



# WAfamily pathways network

## WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

MARCH 2016

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kathryn Lawrence

Hello from WAFPN! It is getting to that exciting time of the year for us. We are getting closer and closer to our annual conference for 2016!

I am pleased to announce that registrations are now open. Head to the [conference website](#) to register before April 15 to score the super cheap earlybird registration fee of \$100.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Are you hearing me? Listening to the voice of the child in the family law system'. We are excited to have Dr Peter Krabman and the Hon. Justice Simon Moncrieff locked in to speak, plus a couple of other great speakers who we will be announcing very shortly.

The program is coming together nicely and this conference is shaping up to be one of our best yet. I hope you will be able to join us on May 26 at the stunning University Club of Western Australia to discuss this very important issue with other professionals in the sector.

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.

Be sure to watch this space as we will have a number of exciting announcements over the coming weeks.





**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
 Conference Secretariat  
 conference@corporatechallenge.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**

**DR PETER KRABMAN**

**THE HON. JUSTICE SIMON MONCRIEFF**

**REGISTER HERE**

**VISIT WEBSITE**

**26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**  
**UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



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

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

WAFPN is excited to announce that our 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, child psychiatrist and single expert witness Dr. Peter Krabman, and the Hon. Justice Simon Moncrieff.

Additional speakers and program details will be announced in the coming weeks.

**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**  
**Earlybird registration \$100**  
**Full registration \$120**

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

### National Mediation Conference 2016: "Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade"

The National Mediation Conference 2016 Board and planning subcommittees are delighted to welcome you to participate in this bi-annual event. This premier conflict management conference is for mediators, dispute resolution and restorative engagement practitioners, facilitators, conciliators, educators, trainers, conflict coaches, arbitrators, adjudicators, academics, researchers, managers, administrators and anyone else who is interested in helping people in disputes.

This year's 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.

**11-14 September 2016**  
**Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach QLD**  
**Earlybird registration \$890**

To register or for more information visit  
<http://www.mediationconference.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@relationships.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au)

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

### In the Best Interests of the Abuser: Coercive Control, Child Custody Proceedings and the “Expert” Assessments That Guide Judicial Determinations

This paper outlines why domestic violence (or more specifically, coercive control) should be crucial to child custody proceedings. What is known about parenting in the context of coercively controlling violence, and what the legislation directs courts to consider, is juxtaposed with the actuality of court decision making. Current knowledge about the recognition of domestic violence in judicial practice is overviewed, drawing particular attention to the role of the “expert” family assessment in determinations of a child’s “best interests”. A comprehensive synopsis of the existing research on these “expert” reports in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States is provided. It is concluded that, in court proceedings the reality of living with coercively controlling violence and the potential on-going risks it poses to children and non-abusive parents, is typically negated. Instead, “best interests”

considerations prioritise the maintenance of perpetrator/child relationships, and thus “abuser’s rights” over victim safety. Judicial officers are not experts in domestic violence and they can only make decisions on the basis of the evidence before them, the assessments made by the “experts” likely play an important role in best interest considerations. Of concern is current research that calls into serious question the expertise of these “experts” when it comes to proceedings involving allegations of coercively controlling violence.

Full article:

<http://www.mdpi.com/2075-471X/5/1/14/htm>

Jeffries, 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.

## Community, Family, and Individual Factors Associated with Adolescents’ Vulnerability, Daily Stress, and Well-being Following Family Separation

This study identified correlates of resilience among adolescents from separated families. Twenty-four adolescents (age 9–14 years) and their parents completed measures of sociodemographic risk and protective factors, interparental conflict, and adolescent responses to conflict. Adolescents reported their behavior, learning, mood, and anxiety difficulties as well as their stress and well-being using a 5-day diary. Resilient adolescents reported more constructive family representations, reported lower interparental conflict, and were from schools and neighborhoods that were more advantaged. Resilient adolescents reported significantly less stress across the diary days than vulnerable adolescents. The results of this study highlight the role of sociodemographic factors, family functioning, and adolescents’ own individual characteristics in their adjustment to their parents’ separation

Link to abstract:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10502556.2015.1127875>

Rowe, S. L., Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., & Hood, M. (2016). Community, Family, and Individual Factors Associated with Adolescents’ Vulnerability, Daily Stress, and Well-being Following Family Separation. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 57(2), 87-111.

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

### #SAFESYSTEMS Launch - Keep Victims safe, hold perpetrators accountable

Last week was the launch of #SAFESYSTEMS, an advocacy campaign to call on the next WA Government to make the systems safe for women and children escaping violence. #SAFESYSTEMS is an initiative of the Women's Council, Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network, Women's Community Health Network, Community Legal Centres Association and Unions WA.

If you are interested in supporting the campaign you can:

- Get informed about the [key asks](#) of the campaign
- [Send](#) your logo to endorse the campaign (logo will be placed on website to show your organisation's support)
- [Like](#) the campaign Facebook page and invite your friends to too
- Add to your email signature "I support #SAFESYSTEMS – Keep victims safe, hold perpetrators accountable"

Watch this space for more ways to show your support and more information.

### 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?

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

### FEEDBACK

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



### Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

