



Family Relationship Services
A U S T R A L I A



FRSA Inaugural National Conference

Collective Wisdom: together we are better

5-7 November 2008

Shangri-La Hotel, The Marina Cairns

www.frsa.org.au

PROGRAM

Getting to and from the conference:

- The Shangri-La Hotel, The Marina Cairns is approximately 10 minutes by road from the Cairns International Airport. Taxis, minibuses, and limousine services can be found on the ground floor of the domestic and international arrival halls.
- On Wednesday 5 November FRSA will provide a bus from the airport to the Shangri-La at 9am and 10am - look for directions from the luggage collection area.
- On Friday 7 November FRSA will provide a bus from the Shangri-La Hotel to the airport at 1pm and 2pm.

Useful contacts:

- The Shangri-La Hotel The Marina Cairns
www.shangri-la.com
or 07 4031 1411
- Coral Tree Inn
www.coraltreeinn.com.au
or 07 4031 3744
- The Sebel Harbour Lights Cairns
www.mirvachotels.com
or 07 4057 0800
- Rydges Plaza Cairns Hotel
www.rydges.com
or 07 4046 0300
- Cairns Visitor Information
www.cairns.com.au
- Black and White Taxi's Cairns
www.blackandwhitetaxis.com.au or 131 008

Welcome

On behalf of FRSA, it is my great pleasure to welcome our members, partners, colleagues and sponsors to our inaugural National Conference.

Our theme is carefully chosen - Collective Wisdom; together we are better - which will be expertly demonstrated through out the conference, by representing what is already happening across our sector and by highlighting possibilities available now and for the future.

Recent research provides the following conclusive and exciting finding: "...nonprofits that pursue their missions through networks of long-term, trust-based partnerships consistently achieve more sustainable mission impact..." (Social Innovation Review Spring 2008 p 43).

This finding reinforces the evidence of our own experience that collaboration can produce better knowledge and ways of working to improve community benefits. This conference is therefore designed to promote opportunities for all participants to grow personal, organisational and cross sector knowledge and networks. Our grateful thanks to the organising committee, keynote speakers, presenters, sponsors and supporters who have contributed to creating this significant event which brings together representatives from across our national membership and colleagues from practice, policy and research.

We look forward to your feedback and hearing how we can all do more together with our shared concern to meet community needs which are growing in magnitude and complexity.

Please come ready to share, network, learn, enjoy the diverse social program and enrich yourself and others.

Best wishes

Jo Cavanagh

Conference Chair

FRSA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the conference reference group:

Jo Cavanagh
(Chair)

Helga Biro
(Centacare Cairns)

Jennie Hannan
(Anglicare WA)

Judi Geggie
(Family Action Centre)

Karen Field
(Drummond Street Relationship Centre)

Karen Morris
(Interrelate Family Centres)

Mary Mertin-Ryan
(Crisis Support Services)

Michelle Hood
(Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)

Rina Onorato
(Australian Government Attorney-General's Department)

Sally Kelynack
(Relationships Australia QLD)

Tibor Mokany
(BCS Lifecare Counselling and Family Services)

Tuesday 4 November

9.30 - 10.00	Registration Registration desk open	Conf Centre
---------------------	---	-------------

TIME	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS	LOCATION
10.00 - 5.00	The Art of Leadership , Karen Morley (Melbourne Business School Asia Pacific Centre for Leadership for Social Impact)	Ballroom A
	Where Cultures Meet , Sharon Payne (Family Relationship Services Australia)	Marina Room 1
	Re-partnering with Children , Daniela Zimmerman (Stepfamilies Australia)	Marina Room 2
	Working with Men , Andrew King (Mensline Australia)	Marina Room 3
	Collaborative Divorce , John Carmody & Chris Lissard (International Collaborative Training Resources)	Fleet Room 1
	Family Group Conferencing , Patricia Kiely (UnitingCare Burnside)	Fleet Room 2

3.00 - 7.00	Registration Registration desk open	Conf Centre
--------------------	---	-------------

6.00 - 7.00	<p>Welcome Event Jo Cavanagh (Chair, FRSA Conference Reference Group)</p> <p>Message from principal sponsors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue Pidgeon (Family Pathways Branch, Attorney-General's Department) - Robyn Fleming (Family Relationship Services Branch, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) <p>Light refreshments will be served</p> <p>Entertainment will be provided by the Balaclava State School Choir and the Baiwa Dance Company</p>	Poolside Terrace
--------------------	--	------------------

