

FLPN flyer 2024 January

For our first newsletter of 2024, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all FLPN Gold Coast members a safe and prosperous new year.

In 2023, we saw our Network membership grow, and we hope to continue the momentum into the New Year.

On 23 November 2023, we held our end of year event *Insights on Legislative Changes from His Honour Judge Laphorn*. We were joined by almost 80 guests and were hosted by the wonderful team at the Home of the Arts (HOTA).

Unfortunately His Honour was unable to attend the event, but we were very fortunate to have Senior Judicial Registrar Thiele join us to present in His Honour's stead. Senior Judicial Registrar Thiele provided valuable insights into what the changes mean for the family law sector, and how Members can be prepared. On behalf of the Network, we would like to thank Senior Judicial Registrar for his generosity and valuable contribution to our event.



As we begin the New Year, we have had to say goodbye to Eleesa Panton who held the position of Project Officer for the last seven months. The events held throughout 2023 could not have been as successful as they were without Eleesa's hard work and dedication to the Network. She will be dearly missed and on behalf of the Steering Committee and Network members, we wish her all the best in her new role.



Contact us about your upcoming events for inclusion in the Newsletter!

As you are all aware, the main objective of the Family Law Pathways Network is to promote awareness and collaboration across the Family Law sector. We seek to continue to share important information about local services and resources.

Please feel free to email us at CFRS.GCFLPN@bne.centacare.net.au if you are aware of new or helpful resources, or if you are hosting an event relevant to the Network. These can be promoted in our next newsletter and shared on our LinkedIn profile.



Family Law Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2023

As discussed at our November event, the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 was passed on 19 October 2023.

The Bill will ensure the best interests of children are at the centre of all parenting decisions made inside or outside the courtroom and will make the system easier to navigate.

Significantly, the amendments repeal the presumption of 'equal shared parental responsibility' provisions in the *Family Law Act (1975)*. In 2017, a bipartisan parliamentary committee found that these provisions were confusing, that they failed to prioritise the safety of children and that they were being improperly applied in a way that put children at risk. These findings are consistent with the overwhelming consensus of family law experts.

Under the new laws, parenting decisions will have to be based solely on what is in the best interests of the child.

The new laws also include:

- requiring Independent Children's Lawyers to meet directly with children;
- greater powers to protect parties and children from harmful effects of protracted and adversarial litigation;
- a definition of 'member of the family' in the Family Law Act that is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concepts of family and kinship;

- simplified compliance and enforcement provisions for child-related orders;
- powers to enable government to regulate family report writers;
- Ensuring that children’s voices are heard more easily in matters under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

You can read more about these changes on the Attorney-General’s Department [website](#).

Upcoming events

On March 13th 2024, we are hosting a Domestic and Family Violence information breakfast titled “Understanding Tech Abuse”. Our speakers include Dr Carolina Leyton Zamora (DV Connect) and Lucy Gregory (CEO, DVPC). The session will be moderated by Dr Molly Dragiewicz. This event will be held from 7am-9am, and we highly encourage all to register and join us for a morning of information sharing and networking. Please see the flyer below for more information and how to register for the event.



Domestic and Family Violence Understanding Tech Abuse

The Gold Coast Family Pathway Network invites you to attend our breakfast event at the beautiful Kurrawa Surf Club in Broadbeach.



Speakers: Dr. Carolina Leyton Zamora (DV Connect) “Understanding Tech Abuse” and Lucy Gregory (CEO, DVPC) “How tech abuse impacts children post separation”

Facilitator: Dr Molly Dragiewicz (Associate Professor, Griffith University)

Wednesday 13th March, 7am-9am

Kurrawa Surf Club

Tickets \$35 per person (including breakfast)

Registration closes 1st March 2024

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



What's happening at Centacare!

Keeping Kids in Mind is coming back this year in 2024. If you have potential participants for this program, contact us for specific dates and registration. More information is provided below, please distribute in your networks!

Keeping Kids in Mind



Separation is a difficult time for families, particularly when children are involved. This five-week program, delivered by our highly-skilled practitioners, helps separating parents understand how to best support their children during this critical time. In a professional and supportive space, the program will explore topics such as coping with grief and loss and rebuilding resilience so you can look forward to a future in which your children will thrive.

Time:	Morning and Evening groups available
Date:	Offered through-out the year; please contact for upcoming dates
Venue:	Centacare FRS, 56 Davenport Street, Southport OR delivered via Zoom
Cost:	\$25 Includes Participant Workbook and the 5 sessions

For more information or to book your place:

Phone: 07 5552 6500

Email: cfrs-gc@bne.centacare.net.au

centacare.com/family-and-relationship-care



Note: We are pleased to announce that Sian Graham has been appointed as the new FLPN Project Officer. Sian has many years experience working in the community sector.