



Australian Government



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

COFFS
HARBOUR

April 2014



FLPN NEWS

The FLPN is getting a website. The website is currently in the development phase and means we will have a new email address very soon.

The next time you receive this newsletter it will be in a enews format.

You will also be able to register and pay for FLPN events online.

The 2014 FLPN Conference program has been finalized and registrations are now open. The Conference will be held at the Opal Cove Resort and promises to be an exciting local event.

You will find a conference program on the next page and registration attached to the newsletter email.

THIS ISSUE:

FLPN Conference Program—Page 2

FLPN Upcoming Events—Page 3

Local Events—Page 3 & 4

National Events—Page 5 & 6

Research and Reports—Page 6,7,8 &9

Resources Page— 10

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. Helen Keller

For further information or to contribute to this newsletter please email chipscoffs@gmail.com or call 0438 115 758



Conference Program

23rd May 2014

Fractured Families - the Trauma Associated with Dysfunction

Time	Topic	Presenter
8.45—9.15	Registrations	
9.15—9.30	Welcome and Introductions Welcome to Country Overview of the Day	John Reynolds Uncle Terry Donovan Jane Corcoran <i>Conference MC</i>
9.30—10.30	<i>Overview of changes to Developmental Disorders in DSM V.</i>	John Blythe <i>Child, Adolescent & Family Psychologist</i>
10.30—11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00—12.00	<i>Is alcohol and other drug use that important in family matters?"</i>	Nick Paris <i>Child, Adolescent & Family Psychiatrist</i>
12.00—1.00	<i>Family Violence: Impact in Family Law</i>	Vivien Carty <i>Family Law Barrister</i>
1.00—2.00	Lunch	
2.00—3.00	<i>The Implications of Attachment Disorder for legal decision making.</i>	John Blythe <i>Child, Adolescent & Family Psychologist</i>
3.00—3.30	Questions for the Panel	Jane Corcoran
3.30—4.00	Evaluation, Door Prizes & Conclusion	John Reynolds



FLPN Upcoming Events

When helping you is hurting me:

Secondary Trauma

A three hour workshop for workers who assist people who have or are experiencing trauma.

Tuesday the 29th of April

9.30 to 12.30

Curran Centre Coffs Harbour

Please note this event is full. If you wish to indicate an interest in attending a similar future event please email chipscoffs@gmail.com

Fractured Families—the Trauma

Associated with Dysfunction

The 2014 FLPN Annual Conference

Friday the 23rd of May

Opal Cove Resort

Local Events

Asset Based Community Development Training

Mid Coast Communities will be hosting ABCD Training Workshops in Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie in May 2014.

The guest facilitator is Dee Brooks. Dee is an accredited Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) trainer, Facilitator of the ABCD Asia Pacific Network, and an international faculty member of the ABCD Institute. Dee's background is in youth work, community research and community development. She provides Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) & Facilitating Group Processes training for a range of services, organisations and government departments and additionally assists them with community inclusive strategic planning.

If you have an interest in building the strengths within your community, you really must attend this workshop.

Go to the Mid Coast Communities website for full details and registration. <http://midcoastcommunities.org.au/>

More Local Events

- **Anger Management Programs running .**
8 week program @\$160.00
Runs continually.
- **Positive Parenting Program**
8 week Program @ \$160.00
29th April 2014
- **Cook on a Budget**
8 week program @ \$160.00
- **Drug and Alcohol Program**
8 week course @ \$160.00
Starts on 28th April, 2014

All Courses include lunch and the program can be paid off @\$20.00 a week!

Email: admin@bridgingthegapcoffs.com.au

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Date: Mon 19 and Tues 20 May 2014

Time: 9—3.30pm each day

Venue: Australian Psychological and Wellness Centre, Shop 3 Stoker House, 19 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour

Bookings: Call 02 6652 8111 to book and pay

Cost: \$100 per participant

Trainer: Mark McGrath

<http://www.cex.com.au/community/c-ex-community-crew-sleep/>



C.ex
COMMUNITY
CREW
SLEEP OUT
It's our community.

WHEN: Thursday 26 June, 6pm - 8am
WHERE: C.ex Coffs Rainbow Room
GET INVOLVED: We need your support. Calling for sponsors and participants.

CARRIE SKINNER
Community Relations Manager
E: carrie.skinner@cex.com.au
P: Direct 02 6691 9251
Club 02 6652 3888



National Events



13th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference: *Families in a rapidly changing world*

Melbourne Convention Centre, 30 July - 1 August 2014

[Early bird registration closes 8 May](#)

Symposium - Improving Responses to Men Sexually Abused in Childhood: Confronting the Complexity

12 June 2014, Brisbane QLD

This event will present current research and practice evidence about the impact of child sexual abuse on men, the difficulties they can confront in accessing support, and the development of appropriate interventions and innovations in service delivery.

To Register: Complete Registration Form and email mensscsymposium@griffith.edu.au before 30 May 2014.

Leading practice - making a difference in the lives of children and families

Moorabbin, Victoria, 14-15 May

This conference is jointly hosted by Connections UnitingCare, and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency with the aim of promoting innovation and challenging the status quo.