Day 1: Wednesday 5 November

8.00	Registration Registration desk open	Conf Centre
8.30 - 9.15	Recreational activity: Laughter Yoga <i>Jill Knell (Soul in the Workplace) will help you to learn how to laugh unconditionally. It's scientifically proven to be good for your head, heart, hands and spirit. So join in and laugh until it works! No experience or special clothing required. *** Free ***</i>	Trinity Room 1

TIME	SPEAKERS	LOCATION
9.30 - 9.50	Welcome to country Ken Reys, Local Elder	Ballroom
	Welcome to Conference Nigel Collin (MC) & Tony O'Hare (FRSA Chairperson)	Ballroom
9.50 - 10.10	Opening Address The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Attorney-General	Ballroom
10.10 - 11.00	Keynote: Rethinking Sexual Freedom Professor Clive Hamilton (Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics)	Ballroom
11.00 - 11.30	Morning tea	Terrace
11.30 - 12.30	Panel: Vision and action steps for achieving a paradigm shift in the way we respond to family separation involving dispute and conflict Moderator: Federal Magistrate Norah Hartnett • Deputy Chief Justice Faulks, Family Court of Australia • Assoc. Prof. Helen Rhoades (Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne) • Ian Kennedy AM (Chair, Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia)	Ballroom
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch	Dining Room
1.30 - 3.00	Concurrent Session 1	
3.00 - 3.30	Afternoon tea	Ballroom
3.30 - 4.15	Concurrent Session 2	
4.15 - 5.00	Plenary: Importance of story in community and its ability to provide role models to parents and children Leonie Norrington, <i>Children's Author</i> . Sponsored by Relationships Australia	Ballroom
6.30 - Late	Conference Dinner **Included in conference registration**	Pool side

Concurrent Session 1

Wednesday 1.30 - 3.00	Inter-professional Practice - Family Lawyers and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners <i>Enhancing inter-professional relationships in a changing family law system,</i> Associate Professor Helen Rhoades (Melbourne Law School) <i>Collaborative practice in Canberra and Australia - what has worked, what has not worked, where are we now?</i> Julie Dobinson (Dobinson Davey Lawyers) <i>Collaborative practice in the sticks- what does it take?</i> Rebecca Eberle & Helen McGowan (Upper Murray Family Care)	Trinity Room 1
	Engaging Indigenous Communities & Families <i>Engaging with Indigenous communities in Cape York,</i> Trevor Binjuda & Josephine Pascoe, (Relationships Australia QLD) <i>Cross-cultural representation - Moordjiti Yarning,</i> Jan Woodland (Relationships Australia WA) <i>Reflections on delivering group programs to uniquely diverse audiences,</i> Leanne Broadbent (Anglicare WA)	Trinity Room 2
	Integrated Approaches to Intake and Assessment <i>Working together for sustainable outcomes,</i> Lil Beamish & Karen Irwin (Upper Murray Family Care) <i>Innovative approaches to assessment and service delivery,</i> Karen Field & Helen Rimington, (Drummond Street Family and Relationships Centre) <i>Crossing program boundaries,</i> Samantha Aldridge & Natasha Rae (Relationships Australia QLD)	Marlin Room 1
	Working with Schools and Early Childhood Settings <i>Restorative conferencing,</i> Margaret Hunter (Upper Hume Community Health Service) and Maree Cribbes (Wodonga Middle Years College) <i>Working together for young families - Relationships Australia NSW and Sydney Day Nurseries Children's Services,</i> Gary Hodson (Relationships Australia NSW) <i>Fathers using Networks (FUN) for Kids programs,</i> Scott Hall (Relationships Australia VIC)	Marlin Room 2
	Relationship Enrichment <i>Overview of research on family strengths and engaging families in programs to strengthen relationship,</i> Robyn Parker (Australian Institute of Family Studies) <i>'Once you step into the forest' On risks and loss in personal relationships,</i> Dr Diana Borinski (CatholicCare) <i>A 4 year evaluation of Group work in Western Sydney - what have we learnt? What really works?,</i> Patricia Kiely (UnitingCare Burnside)	Lagoon Room

