



Australian Government



Family Law  
PATHWAYS  
NETWORK

COFFS  
HARBOUR

January 2014



## **WHAT IS THE FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK?**

Family Law pathways Networks are an initiative of the Australian Government Attorney generals department, established in response to the need for improved coordination within the family law system.

## **BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION**

- Access to the latest information about services offered by other network providers.
- Gain an understanding of programs, services, aims and approaches within the sector.
- Hear expert opinions on the latest research and developments in family law.
- Learn about the latest collaborative projects and news in family law.
- Meet other service providers in person and develop professional contacts.
- Take part in professional development and training activities.

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***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](mailto:chipscoffs@gmail.com) or call 0438 115 758***



## **FLPN Upcoming Events**

**Thursday 27 February 2014, 10 am—12 pm**

### **AVO for Aboriginal Workers—Grafton**

This forum will include information on;

- What is an AVO and how are they obtained
- The law covering AVO's
- Interim and final orders
- What to do if you have a client who needs protection or a client who is served with an AVO.

**Friday 14 March 2014, 10 am—12 pm**

### **Family Violence and Separation—Coffs Harbour**

Stay posted for updates on this forum.

**Friday 28 March 2014, 9 am— 4.30 pm**

### **REPAIR™ Program Workshop with Grant Sinnamon**

The REPAIR™ Program is a six-step set of intervention and practice guidelines for people working with traumatised children and adults.

This interactive workshop will offer some practical tools that can be immediately applied regardless of participant level of skills and knowledge.

**Friday 23 May 2014, 9am— 4 pm**

### **FLPN Annual Conference**

#### **Fractured Families—The Trauma Associated with Dysfunction**

Guest speakers will include John Blythe, Child and Adolescent Psychologist specialising in the behavioural, emotional and educational wellbeing of kids.

***Please email [chipscoffs@gmail.com](mailto:chipscoffs@gmail.com) for more information or call 0438 115 758***



## **Local Events**

### **What ever happened to happily ever after?**

A relationship seminar all about how to keep the spark alive, love languages, emotional bank accounts and much more...

Thursday February 13th

5:30 to 8:00

### **Positive Parenting**

An interactive seminar on positive communication and parenting techniques.

Thursday 13th of March

10:00 to 1:00

### **Being a Grandparent**

An interactive seminar for grandparents all about connecting and being a role model.

Thursday 20 March

10:00 to 1:00

### **The Challenge of Disciplining Your Children**

Constructive techniques for disciplining and encouraging your children.

Thursday 27th March

10:00 to 1:00

### **Parenting Teens**

Setting boundaries and communicating with your teenager.

Thursday 3rd of April

10:00 to 1:00

### **PLEASE NOTE ALL SEMINARS**

\$20 per person, \$30 per couple

Interrelate 24 Park Av, Coffs Harbour

**Bookings: 6659 4100**



## **Planning for a Quality Future when Carers Cannot Provide as Much Support**

**10 February and 3 March 2014**

Highly acclaimed speaker Professor Colleen Cartwright and Senior Researcher Jocelyn Craig will provide a 2 day Intensive Training program for Case Managers and Support Staff.

[Download flyer](#) | [Register here](#)

## **Motivational Interviewing Workshops**

**12 February 2014 – Kempsey**

**19 February 2014 – Port Macquarie**

**21 February 2014 – Coffs Harbour**

Motivational interviewing is now recognised as a core skill set for human service workers. Developing initial motivation for change and maintaining it' is challenging at the best of times. This workshop will cover a range of core skills that can enhance effective practice in working collaboratively with clients.

The workshops are open to anyone but priority will be given to NGOs who receive FaCS | Community Services funding.

[Download flyer](#) | [Register here](#)

## **Save the Date: Coffs Coast Social 101 Program event in February 2014**

The School for Social Entrepreneurs is coming to Coffs on **Wednesday 5 February**- an open invitation to discuss social entrepreneurship in Coffs Coast communities.

## **Legal Training Sessions for Community Workers**

Redfern Legal Centre will run a few short FREE legal training sessions for community workers in Coffs Harbour in 2014.

The sessions will be delivered by webinar. The Centre would like to know what legal topics community workers in the Coffs region might be interested in. The Centre will then publicise the chosen topics, with dates and times, in February 2014.

[Check out the list of possible topics here](#) and select ones that might be interest you. Direct enquiries to:[nick@rlc.org.au](mailto:nick@rlc.org.au)

## **The NGO Learning Centre Update Dec 2013**

[Check out the Update here](#). NGO training coming up in Coffs Harbour: Child Protection Dynamics – 6-8 May 2014.



