



Australian Government



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA



FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK SA 2024 FORUM

Family and Domestic Violence: Pathways for Change

Thursday 6 June 2024 | 8.30am arrival | 9.00am– 4.30pm

Adelaide Pavilion Function Centre
Cnr South Terrace and Peacock Road Adelaide

Event Program

8.30am - 9.00am

Registration

9.00am - 9.15am

Welcome – Chairperson Ashley Kent

Ashley Kent, Chairperson, Pathways Steering Committee, member of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. Ashley has practiced as a lawyer for 42 years (retiring in 2023), exclusively in family law and for the last 27 years at the Legal Services Commission.

9.15am - 9.30am

Welcome to Country

Michael Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien also known as **Uncle Mickey** is a Senior Aboriginal man. He is a descendant of the Kurna (Adelaide Plains) and Narrunga (Yorke Peninsula) people and a passionate advocate for Aboriginal culture, language, and history.

9.30am - 9.45am

Update from the Honourable Katrine Hildyard MP

The Honourable Katrine Hildyard MP will appear by video to provide an update on the latest actions the State government is taking to address family and domestic violence. Disturbing statistics in Australia reveal that more than one woman dies per week and a child per fortnight from family and domestic violence – an issue which has also been tragically demonstrated in South Australia in recent months.

Minister Hildyard is South Australia's Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. She has been member for Reynell since 2014.

9.45am - 10.15am

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) - Identifying and responding to family violence and other family safety risks

More than 80% of applications before the FCFCOA have family violence alleged by the parties. **Judicial Registrar Schirripa** will focus on the FCFCOA's approach to risk broadly, focusing on Lighthouse and the Evatt List.

The session will cover:

- How the Court identifies risk.
- Case management and risk.
- Referrals to support services.
- Specialist Court Lists.

Judicial Registrar Schirripa is the Co-ordinating Judicial Registrar in the FCFCOA in Adelaide. She was appointed almost four years ago. Her previous experience includes 19 years as a lawyer with 13 of those years spent exclusively as a family lawyer.

10.15am - 11.00am

Principles and ideals regarding caring for children where there's family and domestic violence

Adam Reilly and **Kitty McLean** will address this topic by outlining:

- The Department for Child Protection's perspective in caring for children where there is family and domestic violence.
- Indicate the processes and timing for referring cases to Family Group Conferencing.
- How the Department works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people particularly given the statistic that 36% of children in care in South Australia are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Provide examples of success and examples where a cautious approach is needed.

Adam Reilly is the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection in South Australia. Adam is a proud Murrawarri man, with 25 years' experience working in State and Federal Government all over Australia. As the first Aboriginal Deputy Chief Executive for child protection in South Australia he is determined to improve the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in care.

Kitty McLean is the Director, Quality and Practice in the Department for Child Protection. Her background includes a range of case management roles, focussing on vulnerable families.

11.00am - 11.30am **Morning tea**

11.30am - 12.15pm **Family dispute resolution and family and domestic violence**

Rene Earles and **Andy Wong** will compare the family dispute resolution models and will also discuss:

- How we include the voice of the child in the mediation process.
- How family and domestic violence is managed, particularly, how the parties experiencing family and domestic violence are supported.
- How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culturally and linguistically diverse people are assisted through the process.

Rene Earles is the Team Leader FDR Unit Legal Services Commission. She has worked across a variety of roles for over 15 years in the family law sector including as a lawyer, FDRP and at the Pathways Network.

Andy Wong is the Program Manager of Counselling and Mediation Services at Centacare with over 10 years of experience working in the family law sector. Born in Hong Kong and having worked in Canada and Australia, he has a strong understanding in working with families in culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

12.15pm - 12.45pm **Cultural diversity in the context of family and domestic violence**

Regrettably, statistics show a high rate of family and domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. **Enaam Oudih** will explore some tips for working with parties in this setting.

