

FRSA 2nd National Conference ‘Children and Families: Reducing Risk, Building Resilience’

Conference Program

Preconference: Tuesday November 24

8.00 am – 8.00 pm **Registration Desk Open**

9.30-4.30 **Preconference Workshop A**
Perspectives on Risk Assessment and Safety with Families Affected by Violence
Ballroom I
Facilitator: Les Stahl (Facilitation Plus Australia)
Key presenters:

- The Hon. Chief Justice Diana Bryant (Family Court of Australia)
- Professor Janet R. Johnston (San Jose University, US)
- Dr Lawrie Moloney (Australian Institute of Family Studies)
- Dr Lesley Laing (University of Sydney)
- Professor Hilary Astor (Sydney Law School)
- Associate Professor Helen Rhoades (Melbourne Law School)
- Dr Andrew Bickerdike (Relationships Australia VIC)
- Dixie Link-Gordon (Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women’s Corporation)
- Robyn McIvor (Relationships Australia VIC)
- Walter Ibbs (Legal Aid VIC)
- Margot Rogers (Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria)

Sponsored by the Attorney-General’s Department

Preconference Workshop B
Working with Children and Young People to Support Recovery and Build Resilience
Hyde Park Room
Facilitator: Jonathan Toussaint (Interrelate Family Centres)
Key presenters:

- Anthony Douglas (CAFCASS, UK)
- Dr Neerosh Mudaly (Monash University)
- Carla Meurs (EASE)
- Neville Evans (Family Court of Australia)
- Joan Hughes (Carers Australia)
- Chantelle Day (Young Carer Ambassador)
- Temukisa Vaeluaga (Kildonan UnitingCare)
- Kerri McGregor (Youth Involvement Council)
- Jennie Hannan (Anglicare WA)
- Mary Miles (Gateway Community Health)
- Lila Beamish (Upper Murray Family Care)

Sponsored by the Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

6.00 – 7.30 **Welcome Event**
Ballroom I
Host: Anne Hollonds (CEO Relationships Australia NSW), Conference Reference Group Chair
Welcome Messages from Conference Partners:

- Toni Pirani (Attorney-General’s Department)
- Robyn Fleming (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)

Guest Speaker: Raizing resilience for those a little less lucky, Danielle Dal Cortivo (raize the roof)
Performances by: Thullii Dreaming and Circo Blurto
Interactive display: Drumbeat

Conference Day I: Wednesday November 25

7.00 am - 7.00pm	Registration desk open		
8.30 – 8.45	Delegates are asked to take their seats in Ballroom 1 by 8.45		
	Ballroom 1		
8.45 - 9.00	Master of Ceremonies: Les Stahl (Facilitation Plus Australia) Welcome to Conference: Sue Holmes (FRSA Chairperson) Welcome to Country: Michael West of the Gamilaroi Nation		
9.00 – 9.30	Time for Action: Reducing Violence against Women and Children in Australia Libby Lloyd AM (Violence Against Women Advisory Group)		
9.30 – 10.30	Understanding Domestic Violence Allegations In Child Custody Disputes: From A Great Debate To A Framework For Action Professor Janet Johnston (San Jose University US)		
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea		
10.40	Product Launch: 'When mums and dads talk: about parents separation' Sue Wigginton (Centacare Brisbane)		
11.00 – 11.45	Towards Best Practice: the Family Court's Response to Family Violence Chief Justice Diana Bryant (Family Court of Australia) The Family Courts and Violence Issues: Rethinking the Fundamentals Professor Richard Chisholm AM (University of Sydney) Convener: Amanda Parkin (Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia)		
11.45 – 12.05	Performance: Choir of No More Knocks		
12.10 – 1.00	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room
	Research Presentation: Children's Pathways in High Conflict Divorce: The Influence of Interventions and Parenting Patterns. Associate Professor Jenn McIntosh (La Trobe University)	Research Presentation: Lessons from the Stronger Families and Communities Evaluation: Strategies to Engage Hard to Reach Families. Professor Ilan Katz (Social Policy and Research Centre) and Professor Alan Hayes (Australian Institute of Family Studies)	Research Presentation: The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma in Intimate Partner Homicide. Dr Carolyn Harris Johnson (Curtin University)
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch Break		
1.20	Film Screening: Kids Business (20min excerpt)		