## National Events

### **Child Aware Approaches Conference**

#### **Sharing, Building and Recognising Child Aware Innovation** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 31 March-1 April 2014

Jointly hosted by Families Australia and the Department of Social Services, this conference will highlight

research and innovation in the delivery of child-aware services.

<http://www.childaware.org.au/index.asp?IntCatId=14>

### **Australian Grief and Bereavement Conference 2014**

#### **Melbourne, 26-28 March 2014**

Keynote speakers at this conference will discuss working with bereaved families, conceptualising caregiver shock, insights from neuroscience about attachment and loss, complicated grief treatment, and building a bridge between practice and research.

[http://www.grief.org.au/conference/about\\_the\\_conference](http://www.grief.org.au/conference/about_the_conference)

### **Helping Families Change Conference**

#### **February 19-21, 2014, Sydney**

The Helping Families Change Conference is a leading international scientific event. The conference is of

interest to practitioners, policy makers, and researchers working with families in the health, education, and welfare sectors, and to graduate students with an interest in child and family issues. Those attending will be presented with state-of-the-art knowledge, contribute to debate, and engage in hands-on practice with leaders in the field of family intervention.

<http://helpingfamilieschange.org/>

### **Congress Lowitja 2014 Many mobs. One vision: Creating a healthy future**

#### **Melbourne, 19–20 March 2014**

In line with Our Dreaming, Congress Lowitja will:

Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community views and opinions are promoted

Bring together our three stakeholder groups (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, researchers and policy makers)

Provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, particularly emerging researchers, to participate and present at a national level conference

Ensure knowledge exchange/translation of pre-eminent evidence and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

<http://www.lowitja.org.au/congress-lowitja-2014>

### **Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA)**

**Update** Save the Date for the ACWA 2014 Conference 18 – 20 August 2014 Sydney, Australia



## **50 years on: Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking**

**Canberra, 26-28 March 2014**

The conference will bring together multi-disciplinary expertise from across the Indigenous studies sector, including researchers, policy makers, community members, academics, representative organisations,

consultants, traditional owners and service providers. The AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference attracts a broad range of delegates including:

- Indigenous people,
- academics,
- non-government service providers,
- federal and state government departments and agencies across all areas of policy,
- private and corporate sectors; and
- international indigenous peoples and agencies.

The conference presents a unique opportunity to communicate information about your research, projects and programs with a wide audience and to benefit from discussion around shared areas of interest.

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/50yearson.html>

## **Research and Reports**

### **Child Deaths 2012 Annual Report**

This year's report focuses on domestic and family violence and includes lessons learned from a review of Community Services' practice with the families of 466 children who died between 2007 and 2012 where domestic and family violence was a reported concern. The review found that responding to reports of domestic and family violence presents particular challenges and that child protection intervention needs to be informed by the best possible understanding of the dynamics and risks associated with domestic and family violence.

[Click here to view report.](#)

### **Children's Rights Report 2013**

The Report outlines five key themes that the Commissioner has identified for progressing better protection of children's rights in Australia.

[View report.](#)

### **Family Law**

#### **Independent Children's Lawyer Study: Facts sheet for families**

This project examined what Independent Children's Lawyers (ICL) do to help children in separated families, and whether – and how - having an Independent Children's Lawyer involved in family law proceedings made things better for children and young people. This Fact Sheet summarises the study and its findings.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/icl/pubs/icl-fs2013.html>



## **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Young People**

**The social and emotional wellbeing of indigenous youth. Reviewing and extending the evidence and examining its implications for policy and practice. Muru Marri School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Australia**

This report presents the learnings from reviews from literature and policy, and from in depth case studies of six programs that use art and mural making, caring for country, cultural celebration, school pro-grams and mentoring to promote social and emotional wellbeing. The messages have been distilled to support the translation of this information to enhance policy, resource allocation decisions, and practice.

[http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/sphcm/Centres\\_and\\_Units/IYSEWB\\_ResearchReport\\_MM.pdf](http://www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/sphcm/Centres_and_Units/IYSEWB_ResearchReport_MM.pdf)

## **Domestic Violence**

**Working with fathers who perpetrate family violence  
Rodney Vlasis, | Child Family Community Australia**

This brief article is based on a recent webinar. It outlines key issues in this space and points to some program responses. A link to the webinar transcript and slides is also available from the AIFS website

<http://aifs.govspace.gov.au/2013/12/02/working-with-fathers-who-perpetrate-family-violence/>

## **Domestic and family violence and people from immigrant and refugee backgrounds**

**Fast Facts 11 | Tahlia Trijbetz, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse**

Shame and fear are common obstacles to reporting domestic violence. For victims from immigrant and refugee backgrounds, the challenges relating to disclosure and accessing services are often more

complex. This fact sheet highlights key issues for immigrant and refugee victims and common recommendations from the literature on how to improve their access to justice, services, and protection.

