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## JOIN NOW

Just click here and complete your details:  
[Brisbane Pathways Membership](#)

## Pathways Officer Update

Each month, the Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network Steering Committee comes together (virtually or in person) to further the work of our network, sharing ideas, information, service innovation and ideas. This group of professionals represents the very best of family law practice - individuals striving to make a positive difference in this challenging and demanding sector.

The Brisbane FLPN Steering Committee represents, on a small scale, what we hope to achieve on a broader scale with our members: connection, collaboration and innovation between different professionals across the sector.

With this objective in mind, we are excited to announce plans for a face-to-face event on **4 December 2020** (save the date!) where members can get to know the Brisbane FLPN Steering Committee members and come together to develop and strengthen professional connections and collaborative practice.

Members will receive an invitation to this event shortly.

In the meantime, we are continuing to offer webinars at a national and local level. In this newsletter, you will find details of two exciting webinars being offered through the national Family Law Pathways Network: "Australian Judicial Officers' views on Domestic and Family Violence perpetrator interventions" and "Restoring our Family Structures" (which includes a wonderful short film). We are also pleased to bring our members further information about the Evatt List - one of the two main components of the Lighthouse Project which is due to commence in the Brisbane Registry of the Family and Federal Circuit Court very soon. Be sure to register for these webinars so that you can watch them live or view the recordings at a later time.



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## ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Accessing services during COVID-19 restrictions

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department website provides useful links and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) in relation to how services are being delivered during the Coronavirus pandemic and how services can be accessed by individuals affected by COVID-19. Click on the links below for details:

#### Family Issues

- [Family violence and support services](#)
- [Complying with parenting orders](#)
- [International child parental abduction](#)
- [Elder abuse and support services for older Australians](#)
- [Getting married](#)

#### Courts and legal issues

- [Going to court](#)
- [Seeking legal financial assistance \(in certain circumstances\)](#)
- [Seeking legal assistance](#)

#### Other matters

### Supporting justice during COVID-19

As part of Australia's Economic Recovery Plan, the 2020-21 Budget measures include an additional \$87.3 million for family law services that help families going through a separation to resolve matters without having to go to court. The Government also recognises the pressures the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the justice system more broadly, and key portfolio measures include:

- \$35.7m in additional resources and judges for the Federal Circuit Court (FCC) to ensure timely case hearings for migration and family law cases, funded by increases to FCC migration application fees.
- \$7.7m for upgrades to the Launceston and Rockhampton FCC registries.
- \$4.8m for the Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties Scheme.
- \$2.5m to allow the federal family law courts to continue to hear urgent matters through a specialist COVID-19 List.
- \$1.8m to implement criminally enforceable federal family violence orders (FFVOs).

[To read the full media release click here](#)

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## FAMILY AND FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT UPDATES

### New Federal Circuit Court Arbitration List to for resolving property disputes

A dedicated National Arbitration List (NAL) commenced in the Family Court this June and is proving to be a successful way of resolving family law property disputes. It has provided families with a cost-effective and timely alternative to the traditional path of litigation. This is one of a number of initiatives introduced to reduce the backlog of pending cases in the Courts.

As an alternative to a court trial, parties can appoint their own accredited arbitrator and they can set their own timetable. This enables families to extricate themselves from the anxiety of waiting for a judge to become available to hear their case.

All cases conducted as part of the NAL so far have been heard and determined by accredited arbitrators within three months of entering the judge-controlled NAL, with no appeals to date.

Under court rules the arbitrator must produce an award within 28 days of concluding the arbitration. Once registered, the award becomes a decree of the court, enforceable like any other court order. Justice Josh Wilson is the National Arbitration Judge for the Family Court of Australia. Under current NAL procedures, Justice Wilson makes orders referring property cases to arbitration and requires the arbitration to be concluded within six months.

So far, 55 matters have been referred to the NAL. Twelve of these matters have reached a final resolution, all within 3 months of the date of referral. The remaining 43 matters are undergoing close case management and are expected to have completed arbitration within three to six months of the date of referral to arbitration.

Parties pay a fee to the arbitrator, as opposed to funding the cost of a lengthy trial. This ensures they have access to a speedy, legally sound and enforceable decision.

[Click here to view the full media release](#)

### Covid-19 List

In our previous newsletters we provided details about the courts' Covid-19 list. For ongoing updates from the courts, look at the Latest News section on the [Family Court](#) and [Federal Circuit Court](#) website.

