



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFPN!

I'm happy to be able to introduce some new committee members! Linda Saverimutto from the Gosnells Community Legal Centre has joined the steering committee on behalf of the WA CLCs. Linda has been an active member of WAFPN for some time, so it is great to now have her input on the steering committee. We also have a new regional rep, Astrid Gerrits from Anglicare WA up in Broome, who you can learn more about in this eBulletin.

WAFPN's Walk in Their Shoes tours of the Family Court of WA are more popular than ever, and are completely booked up for the rest of 2016! We are currently working with the Family Court to schedule dates for 2017 so please feel free to contact Jane to register your interest:

jane.azzopardi@relationshipswa.org.au

In other exciting news we have set the date for our 2017 annual conference, so please keep May 25 free. We will be returning once again to the lovely UWA Club, and we look forward to announcing the theme and speakers in the coming months.

We are always working hard to bring you exciting speakers and networking events, and we may just have another event in the mix before the end of the year – watch this space and the details will be coming your way very shortly.

That's all from me, I hope you enjoy this eBulletin and I look forward to writing to you again next month.



Meet our new North West regional representative

by Astrid Gerrits Senior FDRP Supervisor, Anglicare WA

May I start by thanking WAFPN for inviting me to be the regional representative for the North West. I appreciate this opportunity. Six years in with the Kimberley Family Relationship Centre in Broome and I still very much enjoy the work that we do here. Things here are just that little bit different than in the metro areas, so I hear. The Kimberley is a vast area with an enormous mix of people and cultures which adds to the richness and challenges of day to day work in and outside our office.

Anglicare WA's services are focused on family relationships in just about all its aspects and our NW services, offices and locations seem to expand slowly but very surely.

Since I have commenced as Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner my role has diversified a lot. We offer separation/conflict counselling to parents and children. My role also includes functioning as the Child Inclusive Practitioner and FDR Supervisor for the NW region. I represent Anglicare WA on the Recovery College Advisory Board and am involved in quite a few other community minded and related groups and organisations, either professionally or personally.

Other team members have different specialisations and all in all we work complementarily. The team is geographically spread from Karratha to Kununurra and of multicultural background which adds to the variety and fun. Within the work of Family

Dispute Resolution and counselling our focus is shifting towards Indigenous Trauma and Recovery. This journey has only just started; we have a long way to go.

Our ties with the local legal network are strong. We have just finished a trial run of free Community Legal Education and Information sessions co-facilitated by one public or private lawyer and one KFRC staff member on roster. Sessions were run alternately in the Broome Courthouse and at the KFRC office. This initiative came to be in response to restrictions in funding and services offered by public legal services in the area.

My own cultural background is Dutch (yes, I grew up in the wild city of Amsterdam) and my past related work experiences lay in the fields of mental health and correction services as well as medical psychology social work amongst others areas. A few years of working with the Kimberley Land Council upon arrival in Australia has given me quite a solid foundation in regard to our region, its people and needs. Personal passions are the Alternatives to Violence Project, a grass roots volunteer organisation that runs workshops in conflict resolution in schools, prisons and communities all over the world, as well as just about any form of sustainable living. Ask me about my food garden and I will need another page!



I look forward to being involved in the WAFPN and supporting our legal workers in the community even more by organising meetings and sharing relevant information via this network as well as improving our service delivery.

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

It's No Secret: Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence National Conference

The topic of violence and abuse in Australia is at the forefront both politically and socially.

Nationally, there is a need to make a difference but how do we, what can we do better, what needs to change?

Waratah presents a full and dynamic program that will meet the diverse interests and professional requirements of the multitude of people working in the community with victims of abuse and violence. The conference will explore what is being provided in different states and territories of Australia to meet the needs of victims of abuse and violence, the community, and to direct change at a social and political level.

24 & 25 November 2016
Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre
Registration \$490

For more information or to register visit
<http://www.waratah.asn.au/view/about-us/events>

Australian Stop Domestic Violence Conference

With an improved focus and awareness on the effect of Domestic and Family Violence within Australia, the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association is providing a national unified platform to discuss the strain of Domestic Violence on Australian resources and facilities.

With a focus on building skills within the sector, this conference will include discussion and presentations around policy, research and practice with a particular emphasis on innovative and emerging responses.

