
Assessing and determining children's best interests in the flood of family violence claims

AFCC Australian Chapter Third Annual Conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre | 18 to 20 August 2016
South Bank | Brisbane | Australia

PROGRAM 2016



AFCC convenes members of multiple disciplines in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, from all over the world. AFCC is unique as a professional association because members do not all share a common profession. Rather, AFCC members share a strong commitment to education, innovation and collaboration in order to benefit communities, empower families and promote a healthy future for children.

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**Please keep the dates free for the
4th Annual AFCC Australian Chapter Conference in Melbourne**

17th, 18th and 19th of August 2017

Third Annual Conference AFCC

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Internet network "AFCC" and password "ourfamilywizard"

AFCC Australian Chapter Annual General Meeting to be held in the main plenary room at 5 pm on Friday 19 August 2016

The Australian Chapter Board will meet at 8.00 am on the 20 August 2016. (Room to be advised)



Please download the Bcec Live app on the app store and scan the QR Code to get started

Pre-Conference Institute

Thursday 18 August 2016

9.30 – 10.30 am

Plaza 10

11.00 – 12.30 pm

STALKING AND PERSISTENT HARASSMENT

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Dr Lorraine Sheridan

3.30 – 4.00 pm

Stalking affects around 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men in Australia. Stalking is poorly understood by both the general public and by professionals. This workshop provides attendees with a deep understanding of the psychology of stalking behavior, why it occurs, its impact, and how best to address it. We will start by examining exactly what stalking behavior is and the contexts in which it can occur. Myths will be challenged, and the relationship between stalking and other interpersonal crimes will be explored. The primary sub-types of stalkers will be presented, along with the motivations and likely roots of stalking behavior. Following this, Lorraine will reveal the impact that it has on its victims and third parties. Cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying will be explored, in terms of what who and why. The focus will then shift to how to best respond to cases of stalking and attendees will take away a set of 11 screening questions that can help evaluate the likelihood of violence in stalking cases. Advice for investigators, supporters and victims will be provided, according to stalker sub-type. Attendees will engage in practical tasks to help increase understanding and all workshop content is informed by both research and best practice.



Thursday 18 August 2016

9.30 – 10.30 am

Plaza 11

11.00 – 12.30 pm

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, ABDUCTION RISK, OH MY!!

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Dr Robert Simon, Dr Phil Stahl

3.30 – 4.00 pm

Family court cases in which there are allegations of Intimate Partner Violence are amongst the most challenging cases for attorneys, judicial officers and mental health professionals. Over the past 30 years, there has been a growing body of research related to Intimate Partner Violence and its impact on families. In fact, the AFCC is in the process of finalising and publishing a set of guidelines for child custody evaluations in which there are allegations of IPV. Laws, codes and public policy in the family courts are evolving in view of the research findings. Even while this is taking place, there is growing public outcry that courts and court personnel are not properly trained to deal with IPV and that they are not doing enough to deal with these critical family issues.

This all-day institute aims to help fill the knowledge and skill gap. Integrating videos, group discussions, and various didactic teaching methods, the institute will focus on 4 critical areas, integrating the latest knowledge from across the globe.

They include:

- Differentiation of domestic violence, identifying critical variables associated with Separation Instigated Violence (the most common), Situational Couples Violence (the next most common), and Coercive Controlling Violence (the most difficult);
- The impact on children of family violence, including the psychological, educational, social, and neurological impacts. Research on the impact of various adverse experiences (the ACE study) will also be discussed;
- The impact of child abuse on families; and
- Abduction risk, and the potential impact of abduction on children and adults

The institute will conclude with a focus on screening for IPV, more formal assessment of IPV and IPV prevention, and sharing ways to reduce the risks of future family violence.

