



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

AUGUST 2016

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFPN! I hope you are keeping warm or have been able to take a holiday to escape the winter blues!

I would like to start this month's bulletin by farewelling Heidi Guldbaek, our representative for the Community Legal Centres. Heidi is moving on to a new role and will no longer be a member of the WAFPN steering committee. I would like to thank Heidi for her contribution to WAFPN, and particularly her contribution to organising the annual conference over the past few years as a member of the conference subcommittee. We wish Heidi well with her future endeavours.

WAFPN's Walk in Their Shoes tours of the Family Court of WA are still running every second month and are as popular as ever. The tour is booked up until December, and new tour

dates will be scheduled for 2017 in the coming weeks. Contact Jane to register your interest to attend, details are on the following page.

In this month's eBulletin you will find the details of two great conferences and some of the latest research in family law, in particular an article on grandparent carers – a current issue raised by our steering committee member agencies. You will also find information about the new National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book and some great articles, resources and projects from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, including free webinar recordings on the CFCA YouTube site.

If you want to keep up to date in between eBulletins, make sure you follow WAFPN on Twitter:

[@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA).



That's all from me, I look forward to writing to you again in the Spring!

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

National Mediation Conference 2016

The deadline for registration for the National Mediation Conference is Monday, August 29.

This year's National Mediation Conference theme is: "Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade". It will showcase: what we know and how we know it; think about our thinking; reflect on how we innovate, educate and train practitioners across the wide spectrum from self determination to determinative processes; how we can become more flexible and creatively facilitate processes in response to the diverse needs of our clients to provide a future of best practice in all we do to manage our own and other peoples disputes.

11-15 September 2016
Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
2684 – 2690 Gold Coast Highway
Broadbeach, QLD
Full registration \$970

For more information or to register visit
<http://www.mediationconference.com.au/>

The Law Council of Australia: 17th National Family Law Conference

The 17th Biennial National Family Law Conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18-21 October 2016.

The three-day professional program starts on the Wednesday morning (19 October 2016) and continues until the Friday afternoon.

A diverse conference program will provide delegates with topical and practical information to take back to their daily family law practice, as well as sessions exploring new concepts and thinking about family law.

From the Welcome Reception on the Tuesday evening to the Gala Ball on the Friday night, delegates can also look forward to plenty of opportunities for networking, with the social program showcasing the world's most liveable city.

18-21 October 2016
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Registration from \$300

For further information and registration please visit
www.familylaw2016.com.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@relationshipsqa.org.au



WAfamily pathways network

Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services





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

Parenting Plan Evaluations: Applied Research for the Family Court (2nd Edition)

More so than in any other form of forensic evaluation, mental health professionals who conduct parenting plan evaluations must have an understanding of the most current evidence in the areas of child development, optimal parenting plans across various populations, behavioural psychology, family violence, and legal issues to inform their opinions. In addition, family law judges and legal professionals require the best available evidence to support their decisions and positions. Parenting Plan Evaluations has become the go-to source for the most current empirical evidence in the field of child custody disputes. Fully updated in this Second Edition, the volume continues its focus on translating and implementing research associated with the most important topics within the family court. It presents an organized and in-depth analysis of the latest research and offers specific recommendations for applying these findings to the issues in child custody disputes. Written by international experts in the field, chapters cover the

most important and complex issues that arise in family court, such as attachment and overnight timesharing with very young children, co-parenting children with chronic medical conditions and developmental disorders, domestic violence during separation and divorce, alienation, gay and lesbian co-parents, and relocation, among others.

[Find out more or purchase book.](#)

Olesen, N. (Ed.). (2016). *Parenting plan evaluations: Applied research for the family court*. Oxford University Press.

A child's right to live free from violence

In 2015, the National Children's Commission conducted an investigation into the impact of family violence on children. Commissioner Megan Mitchell discovered widespread and serious levels of exposure to family violence, and huge gaps in evidence and understanding of children's experiences.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Mitchell, M. (2016). *A child's right to live free from violence*. DVRCV Advocate, (1), 19.

Parenting stress of grandparents and other kin as informal kinship caregivers: A mixed methods study

Informal kinship caregivers provide the majority of out of home care to children who can no longer safely stay with their biological parent. Yet their parenting challenges are understudied since they are often left out from child welfare and

other service systems. This mixed methods study, using a survey and focus groups of grandparent and other kin, examined predictors and sources of parenting stress. Quantitative findings suggested that the kinship family's needs and the caregiver's health and emotional well-being adversely affected parenting stress. Grandparent caregivers experienced an elevated level of parenting stress compared to other kin caregivers. Qualitative findings suggested that financial strains, concerns over children's behavior, navigating service systems and difficult relationships with birth parents contributed to their stress. It appeared that grandparent caregivers faced special challenges due to generational gaps, guilt and concerns over birth parents.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Lee, E., Clarkson-Hendrix, M., & Lee, Y. (2016). *Parenting stress of grandparents and other kin as informal kinship caregivers: A mixed methods study*. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 69, 29-38.

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@relationships.org.au

National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book

This bench book complements efforts under The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022 by assisting the education and training of judicial officers so as to promote best practice and improve consistency in judicial decision-making and court experiences for victims in cases involving domestic and family violence across Australia.

The purpose of this bench book is to provide a central resource for judicial officers considering legal issues relevant to domestic and family violence related cases that will contribute to harmonising the treatment of these cases across jurisdictions along broad principles and may assist them with decision-making and judgment writing.

Find out more and access the bench book [here](#).

AIFS project: Children and young people in separated families

Previous research by the Institute shows that the parents who use family law services and courts are often affected by complex issues, including a history of

family violence and safety concerns. A core group of these families have sustained engagement with family law services. While most parents involved in these studies say their children are doing well, research about children and young people themselves indicate that adjustment to post-separation life can be challenging.

This new project aims to understand the experiences of children and young people after parents separate and how the family law system and services may better meet their needs.

The project will involve in-depth individual interviews with children and young people aged between 10 and 17 years of age. A short separate interview will also be done with one parent of the child or young person.

Find out more about the project [here](#).

ICYMI - Separated parents and the family law system: what does the evidence say?

Talk of reforming the Family Court and family law system is back in the headlines, but agitation about the family law system has a long history.

Since the introduction of the Family Law Act and the establishment of the Family Court of Australia in 1976, there have been many parliamentary inquiries and numerous reforms. However, sad stories of parents who've had a tough time of the law continue to shape public and politicians' perceptions of how family law functions in Australia.

Read the full article by Rae Kaspiew for *The Conversation* [here](#).

CFCAtv: Child and Family Community Australia YouTube channel

The CFCA YouTube channel has a range of webinar recordings you can view free of charge on topics such as representing children in legal proceedings, relationship counselling, working with young people from migrant or refugee backgrounds, mental illness, father-inclusive practice and more.

Visit [CFCAtv](#) to view the webinars or subscribe to the channel.

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)

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au

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