Enaam Oudih is Practice Manager, Multicultural Engagement, Relationships Australia SA where she has held many roles for the last twenty-two years. She has more than thirty-five years' experience in community and public health.

12.45pm - 1.00pm **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander roadshow video**

1.00pm - 1.45pm **Lunch followed by Chairperson Rene Earles**

1.45pm - 2.30pm **Panel: Women in family and domestic violence - courses and services**

Lisa McClure, **Deirdre Flynn**, **Monika Thompson** and **Liah Lazarou** will provide a brief background and then present on the content of the courses they run and some tips and tricks including:

- What works in terms of engagement.
- How this work is impacted where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people are involved.
- Whether only women can do this work and whether there are more proactive ways of engaging women.

Lisa McClure is secretary of the board of management for Nunga Mi:Minar Inc which provides services for Aboriginal women and their children experiencing or escaping family violence.

Deirdre Flynn is the Manager Client Services at Catherine House which provides accommodation for 44 clients and works with over 100 clients each day who access one or more of its eight different services. She has undertaken various roles over her 25 years at Catherine House.

Monika Thompson is the Acting Program Manager of Western Adelaide Domestic Violence Service for Women's Safety Services where for the last three years she has worked with women and children fleeing domestic and family violence.

Liah Lazarou is the Linker Project Officer at the Zahra Foundation which focusses on economically empowering women who experience domestic abuse. She has worked at Zahra for the last 5 years in the FDV space.

2.30pm - 3.00pm

Property matters and family and domestic violence and the new amendments

Holly Tinning will consider the new laws on this topic and will explore likely matters which may result, including issues of proof of family and domestic violence and the consequences for parties in dispute.

Holly Tinning commenced at the Independent Bar in 2001 and has practised exclusively in family law matters since then. She was a founding member of Hugh Burton Chambers in 2004 from where she continues to practise.

3.00pm - 3.15pm

Afternoon break followed by Chairperson Ashley Kent

3.15pm - 4.00pm

Panel: Men's Behaviour Change Course

Brad Hart, David Tully, Phillip Martin and **Lili Koch** will present on the content of the courses they run and some tips and tricks including:

- The issues around engaging men and what works in terms of engagement.
- Court referrals and whether there are more proactive ways of engaging men.
- How this work is impacted where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people are involved.
- Whether only men can do this work.

Brad Hart is the KQW Senior Manager Port Augusta Men's Services where he has held many roles over the last seven years. He has worked in the industry predominantly with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community for more than twenty years.

David Tully has been the Practice Manager of Family Violence Services at Relationships Australia SA for the last seven years. He has more than thirty years' experience in the field.

Phillip Martin, Coordinator Families in Focus, Anglicare SA and has worked in the industry for more than sixteen years.

Lili Koch is a Counsellor at Uniting Communities' Therapeutic Counselling Service. She has worked with families impacted by family and domestic violence for more than 9 years locally, regionally and internationally in both government and non-government organisations.

4.00pm - 4.30pm

A judicial perspective on the impact of family and domestic violence within family law, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and culturally and linguistically diverse families

Judge Kelly was appointed to the FCFCOA in 2007. In that time, she has established the Family Law Court's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander List which aims to provide greater access to justice for people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and have a family law issue to resolve. Prior to this, she was a Senior Registrar of the Court and a family lawyer in Adelaide law firms.

4.30pm

Closing - Chairperson Ashley Kent

About the South Australian Family Law Pathways Network

The South Australian Family Law Pathways Network (SAFLPN) consists of a three-tiered structure: the Steering Committee, the membership, and a broad network of family law service providers. It is a coordinated network of organisations and professionals operating in the broader family law system in South Australia. The goal of the SAFLPN is to foster dialogue and collaboration between service providers to assist separating and separated families to access services in metropolitan Adelaide and regional centres in South Australia. The SAFLPN is managed and coordinated by the Senior Coordinator Ruth Beach.