Concurrent Session 2

Wednesday 3.30 - 4.15	Expert panel discussion - safety for women and children in family relationship services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elspeth McInnes (University of South Australia) • Lisa Whittaker-Nichols (Anglicare WA) • Zoe Rathus (Griffith University) • Thea Brown (Monash University) 	Trinity Room 1
	Embedding a public health approach to mental health within a family relationship service Karen Field & Reima Pryor (Drummond Street Family & Relationship Centre)	Trinity Room 2
	New accreditation requirements for family dispute resolution practitioners Toni Pirani (Attorney-General's Department)	Marlin Room 1
	Working with local communities and schools for drought affected families Anne Gilchrist (Relationships Australia NSW)	Marlin Room 2
	Enhancing parenting capacity <i>Participatory action research: Improving the capacity of parents to respond to children's needs</i> , Associate Professor Mary Oliver (University of South Australia) <i>Come help us play: The importance of play and strategies to engage families</i> , Christopher Dole (Hobart FRC, Relationships Australia Tasmania)	Marlin Room 3
	Sourcing useful data and research <i>Sourcing useful data and statistics: Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse and other resources</i> , Elly Robinson (Australian Institute of Family Studies) <i>Relationship Indicators Survey 2008</i> , Rhonda Lawson Street (Relationships Australia National)	Lagoon Room

Day 2: Thursday 5 November

TIME	SPEAKERS	LOCATION
8.00	Registration desk open	
9.00 - 9.05	Welcome	Ballroom
9.05 - 9.45	International Keynote: Strengthening families: using evidence to build effective policies and interventions Professor Michael Little (Dartington Social Research Unit, UK and Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago)	Ballroom
9.45 - 10.10	Keynote: Child and family policy in Australia Barry Sandison (Families Group Manager, Department of Families Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)	Ballroom
10.10 - 10.30	Questions and responses from the sector	
10.30 - 11.00	Morning tea	Terrace
11.00 - 12.30	Concurrent Session 3	
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch break	Dining Room
1.30 -1.50	Keynote Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, Minister for Human Services	Ballroom
1.50 - 2.30	Australian Government Panel: Strategic issues for family relationship services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Miller (Child Support Agency, Department of Human Services) • Sue Pidgeon (Family Pathways Branch, Attorney-General's Department) • Robyn Fleming (Family Relationship Services Program Branch, Department of Families Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) 	Ballroom
2.30 - 3.00	Research Presentation: The evidence for father engagement Dr Richard Fletcher (Family ActionCentre, University of Newcastle)	Ballroom
3.00 - 3.30	Afternoon tea	Terrace
3.30 - 4.20	Concurrent Session 4	
4.20 - 4.30	JUTE Theatre play reading	Ballroom
4.30 - 5.00	Keynote Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector	Ballroom
6.30 - Late	Social Networking Dinners ** pre-booking required ** Tjapukai - Aboriginal Culture Park Ocean Spirit Dinner Cruise Donninis Ristorante	Various

Concurrent Session 3

Thursday 11.00 - 12.30	Models of mediation <i>Is staged mediation appropriate?</i> , Dr Alan Campbell (Hawke Research Institute) <i>Innovative models of mediation in family relationship centres</i> , Professor Thea Brown (Monash University) & Jill Armstrong (Family Life) <i>Transformative dispute resolution</i> , Jennie Hannan (Anglicare WA) & Lesley Bracebridge (Anglicare WA)	Trinity Room 1
	Inter-professional practice - family relationship services and child protection <i>Child protection and family law</i> , Megan Solomon (UnitingCare Unifam) <i>Collaborative practice and innovation: A partnership between child protection and community services</i> , Gaby Thomson (Anglicare Victoria) and Cyndi Grant (Child Protection Victoria) <i>Integrating secondary and primary services - lessons from Child FIRST North East Metro</i> , Bernadette Burchell (Children's Protection Society)	Trinity Room 2
	Developing culturally responsive practice in early intervention services <i>Working with Greek fathers and families</i> , Poppy Hearn (Australian Greek Welfare Society) <i>Engaging culturally diverse families with complex adolescent issues: An Integration of Two Programs</i> , Lyndal Power (Relationships Australia NSW) <i>Working with families from Sub-Saharan Africa</i> , Mohamed Ibrahim Abdi (QPASTT)	Marlin Room 1
	Introduction to core communication skills training <i>Enhance intrapersonal and interpersonal competence: A person's ability to communicate, resolve and facilitate issues within self and with/between others</i> , John Carmody & Chris Lissard (International Collaborative Training Resources)	Marlin Room 2
	Engaging men and dads <i>What is 'father engagement' and how do you do it?</i> , Jennifer St George (Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle) <i>Product launch: Reflections on training practitioners to work with men</i> , Andrew King (Mensline Australia) <i>Reflections on developing a father inclusive practice</i> , Simon Lenten & Andrew Rush (Children's Protection Society)	Marlin Room 3
	Post separation parenting and patterns of shared care <i>Equal and unequal shared care: preliminary findings from the Child Support Reform Study</i> , Professor Bryan Rodgers (The Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute, Australian National University) <i>Shared parental responsibility and children's best interests</i> , Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw (Hawke Research Institute) <i>What mum did what dad did - past patterns of care</i> , Becky Batagol (Lecturer, Monash University) & Zoe Rathus, Senior Lecturer (Griffith University Law School)	Lagoon Room