Learning Objectives:

After this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand critical differences between Separation Instigated, Situational Couples, and Coercive Controlling Violence
- Recognise the ways in which children are at risk of harm in families with domestic violence, regardless of whether or not they are the direct victims of such violence
- Understand the research on Adverse Child Experiences and integrate that into one's understanding of critical findings associated with family violence
- Integrate decision-making strategies when working with families of domestic violence, with a goal of safety for victims and children.

Pre-Conference Institute

Thursday 18 August 2016

9.30 – 10.30 am

Plaza 9

11.00 – 12.30 pm

**RESEARCH INFORMED EARLY INTERVENTION-
CATCHING THEM BEFORE TOO MUCH DAMAGE IS DONE**

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Dr Lyn Greenberg

3.30 – 4.00 pm

High conflict and disrupted parent-child relationships create extreme risks of maladjustment in children. Too often, these families do not receive specialised intervention until a parent-child relationship is fractured, exchanges are disrupted, or the child is exhibiting entrenched dysfunctional behaviour. This is particularly unfortunate since the developmental regressions characteristic of children's exposure to conflict, including resistance-refusal dynamics, can often be detected early. Children can be provided with services that promote resilience and support their emotional development, without compromising external investigation. Delay compounds both the cost and complications of intervention and reduces the chance of success. If children develop entrenched patterns of avoiding emotional issues, it may be impossible to reintegrate their relationships with parents and family members. Recovery from trauma is also compromised when children have not established healthy coping abilities. Dr. Greenberg will present strategies for creative interventions with high conflict families, including those with young children, addressing dysfunctional behaviour without compromising external investigations. Our emphasis will be on systemic, practical, community based interventions, including recreational, and educational resources in combination with therapeutic and judicial management components. The level of specialisation required for various therapeutic roles will be discussed.

9.30 – 10.30 am

Plaza 8

11.00 – 12.30 pm

THE MAGIC TOOL BOX - UNDERSTANDING THE STRENGTHS AND LIMITS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Dr Phil Watts

3.30 – 4.00 pm

Psychological tests are viewed from perspectives varying from having magical properties and absolute utility, to being useless and a waste of time. The truth of the matter is that an appropriate psychological test used wisely can be helpful in adding information to an assessment. However, a wrongly administered test, or a test of poor quality, can not only be inappropriate but potentially misleading. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce lawyers to the science underpinning psychological testing, and for psychologists to understand their responsibility in using tests in the Family Court. A range of tests, including intelligence, personality and mental health, and parenting functioning will be discussed. Phil has run master classes on psychological assessment for psychologists and is highly regarded in his knowledge of psychometrics. However, he is also sure to provide a dynamic presentation which is easy to follow irrespective your experience of this important topic.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

6.00 – 10.00 pm

Plaza North Terrace

Join us on hospitality area Plaza North Terrace on the balcony for drinks and nibbles to meet up with old friends and make new ones. From 6.00pm until 10.00 pm Thursday and Friday evening.

Friday 19 August 2016

9.00 – 9.30 am	Plaza 9, 10 and 11
	WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE
	Justice Steven Strickland
	A short film 'Degree of Separation' produced by Mr Darren Mort
	PLENARY 1
9.30 – 10.30 am	Plaza 9, 10 and 11
Moderator:	Judge Tom Altobelli
	COORDINATING RESPONSES: PLUGGING THE GAPS IN THE SYSTEM
	Judge Tom Altobelli, Professor Heather Douglas, Dr Phil Watts, Ms Anne Marie Rice, Inspector Regan Carr
	Family Violence survivors often complain of a lack of support, difficulty accessing appropriate services and dealing with the different legal, welfare and criminal systems. This plenary looks to explore where these gaps are located, why these gaps arise and how these systems might work better together.
	PLENARY 2
11.00 – 12.30 pm	Plaza 9, 10 and 11
Chair:	Justice Steven Strickland
	STALKING AND FAMILY VIOLENCE: COURSE, NATURE, AND INTERVENTIONS
	Dr Lorraine Sheridan
	This presentation will detail the phenomenon of stalking, which is intrinsically related to family violence. At the point of separation, domestic violence frequently segues into stalking. The course and nature of stalking will be discussed, as will the methods that ex-partner stalkers employ to control their victims. These methods are wide ranging and include the exploitation of new technologies. The impact of stalking will be examined, including the impact on children. The presentation will conclude by outlining useful intervention and case monitoring strategies.

