

Emerging Minds in partnership with the National Family Law Pathways Networks presents:

Supporting neurodivergent children and parents through separation and divorce webinar

Tuesday 17 March 2026

About this webinar

Neurodivergent individuals experience and interpret the world in ways that differ from the social and cultural norm (known as 'neurotypical' functioning). Research suggests divorce and separation are higher among families who have neurodivergent children, and many parents of neurodivergent children are also neurodivergent themselves.

This webinar, hosted by the Family Law Pathways Networks (FLPN) will explore best practice principles for practitioners working in and alongside the family law sector, including family law professionals supporting children and parents who are or may be neurodivergent. It will look at the stigma and misunderstandings that surround neurodivergence, as well as key considerations and practical strategies for supporting the wellbeing of neurodivergent children and families in this context.

Panellists



Rachel Samson – Clinical Psychologist, Director (Australian Association Psychologists) and Panel Family Consultant (Federal Circuit Court and Family Court Australia)

Rachel Samson is a clinical psychologist with over 15 years' experience working with children, parents, and families across government, clinical, and court settings. She specialises in developmental psychology and the application of attachment science to clinical practice, with a focus on supporting diverse families.



Rachel has held senior psychologist roles within the Government of South Australia, including for Disability Services' Specialist Child and Youth Service, where she provided intensive, home-based interventions for children and families with complex psychosocial needs. Her work has spanned infant mental health, trauma, neurodevelopment, and parent-child relationships across the early years and beyond.

In her current role as a panel family consultant with the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Rachel conducts assessments and provides expert advice on the best interests of children navigating parental separation, family conflict, and complex family dynamics. She brings a deep understanding of child development, relational systems, and evidence-based practice to her work within the family law space.

Rachel also contributes to national advocacy on mental health policy, access to psychological care, and evidence-informed reforms that better support children, families, and diverse communities.



Roxanne Nathan – Accredited mental health social worker, family counsellor and family dispute resolution practitioner (Federal Circuit Court and Family Court Australia)

Roxanne has over 17 years of experience working within the post-separation and family law sector. She specialises in supporting families after separation and in enhancing understanding of how high-conflict separations can impact the mental health and well-being of children. Roxanne adopts a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach to her practice.

Her expertise has been acknowledged through her role as a consultant on the book, *Separate Ways: Surviving Post-Separation Grief, the Stress of Divorce or Separation*, and the *Family Law Process* by Shaya Lewis Dermody. Additionally, she provided consultation for the Australian Institute of Family Studies' discussion paper and webinar, *Supporting children's wellbeing when working with separated parents*, as well as several resources developed in partnership with Emerging Minds.



Tammie Sinclair – Child and family partner

Tammie is an autistic ADHDER, parent of neurodivergent children, and a dedicated advocate for systemic inclusion and neuro-affirming practice. She combines lived experience with professional expertise to create environments where diverse thinkers and families can thrive through understanding, communication, and compassion.

Having parented through separation while supporting children with high support needs, Tammie brings a deeply personal perspective to helping families

navigate change with empathy and confidence. She speaks about co-regulation, flexibility, and reimagining family life in ways that honour each person's needs and strengths.

Professionally, Tammie manages workforce development and education programs for a large disability services workforce, leading initiatives that strengthen capability, embed inclusive practice, and promote fairness and innovation across the sector. A former elected member in local government, she brings governance and community leadership experience that bridges policy, practice, and lived experience.

Her impact through social enterprise was recognised nationally as a Social Traders Changemaker Award finalist in 2024, reflecting her commitment to creative, inclusive, and forward-thinking practice. A 2025 participant in the Pathways to Politics for Women program at the University of Adelaide, Tammie continues to expand her leadership in systems reform and social change, driven by a belief in creating alternative pathways for alternative thinkers.



Jacquie Lee – Facilitator (Emerging Minds)

Jacquie is a practice advisor at Emerging Minds, with a background in marketing, communications and knowledge translation. She combines the latest research findings with the lived experience wisdom of parents and practitioners to create innovative, engaging resources. She takes a transdisciplinary and transdiagnostic approach to improving mental health outcomes for infants, children and families. While her work spans many different topics, she has a particular interest in neuro-affirming practice, family and relationship therapy, and disaster response and recovery.

Hosted by the Family Law Pathways Network (FLPN): familylawpathways.com.au

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