<http://connections.org.au/conference/>

Excellence in Professional Practice Conference 2014

The conference is presented by practitioners, for practitioners. The 2014 theme is Teachers driving school improvement, as ACER recognises that, every day, teachers and school leaders are responsible for improving learning among students.

16th to 17th May 2014

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Website: <http://www.acer.edu.au/eppc>

Contact person: Margaret Taylor





National Events

Communities in Control 2014: The Lucky Country Conference

Australia's most inspiring social movement - the biggest and best annual not-for-profit sector gathering.

Moonee Valley Racing Club
Moonee Ponds, MELBOURNE
Monday & Tuesday, May 26 & 27, 2014

<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/>

Research and Reports

[Understanding child neglect](#)

Child neglect is one of the most common forms of maltreatment. This paper provides a broad overview of the complex issues of child neglect. It aims to generate discussion points for practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

[Online safety](#)

This paper provides information about online safety for children and young people, and outlines relevant resources available to parents.

[Victorian Family Law Pathways Network Launches Mobile App: iRefer Vic](#)

The Victorian Family Law Pathways Network has launched its first app, 'iRefer Vic,' a searchable directory of programs and services available to Victorian families and professionals within the family law sector.

[Understanding and engaging parents of children in care](#)

How would you feel if your children were removed? Angry? Devastated? Despairing? These are the emotions reported by parents attending the Relationships Australia, Hunter 'Kids in Care' group - run over a 6-week period for parents whose children are in the care of the Department of Family and Community Services (NSW).



Research and Reports

[Knowledge Circle](#) is a resource to support workers in their efforts to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children safe and happy in their communities.

Recent news items on Knowledge Circle include:

[Gulanga Children & Families Activity Book - Gulanga Program](#)
[New centre to give Aboriginal children in East Gippsland a strong foundation](#)

Links to a range of [practice resources and sector-based information](#) to assist you in your work

Report - Parenting Status of Community Correctional Clients

This research project, conducted by VACRO, collected data on the parenting and contact status of Community Correctional Services (CCS) clients in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Report - Women Defendants to AVOs: What is their experience of the justice system?

Women's Legal Services NSW (WLS) undertook an exploratory study of its 2010 experience of representing women who were defendants to Apprehended Domestic Violence Order ('AVO') proceedings in order to better understand these clients and their needs.

Call for Submissions - National Review of Existing Mental Health Programmes and Services

The National Mental Health Commission has announced a Call for Submissions as an important contribution to the national review of mental health services and programmes.

NDIS - Resources for mental health consumers and carers

The Mental Health Council of Australia has worked with the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF) to develop information for mental health consumers and carers about the NDIS.

Report - Residential care services for children (VIC)

This audit found that the residential care system has insufficient capacity and capability to respond to the level of demand and growing complexity of children's needs. This affects the quality of care provided and reduces opportunities for children to achieve positive outcomes while in care.

Report - Out-of-home care: A five year plan (VIC)

The five year plan sets out the Victorian Government's intention to reform the way the out-of-home care system operates to drive better personal, social and economic outcomes for children and young people in care.

Report - National Snapshot of Youth Work

This Report was developed to address a gap in the collective knowledge of youth work, and build a solid evidence base to assist young Australians and the sector that supports them.



Research and Reports

Report - Talking with Children and Young People about Child Safe/Child Friendly Organisations

This report presents the outcomes of a consultation with children and young people about Child Safe/Child Friendly Organisations, which was conducted by the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner.

Resources - Resources available for National Child Abuse Prevention Month (USA)

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the USA, and the Child Welfare Information Gateway has brought together a collection of resources to help parents and professionals engage with awareness and prevention efforts.

Trauma-informed services and trauma-specific care for Indigenous Australian children Judy Atkinson | *Resource sheet no. 21* produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse

As well as the inter-generational effects of the historical trauma, Aboriginal children may experience other kinds of trauma just as non-Aboriginal children do. Research with Aboriginal children and families that focuses on trauma is really just beginning. This paper draws particularly on practice experience documented by trauma and re-search experts as well as neurodevelopmental literature.

[Source: CFCA]

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/uploadedFiles/ClosingTheGap/Content/Publications/2013/ctg-rs21.pdf>

Review of early childhood parenting, education and health intervention programs for Indigenous children and families in Australia

Jennifer Bowes and Rebekah Grace | *Issues paper no. 8* produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse

This paper reviews prevention and early intervention research literature that is focused on improving outcomes for Australian Indigenous children in the early childhood years. It sets out the characteristics of programs and their implementation for which the evidence demonstrates positive outcomes for children and families. [Source: CFCA]

http://www.aihw.gov.au/uploadedFiles/ClosingTheGap/Content/Our_publications/2014/ctgc-ip08.pdf

Bullies and victims face mental health risks

A Queensland study has shown that the effects of bullying, whether as perpetrator, victim, or both can be seen in young people some years after the bullying has stopped. The mental health consequences vary according to the individual's role, suggesting the need for ongoing monitoring. [Source: CFCA]

<http://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2014/01/bullies-and-victims-face-mental-health-risks>