Workshops

Friday 19 August 2016

WORKSHOP 1	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 6
Chair:	Ms Liz Picker
FLASHPOINTS IN FAMILY LAW: WHEN CURRENT MODELS OF RISK ASSESSMENT FAIL	
Dr Simon Kennedy, Dr Jennifer Neoh, Ms Manuela Galvao	
<p>Predicting risk and dangerousness is an imprecise science. This workshop examines current risk assessment models and presents case studies that suggest that risk assessment in family law matters needs to take a more nuanced approach. Risk assessment models often focus on coercive violent relationships, but case studies suggest that other factors need to be incorporated to cover situations of increased risk of homicide and filicide.</p>	
WORKSHOP 2	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 7
Chair:	Mr Vincent Papaleo
FAMILY REPORTS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE	
Ms Zoe Rathus	
<p>Cases involving allegations of family violence are core business in family law parenting proceedings in Australia. While there is a growing body of research analysing the impact of such allegations in judicial assessments of the child's best interests, less is known about the crucial role played by the most frequently used independent evidence – the family report. Family reports are ordered by the judge and prepared by family consultants, who are generally either social workers or psychologists. They provide expert evidence about the family dynamics and how the best interests of the children might be served post-separation, and are often the only 'expert' information available to the judge. Family reports make influential recommendations to the courts about post-separation arrangements for children and, because of their status as an independent document and the perceived neutral position of family report writers, the reports are also influential in out of court negotiations, eligibility for grants of legal aid and other matters. Of concern, however, are findings from the limited research in this area suggesting that an inadequate consideration of family violence in expert assessments could be facilitating court (and out of court) outcomes that are not in the child's best interests. The purpose of this presentation is to outline, with regard to family violence – 1) the extant research on expert assessments, 2) the recent development of assessment standards for family reports and other initiatives, and 3) preliminary results from a Brisbane-based study pilot exploring family report writing practice from the perspective of victims and those providing legal and social support to them.</p>	

Friday 19 August 2016

WORKSHOP 3

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Plaza 8

Moderator:

Judge Alexandra Harland

THE CHALLENGES OF DEALING WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE ALLEGATIONS AT INTERIM HEARINGS IN THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT – PANEL SESSION

Judge Alexandra Harland , Mr Stephen Page , Dr Jacoba Brasch QC ,
Judge Kevin Laphorn, Mr Steve Atkinson

The Federal Circuit Court of Australia deals with 85% of family law matters. It is an incredibly busy trial court. Busy duty lists often include matters where one or both parties make allegations of family violence. Section 67ZBB requires the court to take prompt action when allegations of abuse or family violence are made. With resources stretched and with so many cases raising allegations of family violence, it is hard to achieve this in practice. The aim of this session is to explore the issues.

By the end of this session participants will understand:

- the limitations of what the court can determine at an interim hearing;
- what the court can determine at an interim hearing;
- how best to gather evidence for an interim hearing;
- strategies for presenting your case when acting for someone alleging family violence;
- strategies for presenting your case when acting for someone responding to allegations of family violence;
- the role of the ICL in interim hearings concerning family violence allegations; and
- the role of s11F reports prepared by a family consultant.



