



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

ACT AND
REGION

FLPN NEWS April 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of the FLPN newsletter for 2017. A couple of FLPN items to note, the first is that we now have a national FLPN website. This website has information about the networks across the country and of course contains our local network information. The website can be found at this link:

<http://www.familylawpathways.com.au/>

The second exciting seminar for this year is a *Wellbeing Workshop* we are holding on the 27 April. This workshop is being delivered by a professional from Sydney who specifically works with lawyers and other professionals to ensure their health and wellbeing at work. Details of this workshop are below. If you would like to attend please register early as there are limited seats.

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Latest News

Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system for those affected by family violence

A Committee has recently adopted an inquiry into how Australia's federal family law system can better support and protect people affected by family violence. Committee chair Sarah Henderson said: "*The committee will consider what has been done so far-and what more can be done-to meet the needs of*

vulnerable people in family law proceedings ... [and] will consider what further reforms might be required to ensure the family law system is meeting the needs of everyone involved."

An anonymous online questionnaire is open until 30 June 2017, and written submissions close 3 May 2017.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/mps-examine-family-violence-legal-system/news-story/61ef066fc44e263f703f6d7a72821b8e>

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/FVlawreform

Economic abuse: a relatively unknown form of domestic violence

Many people are unaware that they are victims of this subtle form of domestic violence, whereby one partner controls another's finances, often resulting in them becoming dependent on their abuser. Statistics on the problem are scarce, with women with a disability or long-term health problems more likely to be victims.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-02/finances-being-used-in-domestic-abuse-cases,-research-shows/8316566>

Grandparents seeking custody advice at 'astounding' rate with addiction a key factor

There has been a surge in the number of grandparents seeking help in gaining custody of their grandchildren. The increase in demand for help is correlated with the prevalence of ice in regional areas, with grandparents seeking help after exhausting their options with police and the government departments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-09/addiction-at-crux-of-grandparent-custody-cases-says-lawyer/8339490>

New definition of family?

The 'nuclear family,' consisting of a mother, a father, and their children has been the most common type of family household since the 17th century. Families have become far more diverse in recent times, but they all live and love in pretty much the same way. A 'simpler and far better definition' of family has been proposed: a group of people who all need food, warmth, clothing and shelter, who live together and try to love and look after each other.

https://thewest.com.au/lifestyle/kids/family-all-sorts-love-is-what-counts-ng-b88375475z?utm_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm_campaign=f5b92b6c7c-

EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc246a4714-f5b92b6c7c-338184909

Young people kicked out of care at 18 is not good enough

Australia, unlike many other Western nations, abandons out-of-home care support when young people turn 18, regardless of their current circumstance. Their age, rather than their readiness to live independently, determines when their care is terminated. It has been shown that these young people have higher rates of homelessness, crime, drug use, and poorer health and educational outcomes compared to their peers living with families. It is argued that extending out-of-home care until age 21 will provide a multitude of social and economic benefits.

https://www.criterionconferences.com/blog/social-services/young-people-kicked-care-18-good-enough-standard/?utm_source=FRSA+Subscribers&utm_campaign=f5b92b6c7c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc246a4714-f5b92b6c7c-338184909

Recent Publications

Moneysmart's Divorce and Separation Financial Checklist

Separating from your partner can be hard on your finances. ASIC's MoneySmart divorce and separation checklist provides you with some practical steps to separate your finances and get your money on track. The checklist can also be used to support someone you know who is going through a divorce or separation

<https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/life-events-and-you/life-events/divorce-and-separation/divorce-and-separation-financial-checklist>

Institute of Child Protection Studies: Recruiting and Retaining Foster Carers

This report explores what works to help people make the choice to become a foster carer, and the strategies that can assist in supporting and retaining carers for children in out-of-home care.

http://www.acu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1160999/PracticeSeries_16_2017_Recruitment_Retention_of_Foster_Carers.pdf

Programs of Interest

AIFS Study: How family law services can best help kids when their parents separate

The AIFS would like to talk to young people aged 10-17 years and a parent about their experiences. They are offering young people a \$30 gift voucher and their parent a \$20 gift voucher as a thank you.