[http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/documents/Fast\\_Facts\\_11.pdf?utm\\_source=ADFV+Clearinghouse+Enews+Subscriber+List&utm\\_campaign=c358319a94-eNews\\_March\\_20131\\_30\\_2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_78ab4767ff-c358319a94-38318565](http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/documents/Fast_Facts_11.pdf?utm_source=ADFV+Clearinghouse+Enews+Subscriber+List&utm_campaign=c358319a94-eNews_March_20131_30_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_78ab4767ff-c358319a94-38318565)

## **NSW Police Code of Practice for responding to Family Violence**

The revised Code of Practice for the NSW Police Force response to Domestic and Family Violence is now available from the NSW Police website (link above). For your information.

[http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/165202/DFV\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_FINAL\\_-\\_Updated\\_Jan\\_14.pdf](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/165202/DFV_Code_of_Practice_FINAL_-_Updated_Jan_14.pdf)



## **Mental Health**

**Managing madness: mental health and complexity in public policy**  
**Sebastian Rosenberg and Ian Hickie | Brain and Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney**

This paper explores the concept of collaborative care, particularly in relation to a range of new models of organisation and service that are emerging in response to one of the most problematic areas of public policy – mental health. [from the abstract]

<http://journal.anzsog.edu.au/publications/6/EvidenceBase2013Issue3.pdf>

## **New Policies & Programs**

### **Changes to Working with Children Check**

The deadline for the first phase-in group for the new Working With Children Check has been extended from **31 Dec 2013** to **31 March 2014**, as this takes into account the practicalities for employers and organisations of operations during the summer break.

Anyone who has started a new job in paid child-related work since the new system came into force on **15 June 2013** must apply for a Working With Children Check clearance, and give their clearance or application number to their employer for verification. For full details click [here](#)

For those already in child-related work, (including volunteers and self-employed persons) who did not hold a child-related employment certificate on 15 June 2013, the Check is being phased-in over coming years. The first groups being phased-in need to have their clearance or application number to their employer by the new deadline 31 March 2014. The deadline extension is part of several improvements to the working with Children Check that came into effect 6 Dec 2013. For full details of Amendments click [here](#)

**Young mothers with a mental illness** in NSW will be given additional support so that their children can stay with them while they receive treatment in the community under a ground-breaking program launched by the NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries.

Mr Humphries said the \$12 million state-wide initiative, Mums and Kids Matter, builds on the successful HASI program and will ensure more mothers will not be separated from their children while they undertake their journey to recovery from their mental illness.

[Find more information here \(PDF\).](#)





## New Victims of Crime Support Scheme

The NSW Attorney General has announced a new victims support scheme that will result in victims of violent crime receiving faster and more effective assistance. The new scheme provides a coordinated approach to information, support and referral, with an emphasis on immediate assistance and access to free counselling.

It will assist victims with urgent needs such as medical and dental treatment, home security upgrades or for crisis accommodation to avoid further violence.

Find out more about the changes:

[http://www.victimsservices.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vss/vs\\_index.html](http://www.victimsservices.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vss/vs_index.html)

## Resources

### Legal Aid Coffs Harbour Clinic

Effective 1 March 2014

Civil Law – Tuesdays 9.30 to 11.30. No bookings required.

Family Law – Wednesdays 9.30 to 11.30. Bookings required. Please call 6651 7899

Criminal Law – Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30. No bookings required.

**LawAssist** now have videos for clients on the following topics: information and practical guides that can help people represent themselves in

- [Finding your courtroom](#)
- [Asking for an adjournment](#)
- [Pleading guilty](#)
- [Pleading not guilty](#)
- [Presenting your case at a defended hearing](#)
- [Responding to an application for an Apprehended](#)
- [Violence Order \(AVO\)](#)
- [Applying for an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order \(ADVO\)](#)
- [Small claims](#)

Here is the link:

[http://www.lawassist.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/lawassist/lawassist\\_videos.html](http://www.lawassist.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au/lawassist/lawassist_videos.html)

### Helping Parents talk to their kids about drugs

The Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) has launched a new resource – a site that assists parents to have ‘The Other Talk’ with their children about alcohol and other drugs. The new resource is a first port-of-call for families, with information that can make the discussion easier. The new initiative provides parents with all the information they need so they feel confident to talk openly with their kids about alcohol and other drugs.

One of the resources includes an SMS service that provides parents and young people with information about particular drugs, instantly.

Access the website at <http://theothertalk.org.au/>