2.00 – 3.15

Concurrent Session I

Ballroom 1

Integrating Family Law Services

Building better working relationships between the Federal Magistrates Court and Family Relationship and Family Dispute Resolution Services, Federal Magistrate Michael Jarrett, Federal Magistrate Keith Slack and Senior Family Consultant Marie Adams (Federal Magistrates Court of Australia)

The Collaborative Rubik's Cube-steps towards solutions together, Julie Jackson and Colleen Brown (Legal Aid WA)

A Pilot Program to Target Legal Information and Advice to Vulnerable Parties: the Experience of Family Relationship Centres and Legal Aid in WA, Mandy Flahavin (Relationships Australia WA) and Stephen Clarke (Centrecare)

Ballroom 2

Impact of Disability & Caring on Family Relationships

Facilitated by **Joan Hughes** (Carers Australia). Panel Members include:

Tania and Warren Hayes, Tania is a Carer Ambassador for Carers Australia. Tania and Warren speak to many audiences about disability and caring

Stephanie Gotlib (Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability)

Karen Jorgensen (Eastern Access Community Health)

Daniel Moss (UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide)

Hyde Park Room

Turning Things Around – Intensive Support to Address Violence and Risk

Breaking the Inter-generational Dynamic of Family Violence, Professor Thea Brown (Monash University)

What's Changed? Findings from Men's Domestic Violence Programs, Tibor Mokany (BCS Lifecare), Pamela Lewis and Rebecca Gray (Relationships Australia NSW)

Helping Families Change: A Review of the OzChild Intensive Therapeutic Family Support Program, Lynne McCrae and Kim Mackay (OzChild)

Phillip Room

Children in the Crossfire I

An intervention for High Conflict Families that works!, Bruce Robertson (Centacare Broken Bay)

Building Resilient parent/child relationships in complex cases: Children's Contact Service- More than supervised contact, Samantha Aldridge (Relationships Australia QLD)

Building resilience in children living in high conflict separated families, Lisa Whittaker-Nichols (Anglicare WA)

Castlereagh 1

Working with Stepfamilies

Step Parents and Family Law, Stephen Clarke (Centrecare) and Dr Pamela Henry (Edith Cowan University)

Becoming Stepfamily Inclusive – Lessons from the Field, Daniela Zimmermann and Steve Martin (Stepfamilies Australia)

The Brady Bunch Breakup, Social and Legal Deficiencies in Supporting Children when Blended Families Breakdown, Cassandra Dowling (Centacare Tasmania)

Castlereagh 2

And Baby Makes Three ... Supporting New Parents

Early Parenting: An interdisciplinary approach to integration, Elaine Bennett (Ngala)

Using the "Brain and Emotional Development in the Early Years" Workshops to promote resilience and reduce risk in families, Dr Bronwyn Harman (Edith Cowan University)

Parent Child Mother Goose, Paula Mobach (Gateway Community Health)