Workshops

Friday 19 August 2016

WORKSHOP 4	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 9
Chair:	Ms Julie Jackson
	ENGAGING AND INTERVENING WITH AT-RISK MALE CLIENTS: PRACTICAL 'HOW TOS' AND 'HOW NOT TOS'
	Mr Tony Christie, Mr Owen Pershouse
	<p>This workshop offers unique insights and practical “how-to” responses regarding challenges with successfully (and unsuccessfully) engaging male clients with domestic violence presentations and risks. The two presenters span 40 professional years of working with males in community and custodial settings; and across various jurisdictions, including Family Court and Child Safety areas. One-on-one and structured programming formats are reviewed and informed by a comprehensive data set (N greater than 2000). Participants are encouraged to also share and problem solve issues and challenges with credible assessment, intervention and maintenance phases. The workshop highlights the value of enabling client self-auditing, monitoring, and targeted up-skilling to maximise prosocial transitions. Practical risk-management and impacts on children exposed to familial violence will be scoped. Current limitations of managing domestic violence will be covered in a frank and prosocial framework. Time permitting, some initiatives regarding statutory and structural challenges affecting the positioning of practitioner resourcing will be offered.</p>
WORKSHOP 5	
3.30 – 5.00 pm	Plaza 6
Chair:	Dr Phil Watts
	CRITICAL FORENSIC ISSUES IN FAMILY LAW INTERVENTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS
	Dr Robert Simon, Dr Phil Stahl
	<p>Mental Health Professionals are typically trained clinically, not forensically. Clinical assessment, clinical thinking and reasoning, clinical inference information and reaching clinically useful conclusions utilises different procedures and cognitive processes than are used in forensic work. MHPs working in the family court system are providing forensic services. This requires them to learn and practice forensic assessment, forensic reasoning, forensic inferential process and forensic conclusory processes. The intersection of clinical and legal work requires a forensic mindset that integrates multiple hypotheses about a particular family’s dynamic and utilises a reliable process to lead to potential recommendations. This workshop will identify different clinical and forensic skills and focus on the necessary traits and skills to be used when working with families in the family court system.</p> <p>After this workshop participants will be able to:</p>

Friday 19 August 2016

- Recognise differences between clinical and forensic practices
- Apply a forensic mindset to their work in family law matters, including but not limited to developing multiple hypotheses and avoiding oversimplification in one's work
- Understand the importance of a comprehensive risk-benefit analysis when making recommendations to the court about other children's families and integrating that understanding into their work.

WORKSHOP 6

3.30 – 5.00pm

Plaza 7

Chair:

Justice Steve Strickland

WASN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING? RECOGNISING AND REDIRECTING PROBLEM THERAPY

Dr Lyn Greenberg

Families can enormously benefit from properly conducted therapy, but poorly conducted treatment can cause serious harm. An expanding professional literature base and the AFCC Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapy have provided strong resources for therapists and legal professionals, yet a strong training gap persists. How can judicial officers, legal and mental health professionals recognise therapy that has gone "off track," and risks escalating conflict or causing harm to the child or families? When can problem therapy be redirected, and when is it necessary to replace the therapist or redesign the treatment plan? Using the Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapy and both research and clinical experience, Dr. Greenberg will provide strategies and tools for recognising and redirecting problem treatment, including changing providers and directions when necessary.

WORKSHOP 7

3.30 – 4.30 pm

Plaza 8

Chair:

Chief Justice Diana Bryant

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS: CAN WE ADDRESS THE POWER IMBALANCES?

Dr Jacoba Brasch QC

When a relationship is marred by violence and abuse, it is also marred by a power imbalance between the parties. However, when the relationship ends, the power imbalances continue in a range of ways, no less than when the parties find themselves in litigation and further, where one or both are self-representing.

In her paper, Dr Brasch QC argues that (a) litigation itself can be a form of violence and abuse; (b) as officers of the court, we have a duty to not aid, abet or unwittingly participate in such abuses; and (c) lawyers and the judiciary ought to be proactive in employing measures to protect self-representing parties from the trauma of cross-examining or being cross-examined, whilst also protecting the fidelity of the trial process and the evidence it produces.

