FRSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026 PROGRAM

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18-21 May 2026 | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

frsa Family & Relationship Services Australia

MONDAY 18 MAY 2026				
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP DAY				
8:00AM	**Registration Desk Opens**			
Room	Plaza P11	Plaza P6&P7	Plaza P9&P10	Plaza P8
	Workshop 1 Full Day Workshop	Workshop 2 Full Day Workshop	Workshop 3 Full Day Workshop	Workshop 4 Full Day Workshop
9:30AM – 10:00AM	**MORNING TEA ON ARRIVAL**			
10:00AM	Trauma and Healing Informed Care Dr Carmen Cubillo, Healing Circle Mob **Sponsored by** Relationships AUSTRALIA	Family Law Workshop **Resolving post-separation property/financial matters outside of the court system - Insights from AIFS research in the context of the Family Law Amendment Act 2024** Dr Rachel Carson, Australian Institute of Family Studies	Embedding practice improvement and monitoring, evaluation & learning (MEL) for evidence-informed child and family services Kat Goldsworthy, Emily McDonald, Sharnee Moore & Jessica Smart, Australian Institute of Family Studies	Intersectionality in Practice Lola-Mae Pink & Daisy Berry, Drummond Street Services
12:30PM – 1:30PM	**LUNCH**			
1:30PM	***Continued***	***Continued*** **AGD Update** Tom Browne, Attorney-General's Department **Consultation workshop: intersections between family law, family domestic violence and child sexual abuse** Alana Esposito & Lauren Barons, National Office for Child Safety, Attorney-General's Department	***Continued***	***Continued***
3:00PM – 3:30PM	**AFTERNOON TEA**			
3:30PM – 5:00PM	***Continued***	***Continued*** **Supporting Children Through Change: Embedding Children's Voices in System Design – Insights from the FCFCOA Children's Charter and Kids' Corner** Kerry O'Donohue, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia	***Continued***	***Continued***
End of Workshop Day				

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TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026	
7:30AM	Registration Desk Opens
PLENARY SESSION 1 Plaza Auditorium	
9:00AM	Welcome to Country **Aunty Sandra King OAM,** **Yagara, Koenpul, Ngugi, and Bundjalung Woman**
9:10AM	Welcome to Conference **Allison Wainwright, FRSA Board Chair**
9:20AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1 *Children say stop violence before it begins* **Deb Tsorbaris, National Children's Commissioner**
10:00AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2 *Creating Pathways to Safety: Prevention, Partnership and Purpose* **Sue-Anne Hunter, National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People**
10:40AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3 *Departmental Address* **Corri McKenzie, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Services**
11:15AM	MORNING TEA
PLENARY SESSION 2 Plaza Auditorium	
11:40AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4 *The Art of Storytelling – deconstructing the barriers for effective dialogue* **Kirk Docker,** **Co-creator of *You Can't Ask That***
12:30PM	LUNCH

