Petridis

Tunya Petridis is the Children's Consultant at Anglicare WA. She has worked as a counsellor with children and young people in a variety of settings including a specialist domestic violence service, foster care and schools.



Tunya has specialised in working with children who have experienced trauma. In her role as Children's Consultant she works with children who have experienced family violence, child sexual abuse and neglect and develops and delivers training and professional supervision in these areas.

Tunya also consults on policy and has a comprehensive knowledge of the foster care system, child protection and family law matters. She regularly presents at conferences and has published an article in the Journal of Family Studies.

Tunya was the 2014 recipient of the Alice Kingsnorth Scholarship and travelled to Canada and the USA to look at models of working therapeutically with children who have experienced trauma.

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

### WAFPN Annual Conference 2016: 'Are you hearing me? Listening to the voice of the child in the family law system'

WAFPN's 2016 annual conference will be held on **May 26 at University Club of Western Australia**.

The theme for the conference will be 'Are you hearing me? Listening to the voice of the child in the family law system'.

We are pleased to announce our keynote speakers, the Hon. Justice Simon Moncrieff, the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit, child psychiatrist and single expert witness Dr. Peter Krabman, and Anglicare Children's Consultant Tunya Petridis.

We are also excited to be screening a video created by the UK's Cafcass especially for this event, with members of their Young People's Board explaining their contribution to the family law system in their jurisdiction.

Plus breakout sessions facilitated by the Family Court Counselling and Consultancy Service, Family Relationships Centres and Dr Peter Krabman.

Registration for the conference is now open, follow [this link](#) to register.

26 May 2016  
8.30am-4.30pm  
University Club of Western Australia, Crawley  
Registration \$120

If you have any queries in regards to the 2016 conference, please contact Jane Azzopardi  
[jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.au)

### Statewide Protection of Children Coordination Unit Forum: Working Well with Adult and Child Victims of Family and Domestic Violence

Presented by Department of Health WA's SPOCC Unit, this forum aims to increase the knowledge and skills of participants in detecting and responding appropriately to adult and child victims of Family and Domestic Violence in health and other settings.

Guest speakers (including those with lived experience) will present on:

- the issues associated with supporting people who have experienced FDV
- screening, risk assessment and safety planning with victims of FDV
- impact of FDV on children
- working better with Aboriginal and multicultural families and those from rural and remote areas.

2 May 2016  
9am-1pm  
Princess Margaret Hospital  
McDonald Lecture Theatre  
Roberts Road, Subiaco.  
Free of charge

To register or for more information contact  
[spocccunit@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:spocccunit@health.wa.gov.au)

This session is also available via videoconference. Video Conference registrations to be emailed to:  
[Telehealth.cahs@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Telehealth.cahs@health.wa.gov.au)

### 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.gov.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.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@relationshipswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.org.au)

## Payee mothers' interactions with the Department of Human Services-Child Support: A summary of recent qualitative findings

This article explores mothers' experiences with the child support scheme in Australia, highlighting how interactions with the Department of Human Services-Child Support (DHS-CS) agency can facilitate or undermine the receipt of child support. It summarises findings from a recent qualitative study with 37 payee mothers, regarding the key institutional and interactional processes that create barriers to the receipt of expected and useful amounts of child support, the way the costs of children are calculated, DHS-CS approaches to enforcing payer compliance, and agency and worker communication practices. The impact on mothers in fearful or high-conflict relationships with their former partners is also discussed.

Full article:

<https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/fmg7-natalieretal.pdf>

Natalier, K., Cook, K., & Pitman, T. (2016). Payee mothers' interactions with the Department of Human Services—Child Support. *Family Matters*, (97), 31. effries, S. (2016). In *the Best Interests of the Abuser: Coercive Control, Child Custody Proceedings and the "Expert" Assessments That Guide Judicial Determinations*. *Laws*, 5(1), 14.

## Child Custody

Determining custody arrangements for children when parents have separated or divorced is becoming a commonplace experience in the west, especially in English-speaking countries. In general, the guiding principle in family law for the determination of post separation arrangements for children is that of the "best interests of the child." The current understanding of this principle stresses the importance of the ongoing involvement of both biological parents in their children's lives. Hence, joint legal custody has become normative, as has regular and frequent contact, if not equal shared care. However, the emphasis given to the quantity of time in debates over residence and contact can detract attention from more important issues, like the quality of parenting children receive; their exposure to conflict, violence, and/or abuse; and children's developmental needs. Issues raised by social parents and wider kin have also been largely neglected.

