

## Gold Coast Family Law Pathways Network Newsletter October 2023



GOLD  
COAST

### FLPN Gold Coast Presents



***Family Forward:***  
Insights on legislative  
changes from His Honour  
Judge Laphorn

Please join us for an evening of light refreshments,  
beverages, and networking.

Featuring **His Honour Judge Laphorn** of the Federal  
Circuit and Family Court of Australia who will present on  
the proposed changes to the Family Law Act.



**Thursday 23rd November**

5.30pm - 7.30pm (doors open 5.15pm)



**Panorama Room**

Home of the Arts (HOTA)

135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise



**Tickets \$45**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CMBJK>

*Bookings close Wednesday 15 November, limited places available*

## CHILD PROTECTION WEEK NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Our Child Protection Week Networking Breakfast was held on Thursday 7 September 2023. Thank you to all members who attended this event!

Dr Georgina Dimopoulos from Southern Cross University shared some fascinating insights into the participation of children in family law decision making, with reference to the *UN Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989* ('CRC'). If you're interested in learning more about Dr Dimopoulos' research, please see her publication 'The Right Time for Rights? Judicial Engagement with the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* in Part VII Proceedings' (2023) 36(1) *Australian Journal of Family Law* 63.

Mr Michael Schmidt, Child Protection Legal Practitioner at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS), presented on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Placement Principle. Michael also shared some real life case studies from his practice. You can read more about ATSILS [here](#) and access their [legal fact sheet](#) for clients.

If you're interested in learning more about how you can implement the Child Placement Principle into your practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children, please see this SNAICC resource [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: A Guide to Support Implementation](#).





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### **Interrelate Children's Contact Service Coolangatta - Meet & Greet**

Interrelate Children's Contact Service in Coolangatta is hosting a Meet & Greet on Wednesday 1st November from 4pm.



This will be a fabulous opportunity to network with Interrelate staff, local lawyers, community services, and to enjoy some wine and cheese!

Please RSVP by Friday 27 October 2023



**meet & greet at**

## **COOLANGATTA Children's Contact Service**

Create stronger networks  
in your community -  
**Join Interrelate,  
local solicitors, &  
community services  
for an evening of  
cheese, wine, & a chat!**

**Wednesday  
1 November**  
from 4:00 pm

Shop 18-19,  
Griffith Street

RSVP to Doll Bennett -  
[doll.bennett@interrelate.org.au](mailto:doll.bennett@interrelate.org.au) or Rebecca Wallace -  
[rebecca.wallace@interrelate.org.au](mailto:rebecca.wallace@interrelate.org.au) by 27 October 2023  
for catering purposes.



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## **NATIONAL FLPN EMERGING MINDS WEBINAR SERIES**

The Family Law Pathways Network (ACT & Region) presents this free webinar on the voice of the child in international child abduction. Join Dr Michelle Fernando and the Honourable John Faulks on 18th October (1pm AEDT) Register below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Family Law  
PATHWAYS  
NETWORK

ACT AND  
REGION

## WEBINAR: THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

WEDNESDAY 18TH OF OCTOBER  
1:00PM -2:00PM AEDT

Join FLPN (ACT & Region)  
in collaboration with Dr  
Michelle Fernando with  
commentary by the Hon  
John Faulks for an online  
webinar this October.

Presentation followed by  
an audience Q&A.

DR MICHELLE  
FERNANDO



SUBSCRIBE  
TO THE  
NETWORK



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### Emerging Minds: Supporting children's wellbeing when working with separating parents

Wednesday 25 October 2023, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AEST

This webinar will explore how practitioners can make children's wellbeing central to conversations with parents who are navigating separation and/or divorce. This webinar will help you:

- understand the potential impacts of separation on parents, the parent-child relationship, and children's mental health and wellbeing

- consider how you can make children's wellbeing a central aspect of conversations with parents who are navigating separation or divorce
- develop ways to support parents' wellbeing so they can maintain a healthy parent-child relationship and support their children through the separation process.

Presenters: Alesha Akintoye, Ceri Bruce, Amanda Peters, and Chris Dolman.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## **Landmark Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent Legislation introduced in Queensland**

Landmark legislation has been introduced in Parliament to criminalise coercive control and create an affirmative model of sexual consent.

If passed, the 'Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023' will create a new stand-alone offence of coercive control and aims to better reflect community expectations of equality and mutual respect in sexual relationships.

The new laws address recommendations from both Hear Her Voice reports, delivered by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

Media statements can be viewed below:

[Coercive Control](#)

[Affirmative consent and stealthing](#)

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## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

### **Exposure Draft: Family Law Amendment Bill (No.1) 2023**

The release of the draft Family Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023 (the exposure draft) is an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments.

The Attorney-General's Department is inviting submissions in response to the wording of the proposed amendments and, in particular, in response to the specific consultation questions set out in the consultation paper.

[Click here to read the exposure draft, consultation paper, and fact sheet.](#)

Submissions close on **Friday 10 November 2023.**

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## Updates to Family Violence Plan and Principles

In August, the Courts published the updated Family Violence Plan and Family Violence Best Practice Principles.

These documents were updated on the advice of the Courts' Family Violence Committee.

They set out the Courts' commitment to identifying and managing family violence, the actions the Courts will take, and practical guidance to assist court users, legal practitioners and other stakeholders to understand how family violence is managed by the Courts.

[Updated Family Violence Plan](#)

[Updated Family Violence Best Practice Principles](#)

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-law-pathways-network-gold-coast>

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Do you have content for our newsletter? Please email [cfrs.gcflpn@bne.centacare.net.au](mailto:cfrs.gcflpn@bne.centacare.net.au)

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