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A					
Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	The early years	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session A1 **Chair: Sarah Pratt**	**Concurrent Session A2** **Chair: Leanne Strommen**	**Concurrent Session A3** **Chair: Matthew Horsfall**	**Concurrent Session A4** **Chair: Joanne Trentin**	**Concurrent Session A5** **Chair: Kira Duggan**
	Concurrent Presentation A1.1	**Concurrent Presentation A2.1**	**Concurrent Presentation A3.1**	**Concurrent Presentation A4.1**	**Concurrent Presentation A5.1**
1:30PM	The You with Me Approach: Supporting Strong, Culturally Responsive Child–Parent Relationships **Sophie Grobler, Uplyft**	Braving The Storm: Supporting Children and Families Post-Separation **Chanchal Yadav, Anglicare SA**	"We have separated, so why are we still living under the same roof?" **Tara Houseman & Michelle Irving, Relationships Australia NSW**	Evolving Support for Survivors: BaptistCare's Reflective Review of the Living Beyond Abuse Program **Belinda Harris, BaptistCare**	Telling the story of Family and Community Counselling Service: Implementation of an Evaluation Framework **Arielle Donnelly, Drummond Street Services & Melissa Rake, Centacare North Queensland**
2:00PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation A1.2	**Concurrent Presentation A2.2**	**Concurrent Presentation A3.2**	**Concurrent Presentation A4.2**	**Concurrent Presentation A5.2**
2:05PM	Supporting Young Families: The Benevolent Society's Holistic Maternal and Child Health Hub in Logan **Candel Nadruku, The Benevolent Society**	Kwinana Children's Voices on Safety: Children Shaping Safer Communities **Carolyn Alfonso, The Smith Family & Huia McGlinchey, Kwinana Early Years Services**	From Process to Connection: A Trauma-Informed, Child-Inclusive Approach to Supporting Families Through Separation **Adrian Mether & Heather Regan, Child and Family Services Ballarat**	Beyond Safety: Measuring Empowerment and Recovery in Family Violence Refuge and Outreach Services **Dr Sakiba Tasneem & Sylvia Planing, 54 reasons**	Restoring connections - A unique approach to empower and support family connections and meaningful outcomes **Kimberley Powell & Sharna Ridge, Uniting Communities**
2:35PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation A1.3	**Concurrent Presentation A2.3**	**Concurrent Presentation A3.3**	**Concurrent Presentation A4.3**	**Concurrent Presentation A5.3**
2:40PM	Kids Hub: A Continuum of Integrated Early Years Care* **Elise Cox, Parkerville Children and Youth Care & Rochelle Matacz, Pregnancy to Parenthood**	Centring the Voices and Lived Experience: Brave's Model of Lived Experience and Youth Advisory **Sue Wilson & Clarissa Allerton, Brave Foundation**	Every moment of contact - a systemic intervention for a better client journey **Maria Veronica Lopez, Danny Tanackovic & Lucy Broadbridge, Uniting NSW.ACT**	Evidence in Action: Key Findings from Talk4Change and their Implications for Practice **Tony Johannsen, Family Life**	Tuning in to Kids™ for Afghan mothers: More than a parenting program^ **Marzia Wardak & Aisha Mahboob, Relationships Australia Victoria**
3:10PM	AFTERNOON TEA				

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B					
Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	The early years	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session B1 Chair: Leanne Strommen	**Concurrent Session B2 Chair: Danielle Newport**	**Concurrent Session B3 Chair: Graeme Westaway**	**Concurrent Session B4 Chair: Graeme O'Connor**	**Concurrent Session B5 Chair: John Bouffler**
	Concurrent Presentation B1.1	**Concurrent Presentation B2.1**	**Concurrent Presentation B3.1**	**Concurrent Presentation B4.1**	**Concurrent Presentation B5.1**
3:45PM	Orana Early Childhood Intervention Baby Steps Program*^ **Christine Mills & Merryn Anderson, Orana Early Childhood Intervention**	From Birth to Adolescence: Flexible Therapeutic Approaches for Children Experiencing Family Violence **Tara Gilmour & Kirsty Mead, Centrecare Inc**	Navigating Complexity in Post Separation Co-Operative Parenting: Ethical and Practical Considerations of Interconnected Families **Trent Beven & Josie Comitti, Mallee Family Care**	We Gotta Have Faith, Faith, Faith – Re-imagining a MBCP. A Case for Complexity **Andi Doerr, AnglicareSA**	Echoes Through Time: Longitudinal Reflections on the Lasting Impact of Family Support Programs **Narelle Williams & Jade McIlfatrick, CatholicCare Victoria**
4:15PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation B1.2	**Concurrent Presentation B2.2**	**Concurrent Presentation B3.2**	**Concurrent Presentation B4.2**	**Concurrent Presentation B5.2**
4:20PM	Early socialisation through Playgroups plays a vital role in shaping children's development **Felicity Dunn, Playgroup Australia**	Story Catching for Change: Putting Children's Voices at the Heart of Evaluation **Julia Curtis, The Salvation Army**	Empowering families through collaborative FDR - Showcasing a holistic support model for complex family needs **Maree Daranjo, Centacare Brisbane**	Men's experience in relationship and support seeking: Relationship Indicators survey outcomes **Dr Briohny Kennedy, Relationships Australia National & Dr Glenn Althor, Relationships Australia NSW**	Adapting Empowering Parents Empowering Communities for Diversity and Inclusion^ **Julie Cooper, Lena Shahidi Khatib & Kylie Mason, Ngala Community Services**
4:50PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation B1.3	**Concurrent Presentation B2.3**	**Concurrent Presentation B3.3**	**Concurrent Presentation B4.3**	**Concurrent Presentation B5.3**
4:55PM	Engaging parents and carers in parenting programs - learnings from the BUGK program **Dr Michelle Harrison, Parenting Research Centre**	A Pracademic Reflection of What Has and Was Working Well – Capricorn Communities for Children **Dan Smith, The Smith Family**	Strengthening Service Impact Through Data: Insights from Routine Outcome Measurement Across Family Law Services **Melissa Stewart McSeveny, CatholicCare Sydney & Dr DongJu Lee, UNSW Centre for Social Impact**	Integrated Systems Responses to Complex Trauma for Children Impacted by Abuse, FDV, and Loss **Kate Pitt, Parkerville Children and Youth Care**	Core Skills for Life Research Project - Neuro Science from knowing to doing **Trish Landsberger, Kyabra Community Association**
5:25PM	END OF DAY 1				