Workshops & Networking

Friday 19 August 2016

WORKSHOP 8	
3.30 – 5.00 pm	Plaza 9
Chair:	Ms Lilia Szarski
	RISK ASSESSMENT FOR LAWYERS
	Ms Leanne Sinclair , Ms Allyson Foster
	<p>While there is an ever-increasing awareness of the prevalence of family violence in Australia, many practitioners still struggle with how to best handle matters where family violence is alleged. It is no longer sufficient to simply wait for the outcome of a family report or a psychiatric assessment – family lawyers need a basic understanding of family violence risk factors in order to better assist their clients and the court to navigate these complex issues.</p> <p>This session will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How a knowledge of family violence risk assessment and red flags can inform your practice;• The different ways family violence risks are assessed;• Who currently conducts family violence risk assessment;• Family violence red flags; and• Safety considerations and planning.
HOSPITALITY SUITE	
6.00 – 10.00 pm	Plaza North Terrace
	<p>Join us at the hospitality area Plaza North Terrace on the balcony for drinks and nibbles to meet up with old friends and make new ones.</p> <p>From 6.00pm until 10.00 pm Thursday and Friday evening.</p>
NETWORKING DINNER - CHOICE OF 4 RESTAURANTS	
6.30 pm	<p>Join some colleagues for dinner and a great night out.</p> <p>Sign up at your registration for the conference to dine out at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ahmet's Turkish• Aquitaine Brasserie French• Popolo Italian• Ole Spanish
	   

Saturday 20 August 2016

	PLENARY 3
9.00 – 10.30 am	Plaza 9, 10 and 11
Chair:	Justice Steven Strickland
Sponsor	Barry Nilsson Lawyers
	TREATMENT OUTCOMES FOR THOSE WHO ARE VIOLENT TOWARDS FAMILY MEMBERS
	<p>Professor Michael Daffern Professor of Clinical Forensic Psychology with the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science at Swinburne</p> <p>Violence is amongst the most pervasive and harmful of antisocial behaviours. It affects millions of people worldwide and causes substantial and sometimes long-lasting personal and social burdens. Violence also has significant health care, legal and justice system costs. According to the 2014 Global Status Report on Violence Prevention, a joint publication of the WHO, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and United Nations Development Program, women, children and elderly people bear the brunt of nonfatal physical, sexual and psychological abuse. One in three women has been a victim of physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime. A large and diverse array of research is conducted under the broad terms of aggression and violence and there is a wide array of legal, clinical and social interventions whose stated objective is to prevent violence. Novel methods for preventing violence and managing violent offenders are regularly unveiled. Despite bold promise many of the strategies lack evidence and are inconsistent with established offender rehabilitation principles. This talk will review extant knowledge concerning the treatment and management of violent offenders with particular attention on men who are violent towards family members. Mechanisms of change and approaches to assessing improvement as well as opportunities for enhancing outcomes will be discussed.</p>
	PLENARY 4
11.00 – 12.30 pm	Plaza 9, 10 and 11
Moderator:	Mr Rod Hooper SC
	CHILDREN'S BEST INTERESTS WHERE THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: DOES THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK SUPPORT GOOD DECISION MAKING?
	<p>Chief Justice Diana Bryant , Professor Richard Chisholm, Dr Rae Kaspiew, Mr Rod Hooper SC, Ms Robin Cohen</p> <p>The question of parenting arrangements where there is family violence has already been much discussed in 2016, with the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence being handed down, the completion of the Family Law Council's work on complex families and the work being done by the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children. Against this backdrop, this panel will examine whether there is a need for legislative reform to support practitioners and decision makers working with parents and children where there are allegations of family violence.</p>

