



GIPPSLAND Newsletter #10

The monthly FLPN bulletin for practitioners across Gippsland who intersect with the family law space.

If you know a service provider or organisation who wishes to be included in this network newsfeed, email us at gippslandfamilylawpathways@betterplace.com.au

Latrobe Community Service Providers News:

The next Latrobe Valley Community Service Providers meetup will be held at the Morwell Neighbourhood House on the 3rd March.

Please come together and enjoy morning tea. Our round-table 3-minute introduction methodology allows different organisations to highlight core business, new initiatives & referral pathways and build across-sector partnership capacity. If you are dealing with complex clients requiring multiple supports and you are keen to discover what services are available in Gippsland, this meeting can be of benefit to you.



News and developments from the Family Law & community wellbeing sectors

Family Court of Australia Natural Disaster Replacement Document Request:

There is no charge for the replacement of documents which have been destroyed by natural disaster. Forms can be accessed here:

<http://www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/fcoaweb/forms-and-fees/court-forms/form-topics/administrative/form-natural-disaster-replacement-document-request>

Emerging Minds toolkit:

The Emerging Minds organisation have put together a toolkit to assist adults and children deal with trauma resulting from exposure to natural disaster.

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/toolkits/community-trauma-toolkit>

Free Legal Help for Victims of Disaster:

Free legal assistance is available through Disaster Legal Help Victoria for anyone affected by the recent Victorian bushfires. Disaster Legal Help Victoria is a collaboration between Victoria Legal Aid, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, the Law Institute of Victoria, the Victorian Bar and Justice Connect. It was originally formed in response to the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

Disaster Legal Help can assist with issues including:

- dealing with insurance claims
- replacing lost or destroyed documents, including wills and title documents
- tenancy and accommodation issues
- managing debt and financial hardship.

<http://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/about-us/news/free-legal-help-for-victorian-bushfire-victims>

Reports and Research

The Future of Law Reform:

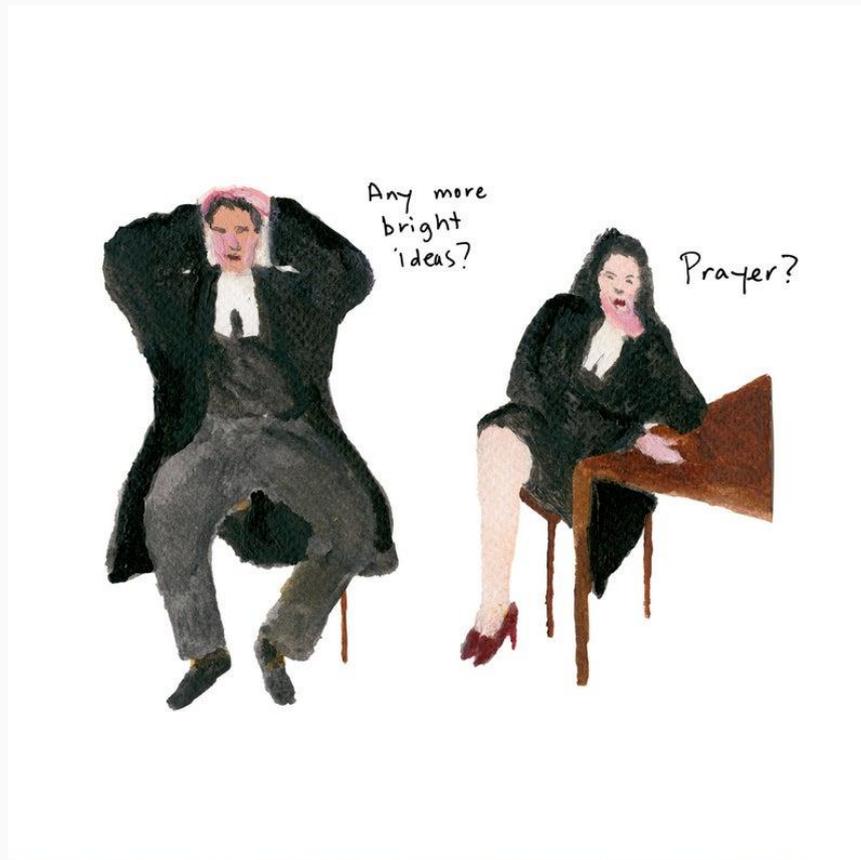
On Monday 2 December 2019, the ALRC released its report *The Future of Law Reform: A Suggested Program of Work 2020-25*. The report contains an ambitious agenda for law reform over the next five years. Among other salient concerns the report outlines a commitment to developing a national law to regulate altruistic surrogacy in the face of complex and sensitive legal and ethical issues raised regarding the estimated 200 children who are subject to surrogacy arrangements every year within Australia in addition to larger numbers of children who are bought into Australia every year. Such children experience issues including early separation from their birth mothers, loss of inheritance rights from birth parents and commodification. Also in focus is the emergence of the *buy now pay later* services which fall between the gaps of legislative detail, Government is as yet unsure whether to regulate this rapidly developing industry.

https://www.alrc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Future-of-Law-Reform-Final-Report_v3web.pdf

Rainbow Family Formation and Dissolution in Australia:

This report presents a review of what is known about how LGBTQI+ people in Australia form families, separate and access family law services such as family dispute resolution and mediation. The findings highlight how family law and related services are still based around traditional views on the nature of families, which can cause discrimination and exclusion. Included is a discussion regarding surrogacy which can be considered in light of the ALRC report findings.

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/2019/11/21/rainbow-family-formation-and-dissolution-australia-scoping-review-academic-literature>



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Our mailing address is: Gippslandfamilylawpathways@betterplace.com.au

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