** This presentation has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus*

^This presentation has a Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) focus

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WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026

PLENARY SESSION 3

Plaza Auditorium

9:00AM	Welcome **Leanne Strommen, Chair of the FRSA Sector Events Committee and FRSA Deputy Board Chair**
9:05AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 5 **The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Attorney-General**
9:10AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 6 *Exploring how reform and frontline practice intersect to support safer outcomes for families navigating increasingly complex circumstances* **Judge Kylie Beckhouse, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)**
10:00AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 7 **Micaela Cronin,** **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner**
10:20AM	PANEL DISCUSSION *Building the evidence for change: What does success look like in working with people who use violence?* **Chair: Jackie Brady, FRSA** **Panellists: Allison Wainwright, Family Life, Professor Silke Meyer, Griffith University, Michael Hawke, Anglicare SA & Dr Grace Jennings, Relationships Australia NSW**
11:15AM	MORNING TEA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C – SYMPOSIUMS

Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	Children and young people at the centre	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Family domestic violence**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session C1 Chair: Sarah Pratt	**Concurrent Session C2 Chair: Joanne Trentin**	**Concurrent Session C3 Chair: Graeme O'Connor**	**Concurrent Session C4 Chair: Allison Wainwright**	**Concurrent Session C5 Chair: Kira Duggan**
11:45AM	Working with Parents, Caregivers and Families of Trans & Gender Diverse Young People **Lola-Mae Pink & Daisy Berry, Drummond Street Services**	When Children Speak, Systems Shift: Four Pathways to Child-Centred Practice at 54 reasons **Oliver Hill, Erin Hoffman, Rebecca Jump, Ryan Montgomery & Chloe Reader, 54 reasons**	Family Violence in the Age of Technology **Steven Bradley, OurFamilyWizard**	Name.Narrate.Navigate: Evidence-Based, Trauma-Informed, and Culturally Responsive Practice with Young People Who Use and Experience Violence* **Professor Tamara Blakemore, Dr Louise Rak & Dr Meaghan Katrak-Harris, University of Newcastle**	Neurodivergent Families and Separation – Evidence into Practice **Elke Pitkethley, Jonny Ellis, Sharleen Das & Dr Sonia Kumar, Uniting NSW.ACT**
1:15PM	LUNCH				