Link to abstract:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781119085621.wbefs107/abstract>

Elizabeth, V. (2016). *Child Custody*. *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies*.

## The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Tracing Australia's Implementation of the Provisions Relating to Family Relations

This paper examines Australia's efforts in implementation of provisions in the Convention that relate specifically to family relations and family law matters and the results that have been achieved. It recognises that whilst Australia has achieved some milestones in implementing the Convention in this area of law and policy, a more consistent, harmonised and sustained effort towards its full implementation is needed consistent with Australia's standing as one of the most developed countries in the world.

Link to abstract:

[http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-23189-1\\_2](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-23189-1_2)

Shackel, R. (2016). *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Tracing Australia's Implementation of the Provisions Relating to Family Relations*. In *The Rights of the Child in a Changing World* (pp. 37-60). Springer International Publishing.

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

## Victoria Royal Commission into Family Violence Report

The Royal Commission into Family Violence delivered its report to Government House on 31 March. The report is the culmination of a 13-month inquiry into how to effectively:

- prevent family violence
- improve early intervention
- support victims
- make perpetrators accountable
- better coordinate community and government responses
- evaluate and measure strategies, frameworks, policies, programs and services.

The Commission's multi-volume report canvasses the many views heard by the Commission during its consultation processes and covers a broad range of topics including risk assessment, information sharing, service system pathways, police, courts, offences and sentencing, housing, financial security, recovery, the experience of children and young people and people from diverse communities, system governance and oversight, industry planning, primary prevention, and the role the health system, faith communities and workplaces can play in addressing family violence.

The Commission's 227 recommendations are directed at improving the foundations of the current system, seizing opportunities to transform the way that we respond to family violence, and building the structures that will guide and oversee a long-term reform program that deals with all aspects of family violence.

View the full report [here](#).

## COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children - Final Report

The final report of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children was provided to COAG on Friday, 1 April 2016.

The Panel found that despite a lot of good work, rates of violence against women in Australia remain unacceptably high.

The Panel recommends that a new approach be adopted by all governments to achieve generational and lasting change:

- Men must be held to account for their actions and supported to change
- Responses must focus on empowering women and their children to make informed choices
- Political leaders, businesses, industry and the broader community all need to commit to collective, long-term action to improve gender equality and change violence supportive attitudes
- Children and young people must be recognised as victims of violence against women

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities need trauma informed responses, and

• Integrated responses are required to keep women and their children safe.

The Panel's Final Report includes 28 recommendations for COAG's consideration, with innovative, practical and deliverable options for further joint Commonwealth, state and territory work to reduce violence against women and their children.

COAG has given its in-principle support for the areas of focus identified by the Panel. COAG has also agreed that its recommendations be considered as part of the development of the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022, to be completed by mid-2016.

Read the report [here](#).

## Job vacancy: Project Co-ordinator - Family Violence Prevention Team - Kimberley

Kimberley Community Legal Services is looking for a Project Co-ordinator to join their Family Violence Prevention team. Kimberley Community Legal Services (KCLS) provides free legal assistance and outreach across the Kimberley including Kununurra, Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Wyndham and remote communities.

Kimberley Community Legal Services has been selected by the Australian Government to implement a Specialist Family Violence Unit under the Women's Safety Package (announced in September 2015). The newly formed Family Violence Prevention Team will provide culturally- and gender-appropriate, wrap-around intensive

support (including legal services) to vulnerable women at risk of family violence.

The successful applicant will have a strong background in project management and community development (ideally within the legal sector) and experience building relationships with a broad range of stakeholders. The applicant will also have demonstrated ability to operate effectively in an autonomous role and possess outstanding communication, mentoring, consultation and reporting skills.

The position is full-time and based in Kununurra (with outreach across the East Kimberley).

Salary Package: \$71,254.56 (+ Salary Packaging + Housing Allowance + 9.5% Super Contribution).

The position description and further information is available from:

[office@kcls.org.au](mailto:office@kcls.org.au)

Applications close April 29.

## 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?

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## FEEDBACK

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



## Our Aim

Improve collaboration and coordination between organisations operating in the Family Law system

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