Workshops

Saturday 20 August 2016

	WORKSHOP 9
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 6
Chair:	Dr David List
	STEPPING STONES: LEGAL BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC EQUALITY AFTER FAMILY VIOLENCE
	Ms Emma Smallwood
	<p>Ms Emma Smallwood is currently employed as a lawyer and the Economic Well-being Project Co-ordinator at Women’s Legal Service Victoria. This workshop will present her report ‘Stepping Stones: Legal barriers to economic equality after family violence’ on economic abuse, the financial impacts of family violence and the different legal and financial barriers women encounter. The report was launched on 22 September 2015 by Ms Rosie Batty AO, The Hon. Diana Bryant AO, Chief Justice of the Family Court and the Hon. Martin Pakula MP, Victorian Attorney General. The workshop will explore how financial institutions, service providers and law makers might approach reform and help more victims of family violence recover financially.</p>
	WORKSHOP 10
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 7
Chair:	Dr Andrew Bickerdike
	THE REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER CONTEXT
	Ms Lois Whiteman
	<p>In this presentation Ms Lois Whiteman will provide an overview of the contextual issues at the heart of understanding, assessing and responding to family violence in families who have experienced refugee related trauma.</p> <p>The main themes of this presentation will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The effect of complex trauma on the psyche and brain and the implications for individuals and families when emotional regulation is compromised;• Prolonged war disrupts the social fabric of a society. There is a consequent break down of the enculturation process particularly for the next generation. This may have a marked effect on family life including negotiating and managing conflict;• Living in a violent, often lawless, situation reduces or nullifies safe choices; vulnerable members of such societies (particularly women and children) may be left with no choice but to accept the lesser violent option;• The complex interaction of refugee related trauma, cultural loss, cultural shock and settlement challenges in a new and foreign landscape;• The breakdown and/or unavailability of trusted supports for families when plunged into a foreign culture;

Saturday 20 August 2016

- The difficult topic of cultural absolutism, relativism and human rights particularly in relation to collectivist cultures where the rights of the individual may be subsumed to that of the larger group;
- The specific and ongoing trauma of asylum seeker families;
- The importance of remembering that many people from refugee backgrounds settle well, bring an amazing array of personal resources and hold values of family nurturance, education and respect and dignity for all. For many, advocating for these human rights has been the cause for their flight from their homelands in the first place.

WORKSHOP 11

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Plaza 8

Chair:

Justice Steven Strickland

'BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD' - HOW HAS THIS TERM BEEN INTERPRETED UNDER THE FAMILY LAW ACT 1975 (CTH) AND IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE, AND HAVE THE 2011 REFORMS MADE ANY DIFFERENCE?

Dr Renata Alexander

This presentation looks primarily at the legislation and case law and plots the journey of the relevance of child abuse and family violence within the context of best interests. The expanded definitions together with greater reference to social science suggest improvement in judicial awareness, but inconsistent judicial approaches remain and the 2011 reforms have not had as much impact as hoped. There are problems with the definitions themselves. There remain inherent problems with the legislative pathway prescribed in Part VII of the Family Law Act as to determining best interests, and an on-going tension between the two primary considerations in deciding parenting cases and the operation of s 60CC(2A). There is also a need for research about the long term effects of parenting orders upon families, particularly those involving family violence.