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	The early years	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session D1 Chair: Lauren l'Anson	**Concurrent Session D2 Chair: John Bouffler**	**Concurrent Session D3 Chair: Graeme Westaway**	**Concurrent Session D4 Chair: Danielle Newport**	**Concurrent Session D5 Chair: Leanne Strommen**
	Concurrent Presentation D1.1	**Concurrent Presentation D2.1**	**Concurrent Presentation D3.1**	**Concurrent Presentation D4.1**	**Concurrent Presentation D5.1**
2:15PM	From Coolamon to Classroom: Aboriginal-Led Early Years Learning at the Champion Centre* **Jodie Clarke & Rhianne Isaac, City of Armadale**	The Power of Partnership to Support Children's Learning Transitions **Phobe So & Pamela Waine, The Benevolent Society**	Telephone Dispute Resolution Service: Managing a high volume, virtual Family Dispute Resolution Service **Lea-Anne Meehan, Relationships Australia Queensland & Jeremy Culshaw, Culshaw Legal Consulting**	Coercive control in family law services: Expanding practice through co-design and training **Professor Silke Meyer, Griffith University, Anita Bellgrove & Dr Chez Leggatt-Cook, UnitingCare Queensland**	Call the Midwife: Supporting the formation of intimate relationships benefits couples, families and communities **Rebecca Davies & Matthew Horsfall, Centacare Brisbane**
2:45PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation D1.2	**Concurrent Presentation D2.2**	**Concurrent Presentation D3.2**	**Concurrent Presentation D4.2**	**Concurrent Presentation D5.2**
2:50PM	Parkville Institute's intensive, multi-disciplinary ECEC program for young children and families living with significant disadvantage **Associate Professor Brigid Jordan, Parkville Institute & Dr Sandra Cheeseman, C&K**	The Magic of 'Maybe': Unlocking Power in Ambivalence When Working With Adolescents **Nathan Hoyle, Anglicare WA**	Reflective Practice in Supporting Families: Learning from the Therapeutic Space **Jhooma Barthwal, Better Place Australia**	Pathways to Healing: Embedding Trauma Therapy to Support Children Impacted by One Parent's Violence **Libby Bragg & David Roberts, Uniting NSW.ACT**	Insights from the 2025 Parenting Today national survey: How do parents use online parenting information? **Dr Michelle Harrison, Parenting Research Centre**
3:20PM	AFTERNOON TEA				

	CONCURRENT SESSIONS E				
Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	The early years	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session E1 Chair John Bouffler	**Concurrent Session E2 Chair: Joanne Trentin**	**Concurrent Session E3 Chair: Matthew Horsfall**	**Concurrent Session E4 Chair: Graeme O'Connor**	**Concurrent Session E5 Chair: Allison Wainwright**
	Concurrent Presentation E1.1	**Concurrent Presentation E2.1**	**Concurrent Presentation E3.1**	**Concurrent Presentation E4.1**	**Concurrent Presentation E5.1**
3:50PM	Relational Contracting and Reporting **Jody Salmon & Paul Oakes, Department of Social Services**	Drummond Street Services' In-house Evaluation Process and How to Co-design Evaluation with Young People **Jacob Peluso & Arielle Donnelly, Drummond Street Services**	From Intake to Impact: A Collaborative Model for Integrated Service Access at Interrelate Caringbah **Mellita Bate & Martin Meszaros, Interrelate**	Increasing client self-agency towards insight and response to relationship power imbalance **Rachel Windsor, Centacare Catholic Community Services**	Measuring Impact Through Connection: Evidence from the Adaptation of Volunteer Family Connect for Regional WA*^ **Jolene Olde, Uplyft**
4:20PM	5 MINUTE BREAK				
	Concurrent Presentation E1.2	**Concurrent Presentation E2.2**	**Concurrent Presentation E3.2**	**Concurrent Presentation E4.2**	**Concurrent Presentation E5.2**
4:25PM	Ready Set Go: Addressing Developmental Vulnerabilities Through Community-Based Kindergarten Readiness in Narrogin **Shannon Wierobiej & Kylie Dodd, Amity Health**	Your Voice and Youth Engagement - imbedding the voices of young people in decision making **Ben Pook, Sophie Falkenhagen & Fiona, Yourtown**	Applying a neuroscience lens to the client experience of FDR – A qualitative PhD study **Jacqui Leonard, Anglicare Sydney**	Safe ageing for all: The new national evidence on abuse of older people in Australia **Samantha Byng, Attorney-General's Department & Kira Duggan, Australian Institute of Family Studies**	Perinatal Grief: Holding Space for Silent Loss **Eileen Carison & Hannah Kroussoratsky, CatholicCare Victoria**
4:55PM	END OF DAY 2				
6:30PM – 11:00PM	GALA DINNER				

