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Family Law
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2026 March Newsletter

Gold Coast

<https://qldflpn.org.au/directory/gold-coast/>

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Steering Committee Members :

- Jake Coates - Thriving Multicultural Communities
- Molly Dragiewicz - Griffith University
- Lucy Gregory - DVPC
- Anne Halliday - ATSILS
- Vanessa Hernandez - Australian Family Lawyers
- Kate Keating (Chair) - Keating Lehn Solicitors
- Tracy Smyth - Act for Kids
- Jan Squires - Centacare
- Libby Taylor - Bond University



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OUR FIRST 2026 NETWORK GATHERING TOOK PLACE AT CENTACARES FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP CENTRE.

- Hollie Thompson from Family Psych matters present about child inclusive mediation
 - Sheridan from Stop Listen Change presented on affects of Trauma on Counselling
 - Centacare Family Services Team presented the Keeping Kids in Mind parenting programs
 - Interrelate
 - Relationships Australia
 - Sable from Legal Aid
 - Opal from Atsil
 - Dawn from Clarity Legal
 - Louise from Transition Legal
- To name a few participants.

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

This webinar is co-produced with:



The National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (NWC) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program.



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Emerging Minds in partnership with the National Family Law Pathways Networks presents: Supporting neurodivergent children and parents through separation and divorce webinar:

- Tuesday 17th March 2026
- AEST 1:00pm

REGISTER HERE



FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK
CELEBRATES FAMILY WEEK 2026

Gala Dinner

13TH MAY 2026
SOUTHPORT YACHT CLUB
5:30 - 9:30 PM

GUEST SPEAKER
HER HONOUR JUDGE KARA BEST

OPPORTUNITY FOR CPD POINTS
DRESS - COCKTAIL

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DJJOY](https://www.trybooking.com/djjoy)



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FRSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

SHOWCASING practice.evidence.impact.

18-21 May 2026 | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

2026 CONFERENCE THEME, SHOWCASING: PRACTICE, EVIDENCE, IMPACT,

Recognises the breadth of work undertaken across the sector and its measurable impact on families, children, and communities. With the federal government contemplating changes to the commissioning of community services, they have expressed a commitment to evidence-based decision making. It is therefore timely to reflect on what is working in our sector, why it works, and to share the outcomes of these interventions. As in previous years, the FRSA Conference is set to deliver an outstanding line-up of speakers who will explore a diverse range of topics, all aligned with this year's Conference theme. We are also planning a variety of networking opportunities for attendees, including the ever-popular FRSA Gala Dinner, the annual highlight of the Conference. This highly anticipated evening promises exceptional entertainment, gourmet food and a vibrant atmosphere, providing a perfect setting to connect with peers in a relaxed and celebratory environment. The Conference is expected to attract over 600 delegates from across the country, including practitioners, researchers, managers, executives, and policy and program developers from both government and non-government agencies



**REGISTER
HERE**

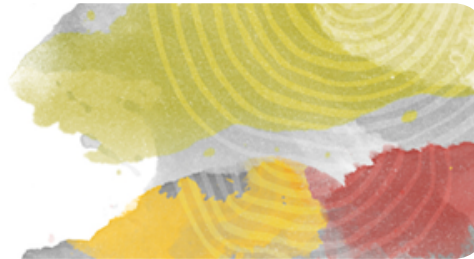


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Indigenous
Governance
Awards 2026



The application deadline for the Indigenous Governance Awards (IGAs) 2026 has been extended.

Applications now close at 11:55 PM (AEDT) Friday 20 March 2026.

The IGAs publicly recognise and celebrate outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and groups that, through their effective governance models, make extraordinary contributions to communities and to the nation.

Winners in each category receive \$20,000 and opportunities for further development and engagement as part of the prize package.

For more information including eligibility criteria, to learn about the application process, and for support with your application, visit the Indigenous Governance Awards 2026 page on our website.

You can also contact the team by email at any time at igp@reconciliation.org.au, and watch a recording of the applicant information session.

text

APPLY NOW



GOLD COAST SOCIAL WORK EXPO 2026



SCAN AND REGISTER FOR FREE!

For more information, contact us on:



Gold Coast Social Work Expo



gcsocialworkexpo@letsgetitsorted.com.au



[@gc.socialwork.expo](https://www.instagram.com/gc.socialwork.expo)

Why attend the social work expo?

- Come and discover the real impact of social work in our community.
- Connect with professionals, explore services and find the support that fits your life.
- The Social Work Expo is your chance to learn, engage and be inspired.

Event Details



Thursday, 14 May 2026



9:30 am - 1:00pm



Varsity Lakes Community
Resource Centre,
20 Mattocks Rd,
Varsity Lakes QLD 4227

*Open to anyone in the community
seeking support or connection.
Join us to create stronger, connected
communities*

Keeping Kids In Mind

A Course for Parents Experiencing Conflict After Separation

Parents love their children and want the best for them. However, after separation, parenting often gets much tougher. Keeping Kids in Mind is a 5 week course for separated parents who are experiencing on-going conflict.

The course is designed to:

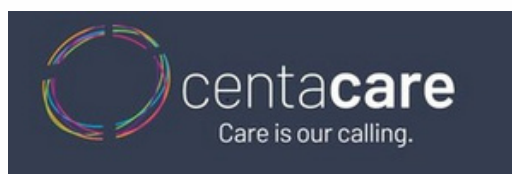
- Assist parents to see through their children's eyes the experience of parental separation.
- Develop greater understanding about how to support children following family separation

The course covers the following topics:

- Grief and Loss after Separation
- The Hidden World of Children
- Rebuilding Resilience
- Bridging the Gap
- Looking Back and Moving Forward

All participants must register their interest in attending the course and participate in a pre-group interview prior to the course. Keeping Kids in Mind is facilitated by qualified and experienced parent educators, mediators and counsellors.