Workshops

Saturday 20 August 2016

WORKSHOP 12	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Plaza 9
Chair:	Judge Peter Cole
	FLASHPOINT, SELF-CARE, AND MANAGING YOUR OWN RISK
	Dr Phil Watts
	<p>At this conference you will be hearing a lot about risks to children or partners when there are violence issues. Dr Watts has assessed murderers and other violent people in prison but said that he has had more nerve-racking experiences in the Family Court cliental as they are some of the same people, who have not yet been caught! Therefore, it is important to remember that Family Court lawyers, judges and associated workers have been murdered, assaulted, run over, and harmed or harassed in a variety of ways. This presentation is about understanding potential risks to yourself and fellow workers. This presentation will consider four broad aspects. The first is how to assess imminent danger and assess the risk in a practical fashion. The second aspect considers harassment and stalking of professionals. The third facet is a discussion around disclosure of risk when it arises. The final aspect is around how to diffuse and manage risk in your office with someone who is becoming dangerous.</p>
WORKSHOP 13	
1.30 – 2.15 pm	Plaza 10
Chair:	Mr Darren Mort
	BREADTH, DEPTH AND UNIVERSALITY IN WHOLE OF FAMILY RISK SCREENING - PUTTING THE FAMILY LAW DOORS INTO PRACTICE
	Dr Claire Ralfs and Dr Jamie Lee
	<p>The Family Law DOORS (FL DOORS, McIntosh, 2012) is a peer-reviewed, validated and reliable risk screening tool that takes about 20 minutes for clients to complete. The FL DOORS predicts key outcomes for infants, children and adults in practice (McIntosh, Wells, Lee, 2016). It is embedded in a framework that guides interpretation and enables effective response (McIntosh & Ralfs, 2012), distinguishing the wide net of risk screening from the deep dive of risk assessment. It enables the sector to think beyond just screening for DV victimisation, to the risk indicators within separated family contexts that create risks for well-being and safety, for perpetrators and victims alike. Putting screening into routine practice can feel daunting to new adopters. This workshop plugs the translational gap. Over three years, Relationships Australia South Australia has collated 6,000 FL DOORS across its post-separation services, in its universal risk screening procedures. We present some of the vast learnings arising from this process about implementation. Client feedback shows that, far from painful, completing the FL DOORS screening is experienced by most as supportive and beneficial. We illustrate how DOORS risk screening integrates seamlessly with risk assessment tools already in use (including some you may hear about at this conference).</p>