5-7 December 2016
Mercure Brisbane
Early bird registration from \$580

For further information or to register visit
<http://stopdomesticviolence.com.au/>

Globalisation: Challenges for Young People and the Community

PCYC presents the inaugural Youth and Community Justice Conference with the aim to present, highlight and provide a better understanding of how positive and negative global factors shape and impact the lives of young people and society. Keynote speakers will explore the impact that organised crime, child abuse, drug proliferation, domestic violence, radicalisation and cybercrime has on young people, minority groups, families and communities. Speakers

will also explore the challenges that these issues present to the law enforcement bodies such as the WA Police and the Court System and the impacts and challenges associated with the implementation of effective engagement and intervention approaches.

26 & 27 October 2016
Burswood on Swan
Registration \$385

For further information or to register visit
<http://www.wapcyc.com.au/content/page/youth-and-community-justice-conference.html>

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

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

Understanding parenting disputes after separation

This report explores the behaviour of separated parents by exploring the psychology of post-separation parental disputes and then interrogating three independent data sets to see what further insights they provide on the issues.

Focus groups with family law professionals and interviews with parents point to recognisable patterns of behaviour among significantly conflicted separated parents. The sense of injustice, the extent of the humiliation or trauma resulting from the experience of abuse, or the degree to which communication has broken down will impact on the capacity of separated parents to reach a resolution that works for the children, as well as the capacity of the practitioner to assist in that process. The skill of the practitioner in "difficult cases" will always come down to engaging with the particular issues and dynamics and reflecting them back to the client with empathy and without judgement.

[Read the full article.](#)

Moloney, L., Smyth, B., Richardson, N., & Sally Capper, S. (2016). *Understanding*

parenting disputes after separation (Research Report No. 36). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Father involvement and children's psychological adjustment: maternal and paternal acceptance as mediators

Research has shown that father involvement and children's perceived parental warmth contribute significantly to children's psychological adjustment. This study examines the mediating role of parental acceptance (i.e. that of mothers and fathers) between the father's involvement and the child's psychological adjustment in terms of personality dispositions and behavioral problems (internalizing and externalizing).

The use of a structural equation model revealed that both father involvement and parental acceptance made significant and independent contributions to children's outcomes. However, relationships between father involvement and children's outcomes were mediated by both paternal acceptance and paternal acceptance via maternal acceptance. Father's residential status, and children's sex and age were considered as moderators.

The father involvement in resident fathers had a stronger impact on perceived paternal acceptance, and father involvement on children's psychological adjustment was no longer significant for boys (not girls) when parental acceptance is considered as mediator. No age differences were found in the tested model.

In conclusion, the findings show that the father's involvement creates an interpersonal context of love and

warmth by which both the father and the mother increase the child's psychological adjustment.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Rodríguez Ruíz, M. M., Carrasco, M. Á., & Holgado-Tello, F. P. (2016). *Father involvement and children's psychological adjustment: maternal and paternal acceptance as mediators*. *Journal of Family Studies*, 1-19.

Postdivorce Parenting: A Study of Recently Divorced Mothers and Fathers

Divorce is challenging for parents with children, commonly resulting in a series of individual and interpersonal adjustments. The time immediately following divorce can be particularly difficult. This study used a modified grounded theory approach to explore the experiences of 99 recently divorced mothers and fathers. Analysis of written narratives revealed 4 emergent groups of parents who described their postdivorce parenting experiences: good divorce, good enough, bad to better, and bad. Each group described their experiences across several areas including coparenting, father involvement, challenges of single parenting, personal turmoil, and their children's adjustment. Implications for research and divorce education are discussed.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Ferraro, A. J., Davis, T. R., Petren, R. E., & Pasley, K. (2016). *Postdivorce Parenting: A Study of Recently Divorced Mothers and Fathers*. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 1-19.

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

AIFS resource sheet: The economic costs of child abuse and neglect

Nationally, approximately \$4.3 billion was spent on child protection, out-of-home care services, family support services and intensive family support services in 2014-15, which was an increase of 5.8% (\$239.2 million) from 2013-14. Of this expenditure, out-of-home care services accounted for the majority (56.2%, or \$2.4 billion). Since 2011-12, the national expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care services has shown an average annual increase of 3.9% per year for the past 4 years, equating to a total increase of \$472.5 million.

For every child aged 0-17 years in the Australian population, real recurrent expenditure on family support services, intensive family support services, child protection and out-of-home care services was approximately \$815 per child in 2014-15. This figure has increased from \$752 in 2011-12.

View the full resource sheet [here](#).

AIFS infographic: Hands-on dads have more satisfying relationships with their children

AIFS have developed an infographic outlining the benefits of a strong father-child relationship. View the infographic [here](#)

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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Our Aim

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

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services