3.15 – 3.45

Afternoon Tea

3.25 Product Launch: '400 + Questions Kids Have About Relationships' Karen Morris (Interrelate Family Centres)

3.45 – 5.15

Concurrent Session 2

Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Castlereagh 1	Castlereagh 2
<p>Integrating Family Support</p> <p><i>Communities for Children-catalysing collaboration through a new method of program governance and delivery, Sue Ellis and Andrew Anderson (The Benevolent Society)</i></p> <p><i>The Blue Mountains Consortium: A case study in organisational capacity building and collaborative practice, Tanya James (Blue Mountains City Council) and Kerry Thomas (Lower Mountains Family Support Service)</i></p> <p><i>Keeping Kids In Mind (KKIM)-Case management in practice: A case study of 'integration', Ann O'Brien and Marie-Claire Cheron-Sauer (KKIM Consortium)</i></p>	<p>Shared Care Decision-making</p> <p><i>How children fare in shared care: existing research and new directions in depth enquiry, Christina Sadowski (University of Ballarat) and Dr Jenn McIntosh (LaTrobe University)</i></p> <p><i>The pathway the client constructs when negotiating post separation parenting arrangements, using mediation, legal, and other services, Professor Thea Brown (Monash University)</i></p> <p><i>The child should at least be able to be heard. Concepts of 'wishes' and 'views' in children's participation in family law decisions that affect them' Dr Alan Campbell (University of South Australia)</i></p>	<p>Youth at Risk</p> <p><i>The Alive and Kicking goals in Ireland project: Building resilience in youth and families with small steps towards big dreams, Joe Tighe (Men's Outreach Service, Broome)</i></p> <p><i>The Rainbow Service-Bridging the Gap in Service Delivery to LGBT Community, Chris Pye (Relationships Australia QLD)</i></p> <p><i>Keeping it Together – Multi Family Group Work to Keep Parents and Teenagers Connected, Heather Dalby (University of Sydney)</i></p>	<p>Children in the Crossfire 2</p> <p><i>Children's participation in Family Relationship Centres: A cornerstone in strengthening the wellbeing of children following their parents' separation, Professor Anne Graham and Dr Robyn Fitzgerald (Southern Cross University)</i></p> <p><i>Helping Children make Meaning of Parental Separation and Divorce: Relational lifelines for individual resilience, Simon Curran and Jamie Lee (Relationships Australia SA)</i></p> <p><i>Family Dispute Resolution: A human rights model of practice, Christopher Dole (Relationships Australia TAS)</i></p>	<p>Staff Safety in Family Service Settings</p> <p><i>Understanding the difference between reactive and proactive aggression: A key to intervention, Fiona McDonald and Michael Sheehan (Relationships Australia WA)</i></p> <p><i>Managing critical incidents in the Family Relationship Centre Environment, Kathy Wood and Cheryl Charlesworth (Relationships Australia NSW)</i></p> <p><i>Multi-level approach to managing risk of violence in child and family services, Neha Prasad and Karen Bevan (UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families)</i></p>	<p>Family Pathways Networks</p> <p><i>Service Integration: The Family Pathways Network Way, Rebecca Eberle, Sheri Brooks and Karen Keegan (Upper Murray Family Care)</i></p> <p><i>Walking the talk of integrated service delivery, Francesca Gerner (VIC Family Law Pathways Network) and Rosa Silvestro (Federal Magistrates Court)</i></p> <p><i>The role of Family Pathways Network to build resilience amongst practitioners, Michelle Rowe and Stephen Clarke (WA Family Pathways Network)</i></p>

6.30 for 7.00 start

Conference Dinner @ Opera House Marquee

Music by Peppermint Jam / Bollywood dance performance by Dance Central

Dress: Smart Casual and wear your dancing shoes!

Conference Day 2: Thursday November 26

7.15 - 8.30	FRSA Breakfast and AGM - Hyde Park Room	
8.45 - 9.00	Delegates are asked to take their seats in Ballroom 1 by 9.00 sharp	
9.00 - 9.30	Australian Relationship Dynamics, Vulnerabilities and Resilience: New Insights from Current Research Alan Hayes (Australian Institute of Family Studies)	
9.30 - 10.15	Resilience Strategies for Tough Times - for Individuals and for Wider Systems Anthony Douglas (UK Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service – known as Cafcass)	
10.15 - 10.30	Performance: Alana Valentine's 'Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah' Sheridan Harbridge and Toni Scanlan will perform a 15 min excerpt directed by Aarne Neeme from Alana Valentine's play exploring family conflict between a niece and her aunt over the wearing of the hijab.	
10.30 - 11.00	Morning Tea	
10.40	Product Launch: 'Renovating your Relationship: A Manual for Men', Andrew Bickerdike (Relationships Australia VIC) and Andrew King (MensLine Australia)	
11.00 - 12.15	Ballroom 1 Measuring Impact - Are Families and Communities Better Off? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Measurement Framework for the Not-for-profit Sector, Robert Fitzgerald (Productivity Commission) Social value creation and tools for measuring it: Social Return on Investment, Cheryl Kernot (Centre for Social Impact) Measuring the Social Impact of Creating Capable Communities, Jo Cavanagh (Family Life) Convener: Robyn Fleming (FaHCSIA)	Ballroom 2 Building Resilience through Engagement, Empowerment and Self-help Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation and Empowerment – Giving Kids a Voice, Gillian Calvert (NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People) Child Support Agency: Building Resilient Families, Katrina Baird (Child Support Agency) Emotional Fitness and Literacy, Cynthia Morton (Emotional Fitness Australia) Convener: Kasy Chambers (Anglicare Australia)
12.15 - 1.00	Concurrent Session 3	
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	
1.20	Film Screening: 'Yajilarra' To Dream: Aboriginal Women Leading Change in Remote Australia	
2.00 – 3.30	Concurrent Session 4	
3.30 – 4.00	Afternoon Tea	
3.40	Product Launch: 'Expressions cards', Lynne McCrae (Ozchild)	
4.00 – 4.30	Looking Forward: Building a Service Delivery System for the Families of Tomorrow , Sue Holmes (Family Relationship Services Australia)	
4.30 – 5.00	Closing Address: Attorney-General, The Hon Robert McClelland MP	
5.00 -5.15	Reflections and Close	