Concurrent Session 4

Thursday 3.30 - 4.15	Social inclusion and mutual obligation - current tensions in welfare policy reform Rachel Siewert (Senator for Western Australia, Australian Greens) & Kasy Chambers (Anglicare Australia)	Trinity Room 1
	Measuring child wellbeing <i>Epidemiology to measure children's outcomes (and influences upon this) in order to inform strategies and services for children and families,</i> Tim Hobbs (Dartington Social Research Unit, UK)	Trinity Room 2
	The power of child focus Jonathon Toussaint, Karen Morris & Rachel Evans (Interrelate Family Centres)	Marlin Room 1
	'Family connections' a parenting program with a difference Fiona McDonald & Michael Sheehan (Relationships Australia WA)	Marlin Room 2
	Collaborating for effective supervision Glenda Devlin (Anglicare NSW) & Christine Ockenfels (Anglicare WA)	Marlin Room 3
	SNAICC cultural access policy for children's services Julian Pocock (SNAICC)	Lagoon Room

Day 3: Friday 7 November

TIME	SPEAKERS	LOCATION
8.00 - 8.45	FRSA AGM	Marina Room
8.00 - 8.45	Recreational activity: Laughter Yoga <i>Jill Knell (Soul in the Workplace) will help you to learn how to laugh unconditionally. It's scientifically proven to be good for your head, heart, hands and spirit. So join in and laugh until it works! No experience or special clothing required. *** Free ***</i>	Trinity Room 1
9.00 - 9.05	Welcome	Ballroom
9.05 - 10.30	Community Leaders on Strategic Issues <i>What keeps us awake at night? Strategic issues for community organisations,</i> Dr Chris Jones (CEO, Anglicare Tasmania) <i>A national compact - what's in it for government, what's in it for the sector?,</i> Frank Quinlan (Executive Director, Catholic Social Services Australia) <i>Rethinking our priorities in the context of global events - an opportunity for leadership,</i> Lin Hatfield Dodds (President, Australian Council of Social Service)	Ballroom
10.30 - 10.45	Morning tea	Terrace
10.45 - 11.30	Concurrent Sessions 5	
11.30 - 12.30	Social Inclusion <i>Placing families with young children on the social inclusion agenda: the importance of multiple adversity,</i> Professor Bryan Rodgers (The Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute, Australian National University) <i>Religion and secularism from the social inclusion point of view,</i> Dr Marion Maddox (Centre for Social Inclusion, Macquarie University)	Ballroom
12.30 - 12.45	Conference Reflections Facilitated by Jo Cavanagh (Chair, FRSA Conference Reference Group)	Ballroom
12.45	Farewell Lunch	Terrace

Concurrent Session 5

Friday 10.45 - 11.30	Culturally responsive practice in family dispute resolution <i>Culturally responsive family dispute resolution,</i> Dr Susan Armstrong (University of Western Sydney) <i>Crosscultural exploration of mediation - a collaborative approach between Relationships Australia WA & Multicultural Services Centre WA,</i> Mandy Flahavin (Relationships Australia WA)	Trinity Room 1
	An introduction to parent effectiveness training for professionals Larissa Dann (ParentLine ACT)	Marlin Room 1
	Working with Stepfamilies <i>Introduction to re-partnering with children,</i> Daniela Zimmermann (Stepfamilies Australia)	Marlin Room 2
	Games we play in the third space <i>Non traditional methods of assisting with trauma and resettlement,</i> Jill Parris (Ecumenical Migration Centre, Brotherhood of St Lurance)	Marlin Room 3
	Practitioner consultation and update - evaluation of the family law reforms Lawrie Maloney & Kelly Hand (Australian Institute of Family Studies)	Lagoon Room

Principal sponsors



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
**Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

Sponsors



Catholic Social Services
Australia

Relationships Australia



Australian Government
Child Support Agency

ANGLICARE
CHANGING LIVES **WA**



interrelate
family centres

**Family Relationship
Services Australia (FRSA)**

PO Box 326,
DEAKIN WEST
ACT 2600

☎ 02 6162 1811

☎ 02 6162 1794

www.frsa.org.au