### Technology Tips

The Courts have published some hints to support practitioners and parties to optimise virtual hearings and the electronic ADR experience. Click for details: [Family Court](#) and [Federal Circuit Court](#) website.

# Service News and Updates

## FACE-TO-FACE DUTY LAWYER SERVICES RETURN TO THE FAMILY COURT

Caxton Legal Centre and Legal Aid Queensland Family Law Duty Lawyer Services and Family and Advocacy Support Service (FASS) are returning to the Brisbane Registry of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court from Monday, 19 October 2020. Clients attending the family courts at Tank Street in Brisbane should proceed to Level 1 to register with the intake officer, bringing along all court documents and supporting evidence. The duty lawyer will be available until 1pm weekdays, after which time they will be available by telephone - Caxton 07 3214 6333 or Legal Aid Queensland 1300 65 11 88.

## BRISBANE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

BDVS believe in bringing together services across the region to share information, practice wisdom, services provision, increase referral pathways and support the ongoing improvement of our service system to ensure women and children experiencing domestic and family violence receive a smooth, appropriate and timely response when they connect with our systems for support.

In order to support this process, BDVS produce a monthly newsletter. If you would like to be on the mailing list, email [bdvs@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:bdvs@micahprojects.org.au)

## INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MEDIATION & INTERPARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION: ONLINE SEMINAR

Our members may be interested in this upcoming free online seminar exploring international family mediation and interparental child abduction:

**International Mediation and 40 years of the 1980 Hague Convention** from International Social Service Australia. [Click here for details and to register](#)

## TWO NEW SERVICES FOR WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE QLD (WLSQ)

### Financial Abuse Prevention Unit

The Financial Abuse Prevention Unit (FAPU) empowers women to exit (or not return to) an abusive relationship when they learn can have a financially affordable future, independent of their

partner. The unit has a Consumer Credit Law solicitor (with a family law background) and a Financial Counsellor (with a background in DV services). Financial abuse is also called economic abuse and is often experienced at the same time as DFV. The unit advocates on behalf of clients regarding financial hardship agreements, waivers, pay day loan debts, credit card debts and mortgage arrears. Advice can also be given in relation to personal bankruptcy, Part IX Debt agreements and loans generally.

### Domestic Violence Respondent Casework Solicitor

The DV Respondent casework solicitor assists vulnerable women that are victims of domestic violence but that find themselves as a respondent to a DV application. This service has been established primarily in response to the large number of culturally and linguistically diverse women that are faced with defending themselves against police applications for protection orders, despite themselves being the victim and the person most in need of protection. These women are often not able to obtain a grant of aid to defend the case and would otherwise have to face the court alone.

### Referrals

Women are allocated to these services via internal referral only. Contact the WLSQ Helpline 1800 WLS WLS (1800 957 957).

## SAFER FAMILY LAW SYSTEM BILL & PETITION

Many of our members would have watched our recent FLPN webinar with Angela Lynch AM, CEO of the WLSQ. In that webinar, Angela spoke extensively about the [Family Law Amendment \(A Step Towards a Safer Family Law System\) Bill](#) introduced into Federal Parliament in June by Mr Graham Perrett MP, calling for the removal of the presumption of equal shared parenting responsibility from the Family Law Act. Women's Legal Service Qld (WLSQ) has created an online petition calling for same. Angela Lynch, WLSQ CEO said: "The presumption of equal shared parental responsibility in family law shifts the focus of decision-makers away from child safety and the best interests of children." [Click here](#) to sign the petition.



# Family Law Pathways Network Webinar



## The views of Australian judicial officers on domestic and family violence perpetrator interventions

Tuesday, 20 October 2020  
12:00pm QLD



Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon

Professor JaneMaree Maher

Despite increasing acknowledgement of the importance of perpetrator interventions in the delivery of integrated responses to family violence and promoting perpetrator accountability, there remains very little understanding of how magistrates and other judicial officers view, manage and use perpetrator interventions. This presentation will present the findings for our ANRWOS national Project examining the use, influence and management of perpetrator interventions in sentencing of domestic and family violence offenders. Our analysis of interviews conducted with 60 judicial officers from across all Australian state and territory jurisdictions reveals that the effective use of perpetrator interventions in judicial officer decision making is hampered by:

- Limited judicial access to information about which perpetrator interventions have been previously used with a perpetrator,
- A lack of knowledge among judicial officers about perpetrator program referral options, in relation to both the availability and nature of programs available, and
- Uncertainty over the role of the judicial officers in holding perpetrators to account.

Each of these barriers to effective practice will be discussed alongside recommendations for improving judicial practice moving forward.

**Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon** is Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre and an Associate Professor in Criminology in the Faculty of Arts, Monash University (Victoria, Australia). Kate conducts research in the field of family violence, femicide, criminal justice responses to family violence, and the impact of criminal law reform in Australia and internationally. Kate has advised on homicide law reform and family violence reviews in several Australian and international jurisdictions. In 2016 she was appointed to the Victorian Special Minister's Expert Advisory Committee on Perpetrator Interventions and in 2018 she was appointed to the inaugural Board of Directors of Respect Victoria.

**Professor JaneMaree Maher** is an internationally recognised gender studies scholar with a focus on family lives and gender violence. Her research critically examines how social institutions such as families and the criminal justice system create gendered inequalities and inequities. Professor Maher is currently Associate Dean Academic Development in the Faculty of Arts and a key researcher within the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre.

[Register Here](#)

Registered participants will be emailed a link for the webinar and will also have access to a recording of the webinar for a period of time following the live stream.

# The Evatt List explained

## Learn about the Evatt List:

- A dedicated court list for high-risk cases
- A specialist judge-led support team
- Early information gathering and intervention

Attendance at this webinar is through Microsoft Teams - attendees will be sent a link prior to the presentation

There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the presentation - these will be submitted via the Chat function

Registrants will have access to a recording for 14 days after the live webinar

[Register here](#)

Join this **webinar presentation** to find out about the Evatt List, an important part of the new Lighthouse Project pilot commencing in the Brisbane Registry of the Family and Federal Circuit Court soon

## Presented by:

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### **Lisa O'Neill**

Registrar Practice & Procedure  
Family Court of Australia

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### **Bianca Steele**

Child Dispute Services Consultant -  
Lighthouse Project  
Family Court of Australia

**Thursday**  
**5 November 2020**  
**12:00-1:00pm**



GREATER  
BRISBANE

The National Family Law Pathways Networks present

A Webinar & Short Film

# Restoring our Family Structures

The Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation



Thursday, 12 November 2020  
12:00-1:30pm QLD Time

This NAIDOC Week, the Family Law Pathways Networks across Australia invite you to view and discuss this important and powerful short film

- **Hear from survivors of the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home (KBH) Uncle Roger Jarred, Uncle Bobby Young and Uncle James Welsh.**
- **View “The Kinchela Boys”, a short animated film that was co-written, animated and produced by KBH survivors who tell of their experiences at the KBH and about their lives since.**
- **Q & A with Uncle James Welsh and KBH Kin Connect Team Leader, Lesley Franks, whose father attended KBH.**

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) was established in 2003 by Stolen Generations survivors of KBH, an institution on the Mid North Coast of NSW that was run by the NSW Government for over 50 years to house Aboriginal boys forcibly removed from their families. KBHAC supports KBH survivors who live across NSW and interstate in VIC, QLD and SA and their descendants and immediate families who live throughout Australia.

[Register Here](#)

Registered participants will be emailed a link for the webinar and will have access to a recording of the webinar following the live stream.

**Uncle Michael James ‘Widdy’ Welsh, Number 36,** is a Wongaibon man. The Wongaibon People are part of the Wailwan Nation which includes Coonamble in the Central Western Plains of New South Wales and is where Uncle Michael was born. He is a Stolen Generations survivor who at the age of eight was kidnapped from his mother. He, along with five other siblings were taken from his mother by the police and then further separated from each other. Only Uncle Michael and his brother Barry were kept together, both sent to Kinchela Boys Home. At Kinchela Boys Home (KBH), he was given the number 36 and his brother 17. They remained in KBH for five years. Uncle Michael went on to help establish some of the first Aboriginal organisations in Coonamble. He has been a member of the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation since 2009. He is employed as the KBH Peer Support Social and Emotional Wellbeing Worker and has held the position of Treasurer since 2011.

Uncle Michael is a member of The Healing Foundation’s Stolen Generations Reference Committee which guides The Healing Foundation’s Stolen Generations work, ensuring it meets the unique needs of Stolen Generations survivors and their families. Uncle Michael passionately believes in making sure his pain stops with him and is fighting to stem the intergenerational trauma in his family by restoring his family structure. He and other Stolen Generations are focused on truth telling to ensure these acts of genocide are not forgotten and so to ensure the policies inflicted on him, his siblings and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children are never repeated.