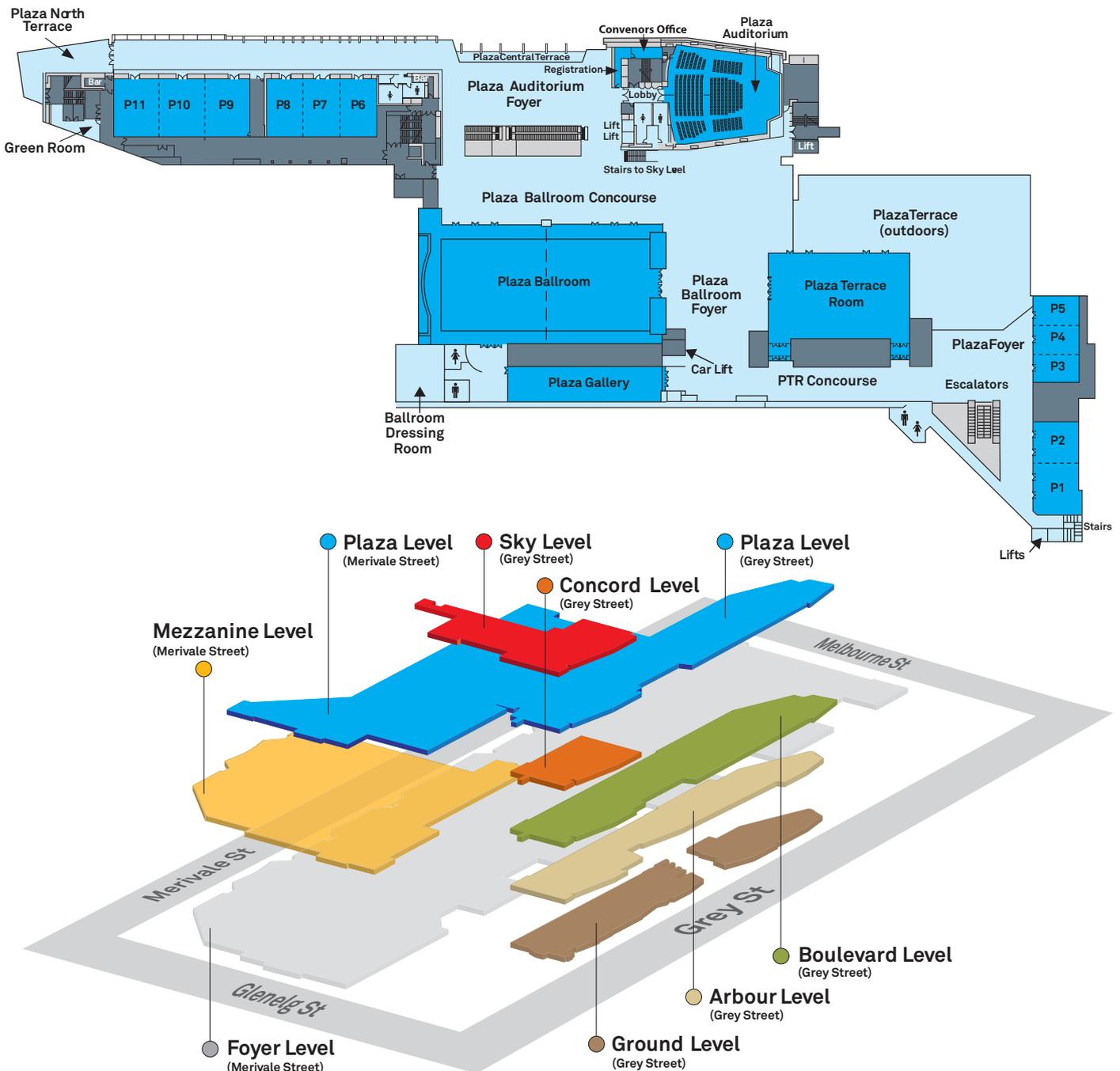
Saturday 20 August 2016

WORKSHOP 13	
2.15- 3.00pm	Plaza 10
Chair:	Mr Darren Mort
FAMILY VIOLENCE SCREENING IN PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS	
Dr Ben Jones and Ms Manuela Galvao	
<p>A central tenet of the preliminary assessments (pursuant to s11F of the Family Law Act) undertaken by Family Consultants is to screen for risks that may exist in a given matter, and provide a detailed interim description of any risks to the courts via memoranda, oral advice, or Child and Parent Issues Assessments (CPIAs). Given the very unique court environment and stringent time constraints, screening for family violence presents challenges in this initial assessment process. In mid-2015, Child Dispute Services piloted a new Family Violence Screening Tool (FVST), which was developed from a screening questionnaire used in several North American states, the Mediator’s Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC). The pilots used a procedure in which parents completed part of the risk screen online, prior to their interview, allowing Family Consultants to better tailor their assessment of violence risk during consultation. Results of the pilots show strong support for both the tool and the a priori distribution procedure. Further, FVST demonstrated robust psychometric properties – an important consideration within an adversarial court environment. There is currently discussion about the national implementation of FVST, including the online distribution prior to interview, for all parents ordered to attend an interim s11F assessment with a Family Consultant.</p>	
SOCIAL DRINKS TO END THE CONFERENCE	
3.00 – 5.00 pm	Plaza North Terrace
<p>Join us at the hospitality area Plaza North Terrace on the balcony for drinks and nibbles to continue conversations, debates and banter and part from old and new friends until the Australian Chapter AFCC Conference in Melbourne in 2017.</p>	
	

Floor Plans

Plaza Level BCEC on Merivale Street & Grey Street

The Plaza Level is the connecting link between Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Grey Street and Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Merivale Street.



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"Very safe; secure"



"An aligned firm we want to deal with"



"The experience and seniority of their people; more so than lawyers on the other side"



"Excellent; extremely competent"

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"Seen as bit bigger so more capable – more people and Geoff and Don's position gives you a level of confidence"



"Substance; authority; strong human relationship skills"



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- Parenting matters
- De facto relationships
- Cohabitation/prenuptial agreements
- Spousal maintenance
- Separation and divorce
- Domestic violence
- International family law
- Mediation and arbitration
- Surrogacy
- Guardianship
- Superannuation
- Estate planning