[Click here](#)





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Act for kids are offering Flourish-Child & Family Therapy.

This is a free program offered to Families needing support in times of stress. Empowering them to address challenges and develop new and better ways to cope. If you would like to access the Flourish - Child and Family Therapy service please contact

GOLD COAST SERVICE CONTACT

Phone: (07) 5656 8600

Who is Act for Kids?

Act for Kids is an Australian not-for-profit organisation providing professional therapy and support services to help families experiencing stress or problems.

Since 1988 we have helped thousands of Australian children and families through counselling and family coaching.

We offer families the support they need to raise happy, healthy kids and enjoy positive family relationships.



We work to:

- ♥ support vulnerable families in times of stress, empowering them to address their challenges and develop new and better ways to cope.
- ♥ assist parents to protect their children from harm and to support them to feel confident asking for help.
- ♥ offer advice and education on practical issues such as creating a safe home environment, setting routines, and improving outcomes for children who have experienced trauma through specialist support and counselling.

flourish
CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY

How to reach Act for Kids Flourish Therapy

If you have any questions or you would like to access our Flourish - Child and Family Therapy service, please contact us at:

GOLD COAST SERVICE CONTACT

Phone: (07) 5656 8600

Email: gcflourish@actforkids.com.au

flourish
CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY

Act for kids

Phone **1300 228 000**

Learn more at actforkids.com.au



FLOYDL
22/01

Flourish – Child & Family Therapy



Flourish - Child and Family Therapy provides counselling for children, young people and their families who have experienced trauma or who are at risk of harm.

Act for kids



CHILDREN'S CONTACT CENTRE (CCS)

Coolangatta

Life can bring challenges, especially during times of separation or transition within families. Interrelate's **Children's Contact Service (CCS)** is suitable for children, parents and family members who require support to see one another or to manage those tricky changeovers, whether due to separation, conflict or safety concerns.

Supervised visits provide a space for children to engage with parents and family members who aren't their primary carer, so they can build positive relationships with all their loved ones. Visits can be arranged at a centre, within the community or online.

A **supervised changeover** offers a safe and supportive environment where children can transition between parents without conflict or stress.

Benefits of the CCS

The CCS is designed to foster stability, comfort, and peace of mind for all involved:

- **Safe, Secure & Nurturing.** Acts to minimise conflict, to foster a positive experience. **Neutral & supportive to both parents.** Staff listen and help build foundations of strong co-parenting that works for the long term. **Child-focused.** Supports parents to identify, meet and hear their children's needs and emotions as they adjust in this time of change.

CCS FEES

Supervised contact visit

\$25 per hour per parent*

Supervised changeover

\$5 per parent*

*Concession pricing available. Fees may apply for additional services.

Currently no waitlist

**We support families in
QLD and NSW**

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Saturday

8am to 8pm

Scan the QR code to find out more or click the link below bit.ly/40IAYAA





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Established in 1992, the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre provides a wide range of programs to support women and their children affected by domestic and family violence.

We also work with men who perpetrate domestic violence. Through the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response we partner with government agencies, non-government agencies and other women's services to continue to improve responses to domestic and family violence as we work toward achieving our goal of ending violence against women.



Legal Aid is funded by the Australian Government to provide free and subsidised legal assistance.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The logo for 1800RESPECT, featuring the text "1800RESPECT" in large, bold, orange and white letters, with "NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE" in smaller, white, uppercase letters below it, all on a black background.

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

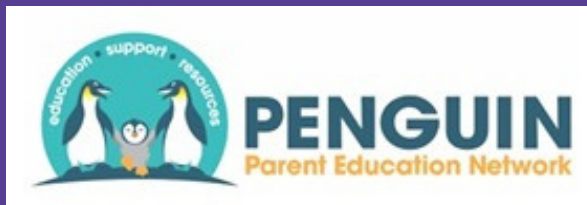
1800RESPECT is the national online and telephone counselling and support service for people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, sexual assault and /or domestic violence and family violence, their family or friends, and frontline and isolated workers. It is a flagship service under the National Plan to reduce violence women and their children 2010 - 2022 (The National Plan) providing support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



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MensLine Australia offers free professional 24/7 telephone counselling support for men with concerns about mental health, anger management, family violence (using and experiencing), addiction, relationship, stress and wellbeing. Call 1300 78 99 78



Penguin supports Parents to be the best no matter what the circumstance. They provide support in an unbiased and neutral way visit - <https://www.penguined.com.au/>

- Supervised Children's contact
- Supervised Changeover
- Parenting Support
- Penguin Hub Club

GOLD COAST YOUNG PEOPLE

Are you looking for support?

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

24/7 HELP

SAFE SPACES AND HUBS

GOLD COAST YOUTH NETWORK

Proudly supported by CITY OF GOLD COAST.

The poster features a yellow background with a white torn-edge effect at the bottom. It includes several colorful icons: a purple rectangle for "HEALTH AND WELLBEING", a yellow gear with a heart for "24/7 HELP", and a blue circle for "SAFE SPACES AND HUBS". The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts.