

Family Law Pathways Network Brisbane

Newsletter September 2018

Date Claimer

**Wednesday
Evening
14 November**

Join us for a fun and informative pre-Christmas event where we examine the question, "Who is a Parent?"

Put it in your diaries now and await further details.

In this Issue

Will there be a new Super Family Court? Find out about the proposed new Court structure.

Is your service meeting the needs of families with same-sex parents?

Community Noticeboard.

Spotlight on the QUT Family Mediation Service.

How to become a member of the Family Law Pathways Network.

Waitlists for parenting programs and supervised contact.

Welcome

Welcome to the Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network. If you haven't heard from us lately, there have been a few changes.

We have a new Project Officer, Jane Aitken, who has previously worked as a family lawyer in private practice and community legal centres.

Our Steering Committee has several new members. They met earlier this month to plan the events and activities of the FLPN for the 2018-2019 financial year. On our Committee we have:

- Stephen Page of Harrington Family Lawyers (Chair)
- Brisbane Domestic Violence Service (Deputy Chair)
- The Family and Federal Magistrates Circuit Courts
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service
- Family Law Practitioners Association
- QUT Family Mediation Service
- Caxton Legal Service
- Women's Legal Service
- UnitingCare
- Centacare
- Relationships Australia

We want to ensure that all organisations and individuals providing services to clients who are navigating the family law system have great networks and access to information, training and knowledge across the whole sector.

We have some exciting plans to keep the Family Law Network informed, engaged and connected, so keep an eye on your inboxes for updates.

Any questions, comments or newsletter contributions? Email pathwaysprogram@raq.org.au

You can also follow us on [Linkedin](#).



Australian Government



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

GREATER
BRISBANE

A New Super Family Court?

The Federal Government has introduced two Bills to the House of Representatives outlining a proposal to merge the Federal Court and the Family Court which would become the “**Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia**”. The new court would have two Divisions – Division 1 reflecting the current Family Court and Division 2 representing the current Federal Circuit Court. There would also be a new appeals division for family law matters.

The Attorney-General said that the system would become more streamlined, with one set of forms, rules and processes.

Some members of the legal profession are concerned about the limited detail in relation to the new proposals and the limited time available to make submissions in relation to the proposed restructure.

On 23 August 2018 the Senate referred the Bill to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 15 April 2019. The committee will table its report by 26 November 2018. The deadline for submissions to the inquiry is **28 September 2018**.

Is your service meeting the needs of families with same-sex parents?

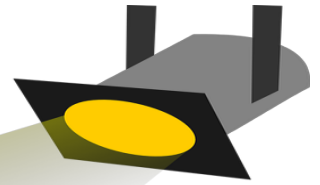
A recent study “highlights the need for greater separation equality by creating better access for parents to services and service providers that are ... knowledgeable of the needs of separated same-sex parented families”. In order to facilitate better engagement with same-sex separating families, services need to:



- ◆ Take care not to project a heteronormative image - be welcoming and demonstrate a capacity to provide services that are not trapped within gender binaries, sexual hierarchies, and heterosexual privilege;
- ◆ Take care not to discriminate against non-biological parents;
- ◆ Consider having training and education in addressing the needs of separating same-sex parent families;
- ◆ Rather than adopting the same framework applied to heterosexual couples, consider whether same-sex families need a different approach to practices such as mediation, parenting arrangements, counselling, etc.;
- ◆ Create promotional material, information guides and websites that are sensitive to and inclusive of the diversity of sex, gender and sexuality;
- ◆ If you are providing an inclusive service, consider conducting outreach within LGBTI communities to raise awareness of the availability of the inclusive services.

You can find the full study at <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/jfs/vol17/iss2/2> (Gahan, Luke (2017) "Separated Same-Sex Parents' Experiences and Views of Services and Service Providers," *Journal of Family Strengths*: Vol. 17 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.)

Did you know
September is
Brisbane Pride Month?
www.brisbanepride.org.au



Spotlight on a Service

QUT Family Mediation Service

Location: QUT Health Clinic Kelvin Grove

Phone: 07 3138 0999

www.healthclinics.qut.edu.au/services-offered/family-mediation

What services do you provide?

The QUT Family Mediation Service provides mediation for separating couples in parenting and simple property and financial matters.

How does it work?

We use a co-mediation model with a nationally accredited mediator and an experienced and accredited family dispute resolution practitioner. Our nationally accredited are accredited under the National Mediation Standards. They are undergoing further specialised family dispute resolution training with QUT to become accredited family dispute resolution practitioners. We also have QUT students involved in administrative roles providing support to the Service and gaining experience in working in a family dispute resolution setting.

Is there a cost associated with your service?

Yes, the service costs \$250 per party.

Are there any restrictions, such as age or financial means?

No, in fact the service can be used by family members, such as grandparents, to negotiate time with their grandchildren. And there is currently no means testing for accessing the service. If the parties have complex financial and property issues, we would recommend they consult a family lawyer.

What happens when the parties reach an agreement?

If parents reach agreement about parenting arrangements, the mediators can assist them to write up a formal Parenting Plan. A section s60I certificate can also be issued, if needed.

If parties reach agreement about their property and financial arrangements, an informal agreement will be written up which they can take to their own lawyers to have drafted into a Consent Order. Legal assistance is required for Consent Orders as they have more formal requirements and need to be filed in and approved by the court.

Can parties be legally represented?

Yes. Parties may attend with their lawyers.

What are waitlist times like?

There is currently no waiting list.

What should we tell our clients about your service?

The QUT Family Mediation Service provides a caring and collaborative environment in which parties are supported to make their own decisions. The mediator uses a structured negotiation process to keep the discussion focused and ensure that each party can have their say.

Visiting the Courts

Did you know that we are facilitating visits to observe the the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in action?

Our November dates are heavily booked but you can register your interest to join us in February 2019.

RAISING FAMILIES IN NEW LANDS FAMILY FORUM – IPSWICH EVENT

27 SEPTEMBER

The FLPN will be participating in an event at Redbank for community and parents to find out more about the role of Police, Child Safety and Community in relation to the wellbeing of children and families. If your organisation provides support and services to new Australians in the Ipswich area and you would like the FLPN to promote or disseminate information about your service at this or future community events, please contact the Pathways Officer by email as soon as possible: pathwaysprogram@raq.org.au

Upcoming Events

- 18th National Family Law Conference, Brisbane Convention Centre, 2-5 October <https://www.familylaw2018.com.au/>
- Wednesday, 14 November 2018 - Family Law Pathways Network Pre-Christmas Networking Event - diarise the date now!!!
- Family and Relationships Services Australia National Conference 2018, "Leaving No One Behind", Pullman Cairns International Hotel, 20-23 November <https://frsa.org.au/frsa-national-conference-2018/>

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Volunteer Family Lawyers - We Want You!

Caxton Legal Centre needs family lawyers! Grow personally and develop professionally while helping others. Caxton Legal Centre is seeking more volunteer solicitors for their Thursday evening family law advice sessions. For more information, including the necessary qualifications, position description and more, go to <https://caxton.org.au/support-caxton/volunteer-lawyers/>.



Australian Government



Family Law
PATHWAYS
NETWORK

GREATER
BRISBANE

Join the Network

Become part of the Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network and enjoy access to professional development opportunities, networking events, Family Court visits, information about family law services and more.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

Develop stronger working relationships with local service providers in the area of family law, including:

- * The Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court;
- * Private and community legal services;
- * Family and domestic violence support services;
- * Services supporting Indigenous Australians and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- * Mediation, counselling and other family relationship support services; and
- * Health services, including services supporting mental health, drug and alcohol addiction and primary health.

Enjoy the benefit of professional development, collaborative referrals and stronger working relationships.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

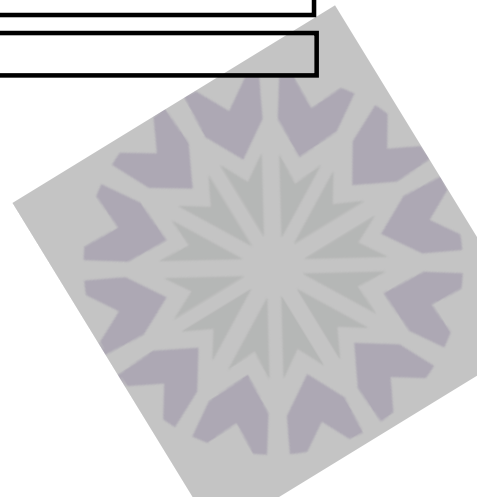
Email:

Phone:

Please print, complete and return this form to:

BY EMAIL: pathwaysprogram@raq.org.au

BY MAIL: Family Law Pathways Network
Relationships Australia Queensland
Building 13, 107 Miles Platting Road
Eight Mile Plains Qld 4113



POST SEPARATION SUPPORT SERVICES – September 2018

WAITING PERIODS

LOCATION	AGENCY	FDR SERVICES				POP / PSCPP			CHILDREN'S CONTACT SERVICES			SCASP
		Tel Intake	Group Session	ASSESS	FDR	CHILD Inc	ASSESS	GROUP	ASSESS	Supervised Contact W/E	Change Over W/E	
Metro												
Caboolture	UCC							weeks				weeks
Capalaba	UCC											4-6 weeks
Redlands (Outreach - FRC Logan)	UCC			2-3 Week	10 weeks	8-10 weeks						
Chernside	FRC			weeks	weeks	weeks						
Chernside	RAQ			Not Operating	Not Operating	Not operating	12 weeks	22-24 weeks				
Chernside	UCC											Nil Wait
Eight Miles Plains	RAQ			12 weeks	14 weeks	Not operating	20 weeks	24 weeks		20 weeks	8 weeks	
Redcliffe	Endicote (formerly Humpybong)											
Ipswich	UCC						1 Week	Nil Wait				Nil Wait
Ipswich	RAQ						weeks	weeks		32- 52weeks	Nil Wait	
Logan (Incl Beenleigh & Jimboomba)	FRC			2-3 week	10 weeks	8-10 weeks						
Logan	UCC						4-6 Week	Nil Wait		weeks	Nil Wait	2 weeks
Maroochydore	UCC											Nil Wait
Mt Gravatt	UCC											8-12 weeks
Strathpine	UCC											2 weeks
Strathpine	FRC			8 weeks	3 weeks	6 weeks						
Upper Mt Gravatt	FRC			2-3 weeks	12-14 weeks	14-16weeks						

¹ Acronyms:

- Assess (Assessment / Intake)
- FDR (Family Dispute Resolution)
- FRC (Family Relationship Centre)
- POP (Parenting Orders Program)
- PSCPP (Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Program)
- RAQ (Relationships Australia QLD)
- SCASP (Supporting Children after Separation Program)
- W/E (Weekend)
- UCC (Uniting Care Community)