



Family Law  
PATHWAYS  
NETWORK

ACT AND  
REGION

## Newsletter February 2017

Welcome to the first FLPN newsletter for 2017. This edition has information about two FLPN seminars which you may be interested in attending. Changes are taking place to the ACT Family Violence Laws, a seminar will be held on the 30 March to look at the changes and the impact they may have on services. The second is a Wellbeing Workshop on the 27 April. This workshop is being delivered by Robyn Bradey an expert from Sydney. There are limited places in both so book in early. Flyers will come out very soon for both seminars.

If you have feedback on our bi-monthly newsletter please email Carol Benda at [carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au)

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### **Divorce Declining, Marriages ‘more successful’ as Australians Marry Later in Life**

**Divorce rates in Australia are declining, and those who do get divorced are staying married longer. The divorce rate fell in the 10 years to 2015 from 2.8 to 2.0 divorces per 1000 Australian residents. Since people are getting married older and live together before marriage, unstable relationships are sorted out earlier, leading to more solid relationships.**

[http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/divorce-declining-and-marriages-more-successful-as-australians-marry-later-in-life-20170107-gtniyi.html?utm\\_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=8b20cod538-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_01\\_13&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fc246a4714-8b20cod538-338184909](http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/divorce-declining-and-marriages-more-successful-as-australians-marry-later-in-life-20170107-gtniyi.html?utm_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm_campaign=8b20cod538-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc246a4714-8b20cod538-338184909)

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### **Preuptial Agreements Offer Glimpse into Secret Lives of Couples**

Preuptial agreements allow couples to sidestep notoriously long waiting lists in court, as well as legal uncertainty about how judges will divide up their assets. However, they also offer a fascinating glimpse into couples’ private lives, as people regularly attempt to include unenforceable conditions.

[http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/4390777/preuptial-agreements-offer-glimpse-into-secret-lives-of-couples/?cs=12&utm\\_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=8b20cod538-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_01\\_13&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fc246a4714-8b20cod538-338184909](http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/4390777/preuptial-agreements-offer-glimpse-into-secret-lives-of-couples/?cs=12&utm_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm_campaign=8b20cod538-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc246a4714-8b20cod538-338184909)

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### **Not Getting Right Advice Can Cost Divorcees More Money Long-Term**

**It takes around five years for divorced couples to recover from their post-divorce financial situation, and so the financial stress of divorce has led many to breaking**

**point. Getting the right legal support is crucial when it comes to finances, since people may not know what their entitlements are, and what an appropriate agreement is for them.**

[http://www.9news.com.au/national/2017/01/03/19/26/not-getting-the-right-advice-can-cost-divorcees-more-money-long-termutm\\_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=b263c550c6-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_01\\_03&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fc246a4714-b263c550c6-338184909#oqUug2rv5SbFIDR4.99](http://www.9news.com.au/national/2017/01/03/19/26/not-getting-the-right-advice-can-cost-divorcees-more-money-long-termutm_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm_campaign=b263c550c6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc246a4714-b263c550c6-338184909#oqUug2rv5SbFIDR4.99)

## Marymead Courses

COURSE NAME	VENUE/TIME	COST
<b>INTRODUCTION TO ANGER MANAGEMENT</b> A group for men wishing to manage their anger and make positive changes in their lives.	<i>Four Monday evenings</i> <b>13th February – 6th March, 2017</b> <b>5.30pm-8.30pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Light dinner provided
<b>HANDS ON PARENTING</b> A group for parents to build on their parenting skills by exploring the developmental and emotional needs of children and young people.	<i>Five Tuesday evenings</i> <b>14th February – 14th March, 2017</b> <b>5.30pm-8.30pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$100 / \$50 conc.</b> Light dinner provided
<b>PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION</b> A group to assist parents to explore the specific complexities of parenting children and young people, post separation.	<i>Four Wednesday evenings</i> <b>15th February – 8th March, 2017</b> <b>5.30pm-8.30pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Light dinner provided
<b>WORKING WITH STRONG EMOTIONS</b> A group for women to better understand strong emotions and to strengthen family relationships.	<i>Four Thursday mornings</i> <b>16th February – 9th March, 2017</b> <b>9.30am-12.00pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Morning tea provided
<b>PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION</b> A group to assist parents to explore the specific complexities of parenting children and young people, post separation.	<i>Four Wednesday mornings</i> <b>15th March – 5th April, 2017</b> <b>9.30am-12.00pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Morning tea provided
<b>PARENTING SKILLS FOR MUMS</b> A group for Mums to explore the role of mothers in the lives of their children, understanding the developmental and emotional needs of children and young people and strengthening family relationships.	<i>Four Thursday mornings</i> <b>16th March – 6th April, 2017</b> <b>9.30am-12.00pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Morning tea provided
<b>ACCEPTING &amp; VALUING STRONG EMOTIONS</b> A group for men wishing to manage their anger and make positive changes in their lives.	<i>Four Monday evenings</i> <b>20th March – 10th April, 2017</b> <b>5.30pm-8.30pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Light dinner provided
<b>PARENTING SKILLS FOR DADS</b> A group for Dads to explore the role of fathers in the lives of their children, understanding the developmental and emotional needs of children and young people and strengthening family relationships.	<i>Four Tuesday evenings</i> <b>21st March – 11th April, 2017</b> <b>5.30pm-8.30pm</b> Marymead, Narrabundah	<b>\$80 / \$40 conc.</b> Light dinner provided