12.15 - 1.00

Concurrent Session 3

Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park Room	Castlereagh 1
<p>The Wellbeing of Children after Separation</p> <p><i>An update on the Well Being of Children Following Parental Separation and Divorce Research Consortium, an ARACY Funded Project.</i></p> <p>Facilitated by Professor Thea Brown (Monash University)</p>	<p>Cultural Competence with Refugee and Migrant Families</p> <p><i>Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities around family and relationships, Sonia Vignjevic (Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre) and Dr Khairy Majeed (Mackillop Family Services)</i></p>	<p>Mental Health Issues – Impact and Responses</p> <p><i>Family Relationships and Mental Illness: Impact and Service Responses, Elly Robinson (Australian Institute of Family Studies)</i></p> <p><i>The stories of CLAN WA clients: living with and supporting a family member with mental illness, Dr Bronwyn Harman (Edith Cowan University)</i></p>	<p>School Based Relationship Programs: a Foundation for Building Resilience</p> <p>Karen Morris (Interrelate Family Centres)</p>	<p>Building Evidence Informed Practice: A Beginners Guide to Evaluation</p> <p><i>A Beginners Guide to Evaluation, Robyn Parker (Australian Institute of Family Studies)</i></p>	<p>HOPE: Hands on Parenting Education</p> <p>Helen Rimington (Drummond Street Relationship Centre)</p>

2.00 – 3.30

Concurrent Session 4

Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park Room	Castlereagh 1
<p>Policy and Programs: Future Directions</p> <p><i>Issues in Family Law, Toni Pirani (Attorney-Generals Department)</i></p> <p><i>Impact Past, Present and Future – 3 years of FRSP data will inform the developing Family Support Program, Robyn Fleming (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)</i></p>	<p>Collaborative Practice – Family Dispute Resolution and Family Law</p> <p><i>Collaborative family dispute resolution: A team synergy, Jonathan Toussaint, Lorraine Lopich and Julie Dale (Interrelate Family Centres)</i></p> <p><i>Beyond the rhetoric: Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice in Action, David Roberts (Relationships Australia NSW)</i></p> <p><i>Meeting the challenges facing school-aged children when post separation conflict gets in the way of 'having a life', Francesca Gerner and Patricia Boyhan (Centacare Catholic Family Services)</i></p>	<p>Father Inclusive Practice</p> <p><i>Father Inclusive Practice – Practical Issues, Andrew King (MensLine Australia) and Dr Richard Fletcher (Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle)</i></p> <p><i>Hello, is there anyone out there? Imprisoned fathers' experiences of the family law changes and how Family Relationship Centres can help them and their children, Norma Williams (Centrecare)</i></p> <p><i>Engaging fathers from intake through to counselling, Monica Robertson (Children's Protection Society)</i></p>	<p>Cultural Competence with Indigenous Families</p> <p><i>Model of practice for mediation with Aboriginal families in Central Australia, Don Mallard and Cheryl Ross (Relationships Australia NT)</i></p> <p><i>Building each other's strengths and capacity-towards cultural competence for services working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and organisations, Mark Lawrence (SNAICC)</i></p>	<p>Evaluation and Research Methodology in Service Settings</p> <p><i>Embedding Research in Practice: Research within Family Relationship Centres in Australia, Elly Robinson (Australian Institute of Family Studies)</i></p> <p><i>Acrimony, alliance and child focus - measuring the impact on Family Dispute Resolution outcomes, Kerry Pearmain and Catherine Fitch (FRC Gold Coast)</i></p> <p><i>Assessing for violence – a progress report on research into family and domestic violence in Family Relationship Centres, Sue Rice (Centacare Rockhampton) and Paula Washington (Centacare Townsville)</i></p>	<p>Parent Engagement</p> <p><i>Partnering with parents: Beyond aspiration to inspiration, Ian Dalton (Australian Parents Council)</i></p> <p><i>Parenting in Place: Exploring parenting and socioeconomic position in the context of neighbourhoods, Megan Shipley (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)</i></p>