How can I take part? (or ask a question)

Go to aifs.gov.au/takepart

SMS your name to
0448 383 007
and we'll get back to you

EMAIL your name to:
childrenandfamilylaw@aifs.gov.au

CALL US on:
1800 720 142
(Freecall except for mobiles)

For more information about the study,
please visit: www.aifs.gov.au/cypsf

Legal Aid 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.

Sessions are held at the Legal Aid ACT office, 2 Allsop St, Canberra. Call 1300 654 314, or email community.education@legallaidACT.org.au to RSVP.

Divorce		Property		Children	
16 March	5.30-6.30pm	30 March	1.00-2.00pm	6 April	5.30-6.30pm
27 April	1.00-2.00pm	11 May	5.30-6.30pm	25 May	1.00-2.00pm

Law For Non-Lawyers

Financial Abuse and Relationship Debt

All too often financial counsellors and consumer credit lawyers work with clients being left with debts from a current or previous relationship. Often these debts have resulted from financial abuse. This session will cover:

- understanding and identifying forms of financial abuse (when it's an intimate partner or a family member)

- how to assist your client protect themselves from further economic loss
- your role as a worker and how you can assist your client experiencing financial abuse to seek support
- with trained and qualified experts in this area
- the role of financial counsellors and consumer credit lawyers in supporting women experiencing financial abuse.

This session will be delivered by Care Inc. the main provider of financial counselling and consumer credit legal services for low to moderate income and vulnerable consumers in the ACT since 1983.

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Location: Legal Aid, 2 Allsop Street, Canberra City

Cost: FREE. Materials and morning tea included

RVSP: Email carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au

or phone 02 6243 3463

Upcoming Events and Conferences



**Thursday 27
April 2017**
9.00am-3.00pm
**ANU Commons
3 Rimmer St Canberra**

Cost \$50.00 (incl gst)

The ACT Law Society and the FLPN have partnered to bring you this engaging seminar.

1) How to Stay Well at Work

Staying well at work challenges us all at some stage in our careers. Adopting some simple and practical initiatives will strengthen your ability to respond and manage workplace situations and the pressures of practice with ease.

2) Using your Mind to Manage your Brain

This session comprises formal and informal practices to minimise avoidance and improve your awareness of emotive behaviours in the workplace. Employing a simple exercise daily will build your capacity to "bounce back" and equip you to respond authentically and usefully when confronted with challenging situations.

3) Dealing with Difficult Clients and Colleagues

"Talking tough" can compromise a promising career. This session leads us through the "how, when, where, why and what" of communication and gives some tested practices to resolve situations where there is conflict. When you apply these principles you will find yourself negotiating difficult conversations and managing change with ease.

CPD points available
Limited places so register early

**RSVP: Friday
21 April 2017**

On registration an invoice will be sent to you for payment.

carol.benda@legalaidact.org.au
(02) 6243 3463

Wellbeing Workshop

actlawsociety



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The workshop is being delivered by Robyn Bradey who is a Mental Health Accredited Social Worker in Sydney. Robyn provides clinical supervision to mental health professionals and coaching to a variety of people in health & law. Robyn is currently the Mental Health consultant and trainer for the Law Society and Legal Aid in NSW.

Conflict Resolution Service Accredited Mediation Training: 5 to 8 & 13-15 June 2017

The Conflict Resolution Service are specialists in Dispute Resolution Services and are the preferred

training provider for numerous private, government and community organisations within the ACT and surrounds.

The next 7-day (55 hour) course will be held on 5 to 8 & 13-15 June 2017 in Canberra.

Extra early bird registrations are open now. A 25% discount representing a \$900+ saving is available if paid in full by 14 April.

To register or view more course information, visit www.crs.org.au/training or call us on 6180 1888.

AFCC-The Annual Chapter Conference 2017

The Australian 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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