## **Marymead ARCK**

The ARCK program provides a therapeutic intervention for separated and divorced families, to help reduce conflict and assist parents in developing and maintaining a working relationship. The program takes a child focussed view, and involves individual and group programs. For more information phone 6162 5800, or email [arck@marymead.org.au](mailto:arck@marymead.org.au)

## **Marymead Family Skills Courses**

Marymead offer various group courses to promote effective parenting and healthy children. For more information, or to make a booking 6162 5800, or [familyskills@marymead.org.au](mailto:familyskills@marymead.org.au)

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## **Free Legal Information Sessions**

Legal Aid ACT provides free legal information sessions to the public on family law issues.

The Divorce session provides information on how to do your own divorce. The Property session explores how the Family Law Act is applied in dividing up assets and liabilities of separated couples. The Children session provides information on how the Family Law Act applies to separated parents, who children live with, spend time with and how they communicate with parents.

If you would like a couple of the schedule please email:

[community.education@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:community.education@legalaidact.org.au)

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## **Conflict Resolution Service: Nationally Accredited Mediation Training**

The Conflict Resolution service is offering an Accredited Mediation Training program in February. Completion of the training will satisfy training and accreditation requirements under the National Mediation Accreditation Standards, and meet pre-requisite Mediation Training requirements to undertake further studies in Family Dispute Resolution and become a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. [www.crs.org.au/training](http://www.crs.org.au/training).

## **Conflict Resolution Service Annual General Meeting and Dinner**

*'Now That We Are Being Noticed: Where To From Here? - Importance of Explicit Restorative Practice'*

Keynote Speaker: Terry O'Connell

Date: Tuesday 28 February 2017

Location: Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers, Level 2, 121 Marcus Clark St, Canberra

RSVP: By 23 February 2017

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/51b80d4ce50cfa2e16c3ba898/files/CRS\\_AGM\\_flyer\\_2017\\_FI](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/51b80d4ce50cfa2e16c3ba898/files/CRS_AGM_flyer_2017_FI)

### **Family Violence Developments in the ACT**

New Family Violence Laws come into force in the ACT from 1 May 2017. This seminar will cover the changes to the legislation, impact for services and look at other initiatives being introduced. Speakers are: Yvette Berry, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Mirjana Wilson, Executive Officer, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Heidi Yates, Head of General Practice, Legal Aid ACT, and a representative from the Family Violence Coordination Unit, ACT Policing.

Date: Thursday 30 March 2017, 3pm to 5pm

Location: ACT legislative Assembly, London Circuit Canberra

RSVP: Friday 24 March 2017 to [carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au) or 6243 3463

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### **AFCC-The Annual Chapter Conference**

**Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**, the Chapter's fourth annual conference will take place on 17-19 August 2017 in Melbourne at the Crown Conference Centre. The theme is 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions', featuring a varied program with local, national and international presenters.

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### **Family Law Pathways Network: Project Officers' Conference**

The Victorian Family Law Pathways Networks invite all their national colleagues to share unique perspectives, experiences and ideas at their annual conference. Guest Speakers include representatives from the Northern Integrated Family Violence Services, Attorney-General's Department and the Western Homelessness Network.

Dates: March 16 & 17

Location: Victoria Legal Aid-Family Dispute Resolution Service

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