Children with low self-esteem respond worse to overpraise

E. Brummelman | Utrecht University

Praising children is natural, but inflating praise in an effort to boost a child's self-esteem may actually have unintended consequences for children with low self-esteem. This brief article on 'The Conversation' outlines the findings of research into the effects of praise, and inflated praise, on children. [Source: CFCA]

<http://theconversation.com/children-with-low-self-esteem-respond-worse-to-overpraise-21765>



Research and Reports

Children and family violence: finding the right responses

Cathy Humphreys | Insight 9

In situations of family violence, moving the children into the child protection system is too often the default response. In this brief article, Cathy Humphreys argues for a focus on how mothers and their children can be kept together. [Source: APOne] [Source: APOne]

<http://apo.org.au/files/Research/>

[VCOSS_Insight9_ChildrenAndFamilyViolenceFindingTheRightResponses_Jan_2014.pdf](http://apo.org.au/files/Research/VCOSS_Insight9_ChildrenAndFamilyViolenceFindingTheRightResponses_Jan_2014.pdf)

Another piece of the puzzle:

The “sleeper effect” of intimate partner violence on young children’s aggressive behaviour

A study of children exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV) in their very early years shows what seems to be a sleeper effect – effects that do not manifest themselves until several years after the abuse has stopped, possibly arising from more frequent interaction with other children and adults. More research into the mechanisms is clearly needed to allow the knowledge to be used to identify and support children who may be at risk of becoming aggressive. [Source: Prevention Action]

<http://www.preventionaction.org/research/another-piece-puzzle-sleeper-effect-intimate-partner-violence-young-children-s-aggressive>

Mellow mothers, mellow babies?

Research in Scotland suggests that, when working with mothers experiencing post-natal depression, attending to the mother’s mood alone does not necessarily lead to better outcomes for her child. This article briefly outlines the benefits of an intensive program aimed at improving not just the mother’s own emotional health but also at building the bond between the mother and child. [Source: Prevention Action]

<http://www.preventionaction.org/research/mellow-mothers-mellow-babies/6006>

Same-sex parented families in Australia

Deborah Dempsey | Australian Institute of Family Studies

This research paper examines Australian and international literature on same-sex parented families, the different modes of conception or family formation, different family structures, and the small number of studies on bisexual and transgender parents. The outcomes for children parented by same-sex couples and the quality of the research in this area are discussed. [Source: CFCA]

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/papers/a145197/index.html>

Leaving a child home alone: Considerations for parents and professionals

This brief paper notes some of the key issues relating to how parents might approach the issue of leaving a child alone and contains some tips for making decisions. It also contains links to related articles and resources. [Source: CFCA]

<http://aifs.govspace.gov.au/2014/02/18/leaving-a-child-home-alone-considerations-for-parents-and-professionals/>



Resources

UPDATED RESOURCES: Effects of child abuse and neglect for adult survivors and Effects of child abuse and neglect for children and adolescents

Updated January 2014

These resources draw together literature on the potential short- and long-term effects of child abuse and neglect that may extend into adulthood. They cover: types of abuse and neglect; factors affecting the consequences of abuse and neglect; long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect; and limitations of the research. [Source: CFCA]

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/pubs/factsheets/a146123/index.html>

A resource for workers with children and young people

'A Wide Lens' is a free on-line learning and training resource developed by Pete Slattery for the NSW Dept of Family & Community Services. It is intended for workers (and trainers) with children and young people. It is a mapping tool, a holistic way of looking at those we work with. It presents a model of three worlds: the internal and external worlds of the child or young person, and the third world, the assets & resources of the helper, worker, the carer. With videos and animations 'A Wide Lens' takes you through a series of questions to help identify what is terrific and what is less-so in a person's world...and asks what we might be able to offer: to add, strengthen, minimise or maximise in the worlds of the those we work with, and asks also: what can we access from our own worlds to assist in this process? You will find it here:

<http://www.youthworkmatters.com/a-wide-lens-free-online-learning-resource-for-workers-with-children-and-parents/>

LEGAL AID NSW - Children's Legal Service

The Children's Legal Service, CLS, is a specialist unit of the Legal Aid NSW. Solicitors advise and represent children and young people under 18 involved in criminal cases in the Children's Courts. The aim is to ensure that children and young people have access to professional, face-to-face or telephone- based legal advice at any stage of their legal proceedings. Solicitors at a number of regional offices represent children and young people in Children's Courts at various locations throughout the state. These include: Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Lismore, Orange, Tamworth, Wagga and other courts serviced by those offices.

BURN is a short film with a crime prevention message that is part of Legal Aid's Community Legal Education (CLE) program for young people. It aims to increase young peoples' awareness of the laws around group offending and robbery as well as their rights when dealing with the police. Also on the Burn site there are a number of Information Sheets about various topics of interest to young people. They can be accessed under Legal Information.

<http://burn-movie.com.au/>

There are a number of CLE publications available for young people. There is lots of great factsheets and documents in relation to Young People and the law and they are available free at [Legal Aid publications online](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/order-a-publication) - <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/order-a-publication>