Study Tours

Friday November 27, 8.30am – 2.30pm

New Developments in Services for Children

Join **Dr Alan Campbell** who will facilitate discussion on the links between research, training and emerging practice as you observe and explore emerging and innovative service delivery models for working with children at 3 locations in Sydney's west. FRSA Deputy Director Steve Hackett will also accompany this tour group.

This tour will visit:

Supporting Children after Separation Program - SCASP (Unifam) – Parramatta - SCASP is a relatively new service model that has three main components including child consultation, short term individual and family therapeutic services and a suite of community education programs for local services and schools.

Children's Contact Service - CCS (Relationships Australia NSW) – Blacktown - The CCS provides an emotionally and physically safe place for children. CCS staff work within a framework of child focussed and child informed practice. A visit to this busy service will showcase a holistic model operating within a cottage in a regular suburban setting.

R.E.A.C.T.T. (BCS – Lifecare) - Bankstown - BCS LifeCare has developed and evaluated a new psycho-educational anger management group called R.E.A.C.T.T. that utilises a unique collaboration between traditional youth-workers and clinical counsellors. The program is unique with a whole-of-family approach to assessment and screening, provision of pre- and post- group care, and a cross disciplinary approach.

Strengths Based Approaches to Family Support

Join **Judi Geggie** who will facilitate discussion on the links between research, training and emerging practice as you observe and explore strengths based approaches to family support work across 3 locations in Sydney. FRSA Communications Officer Bonnie Montgomery will also accompany this tour group.

This tour will visit:

Newpin Family Centre (Uniting Care Burnside) - Bidwill - The Newpin focus is on supporting the relationship between parents and children. Parents attend parenting education and therapeutic support groups and have opportunities for hands on supported play with their children. Staff work beside parents to provide honest feedback and encouragement identifying positive parent / child interactions.

Mudgin-gal (Mudgin-gal and RANSW) – Redfern -Mudgin-gal is an Indigenous family support service based in the Redfern area and offering services to Aboriginal women and families for over 17 years. This holistic project promotes healthy family relationships, reduces family violence and child abuse by training and supporting Aboriginal family mentors to provide guidance and support to young Aboriginal parents.

Partnerships in Early Childhood (PIEC - Benevolent Society) – Waterloo - PIEC links families from high-density inner city housing to support services and programs by utilising childcare centres as a 'bridge' for families to other services.

Working with Invisible Groups of Men

Join **Andrew King** who will facilitate discussion on the links between research, training and emerging practice as you uncover a number of programs working with invisible or hard to reach groups of men and fathers in Sydney. This study tour will explore men and family relationship programs that attract men's involvement, when other programs find it difficult. FRSA Executive Director Sam Page will also accompany this tour group.

This tour will visit:

Lifestart Program for Dads who have a child with a disability – (Lifestart Centre) - Pennant Hills. This long established program has been running regular workshops or playgroups for Dads over many years. The programs provided alternates between playgroup experiences and/or Dad's workshops. Staff will speak about the dad's workshops. This group of men is often invisible and families where a child has a disability are more likely to experience family separation.

Dad's and Kids Playgroups – (The Infants Home) – Ashfield. Strengths based focus on positive interaction and parenting skills. These groups are jointly facilitated by participating fathers and early childhood educators and have had a very successful established program running dad's and kids playgroups for over 10 years.

The UTurn program – (CatholicCare Sydney) - Enmore - Focus: DV and Anger Management Programs, working with the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community. The UTurn program is a 15 week course designed to reduce the incidence of domestic violence. The safety and best interests of children underpins the model, with a focus on child development and the experience of the child in the relationship.