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THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS F					
Room	Boulevard B1	Boulevard B2	Plaza P9	Plaza P10	Plaza P11
	The early years	**Children and young people at the centre**	**Relationship breakdown and re-partnering**	**Family domestic violence**	**Across the Lifecourse**
	Concurrent Session F1 Chair: Graeme Westaway	**Concurrent Session F2 Chair: Lauren I'Anson**	**Concurrent Session F3 Chair: Matthew Horsfall**	**Concurrent Session F4 Chair: Leanne Strommen**	**Concurrent Session F5 Chair: Sarah Pratt**
	Concurrent Presentation F1.1	**Concurrent Presentation F2.1**	**Concurrent Presentation F3.1**	**Concurrent Presentation F4.1**	**Concurrent Presentation F5.1**
9:00AM	Building Resilience Through Relational Practices: Brave Foundation's Model of Mentoring **Sue Wilson & Clarissa Allerton, Brave Foundation**	Community Together: Moving from report to support, creating local change for vulnerable children and families **Allison Wainwright, Family Life**	Therapeutic Mediation: Trauma-Informed Support for Vulnerable Families in Regional Australia **Peter Stoyles, Christina Mallett & Sandra Charters, Centacare Geraldton**	Building a Shared Language of Safety: Embedding a Family Violence Practice Framework Across Anglicare Tasmania **Ben McGregor & Tameeka Crawford, Anglicare Tasmania**	The Who, What, When, and Why of Relationship Help-Seeking In Australia **Dr Jemima Petch, Relationships Australia Queensland & Melody Petersen-Tan, Relationships Australia Victoria**
9:30AM	**5 MINUTE BREAK**				
	Concurrent Presentation F1.2	**Concurrent Presentation F2.2**	**Concurrent Presentation F3.2**	**Concurrent Presentation F4.2**	**Concurrent Presentation F5.2**
9:35AM	Primary Prevention that works!! ALL Come Out to Play! **Nancylee Merzel, Playgroup Victoria, Amanda Testro, Hullaballoo Music for All & Arielle Donnelly, Drummond Street Services**	Community Springs, Rivers of Wellbeing: Co-Designing Culturally Affirming Wellbeing Frameworks with Children and Community* **Sandi Phoenix, Phoenix Support for Educators & Jeanine Zijerveld, Anglicare NT**	Catching Children Safely – How KidsAreFirst Transforms Families After Separation **Matthew Holland & Samantha Harris, Anglicare SA**	Practice & Research Collaborations: Insights from the development of a group program for child victim-survivors **Dr Grace Jennings & Dr Glenn Althor, Relationships Australia NSW**	Transformative support for young families **Amy Blair, YFS & Victoria Parker, The Lady Musgrave Trust**
10:05AM	**5 MINUTE BREAK**				
	Concurrent Presentation F1.3	**Concurrent Presentation F2.3**	**Concurrent Presentation F3.3**	**Concurrent Presentation F4.3**	**Concurrent Presentation F5.3**
10:10AM	Stronger Connections, Safer Childhoods **Shelley Fallowfield, Kids First Australia**	Children and Young People at the Centre: Insights from a Co-Designed Community Carnival **Daisy Ashworth & Tamara Allingham, Communicare**	Loving Well: A program developed to support the prevention of relationship breakdown in re-partnered couples **Lysa Fitzgerald & Filiz Mortimer, CatholicCare Wollongong**	Collaborative Delivery of the Women Are Strong Program **Sally McLaren, Junction Australia**	Bridging Practice: Collaborative Response to Elder Abuse through Recovery-Oriented Counselling **Jhooma Barthwal, Better Place Australia**
10:40AM	**MORNING TEA**				
PLENARY SESSION 4 Plaza Auditorium					
11:10AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 8 **The Hon Ged Kearney MP Assistant Minister for Social Services and Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence**				
11:30AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9 *Be the boss of busy: Navigating purpose and progress* **Alison Hill**				
12:20PM	**CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS**				
12:35PM	**LUNCH**				

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Please note this program is current as of 18 May 2026