

# CQFLPN GUIDE TO ONLINE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM RESOURCES

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June 2013

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Australian Government



Family Law  
PATHWAYS  
NETWORK

CENTRAL  
QUEENSLAND

# Table of Contents

<b>Topic (click to view)</b>	<b>Page</b>
<a href="#">The CQFLPN Guide to Online Resources</a>	3
<a href="#">Acknowledgements</a>	3
<a href="#">Child Protection</a>	4
<a href="#">Children and Young People</a>	6
<a href="#">Child Support</a>	11
<a href="#">Consent Orders</a>	12
<a href="#">Co-parenting</a>	12
<a href="#">Dealing with Separation</a>	13
<a href="#">Divorce</a>	14
<a href="#">Domestic Violence</a>	15
<a href="#">Drugs, Alcohol and Gambling</a>	19
<a href="#">Family</a>	20
<a href="#">Financial Information</a>	21
<a href="#">Gay and Lesbian Support</a>	23
<a href="#">Grandparents</a>	23
<a href="#">Indigenous Support</a>	23
<a href="#">Legal</a>	24
<a href="#">Men</a>	28
<a href="#">Mental Health</a>	31
<a href="#">Multicultural</a>	36
<a href="#">New Relationships</a>	39
<a href="#">Parenting Plans</a>	39
<a href="#">Recovery Orders</a>	40
<a href="#">Step Parenting</a>	40
<a href="#">Welfare Rights</a>	42
<a href="#">Women</a>	42
<a href="#">Reports And Papers</a>	44
<a href="#">Legislation</a>	54

# The CQFLPN Guide to Online Family Law System Resources 2013

Following the continued excellent response to The CQFLPN Guide to Online Family Law System Resources produced in 2011 and 2012 by the Central Queensland Family Law Pathway Network, this year we have again revised and updated the booklet. Some weblinks in previous Guides are no longer accessible however new ones have been included.

The Guide has grown larger each year as new resources and publications become available. This year in the interest of keeping the format as practical as possible, fewer papers and reports are listed individually. However there are now links to large libraries of publications, including peer reviewed journal articles. Publications previously listed individually can be found within these sites, if they are currently still available. Some stand alone publications are also listed separately.

Again we are simply making it easier for people to find the extensive range of resources and tools currently available to support professionals working in the system and people going through Family Court processes. The information is sourced from the Australian Government, state agencies, not for profit organizations, universities and legal firms.

The overarching aim of the Central Queensland Family Law Pathway Network (CQFLPN) an initiative of the Australia Government Attorney General's Department, is to improve collaboration and coordination between organisations operating in the family law system, in order to help separating and separated families obtain appropriate services. We are now into our second year of operation and have a membership base of around 340 spread across a distance of over 700kms. The CQFLPN services the communities of Rockhampton, Gladstone, the Central Highlands region, Longreach and Biloela.

The Guide enables members (and others) to have ready access to accurate information, with the click of a mouse – regardless of where they are situated. It is tailored to meet the needs of those going through the trauma of family break down and those working to support them.

To use the Guide, either click on a particular topic in the contents page, or quickly scroll through the whole Guide.

All links listed were active in June 2013.

## **Tips:**

If a link doesn't open easily, highlight, right click and then click on "open hyperlink"

Also due to changes in government agencies and organizational restructures some websites may move or change overtime. Highlighting the name of the document or resource you want and pasting straight into your search engine will usually locate the document or tool if it is still available.

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## *Acknowledgements:*

- *All activities undertaken by the Central Queensland Family Law Pathway Network are funded through the Federal Attorney General's Department as part of the national Family Law Pathway Network, an Australian Government Initiative.*
- *Thanks to the Central Queensland Family Law Pathway Steering Committee for their input and support in the development of this Guide.*

# CQFLPN Guide to Online Resources

## Child Protection

### Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) Resource Sheets

The Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) began operation on 30 March 2012 at the [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#) (AIFS). The exchange incorporates the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse, National Child Protection Clearinghouse and Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia, directly affecting practitioners and policy makers within the children, families and communities sectors.

Resources previously available on the National Child Protection Clearinghouse website are now archived on the new website and can still be accessed by clicking on the links below.

The “*Helplines and counselling services for children, young people and parents*” is particularly useful and provides contact details and links to a number of helplines and telephone counselling services for children, young people, and parents. It also provides information about other relevant organisations providing services for specific groups or addressing particular problems or issues. Services are grouped according to the area and state in which they operate. This fact sheet was updated in November 2012 and can be found [here](#).

Other useful resources available include:

#### Understanding child abuse and neglect

- [Effects of child abuse and neglect for children and adolescents](#)
- [Effects of child abuse and neglect for adult survivors](#)
- [What is child abuse and neglect?](#)
- [Who abuses children?](#)

#### Child protection

- [Age of consent laws](#)
- [Australian child protection legislation](#)
- [Australian legal definitions: When is a child in need of protection?](#)
- [Children's commissioners and guardians](#)
- [Corporal punishment](#)
- [History of child protection](#)
- [Mandatory reporting of child abuse](#)
- [Pre-employment screening: Working With Children Checks and Police Checks](#)
- [Reporting abuse and neglect: State and territory departments responsible for protecting children](#)
- [Risk assessment in child protection](#)

#### Statistics

- [Child abuse and neglect statistics](#)
- [Children in care](#)
- [Child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children](#)
- [Child deaths from abuse and neglect in Australia](#)
- [The economic costs of child abuse and neglect](#)

#### Service system reform and evaluation

- [Evaluating child abuse and neglect intervention programs](#)

## Internet safety

- [Images of children and young people online](#)

Please visit [Child Family and Community Australia Publications by topic](#) for a full list of current publications.

## Child Protection Information Kits

The South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre (SWBCLC) provides information and advice to parents and guardians who have had their child/ren removed or are likely to have their child/ren removed by the Department of Child Safety. The Centre has developed 2 child protection kits:

- [Child Protection Kit for Parents \(PDF, 2.9Mb\)](#)
- [Child Protection Kit for Workers \(PDF, 3.4Mb\)](#)

These are general information kits which are basic guides about rights and obligations for parents, children, kinship carers and community workers where children are involved with the Department of Child Safety.

## Child Safety

The Queensland Department of Communities [Child Safety](#) and Disability webpage has advice on protecting children, adoption and foster and kinship care. Topics concerning child protection include:

- [Reporting child abuse](#)
- [What happens when a report is made?](#)
- [Protecting children from harm](#)
- [Prevention and early intervention](#)

Also available on this site is in the [Child Safety Practice Manual](#) is one of a set of 'authority documents' that collectively make up the policy and procedural documentation of Child Safety. The purpose of the practice manual is to facilitate standardised practice across the state. In addition, the practice manual:

- guides and informs 'frontline' child protection practice across the child protection continuum
- outlines the roles and responsibilities of Child Safety staff in the delivery of statutory child protection services
- advises staff of their statutory obligations to promote the safety and well-being of Queensland children and young people, specifically those at risk of harm.

The manual is also a useful resource for support agencies and the legal fraternity as it clearly articulates the department's obligations to those with whom it has dealings. There is also a guide on [How to use the Child Safety Practice Manual](#)

## Children and their families: Best Interest Case Practice Model: Specialist practice resource.

The Victorian Government Department of Human Services have published a practice manual for child protection practitioners titled "Children and their families: Best interest case practice model". While the guide is designed for a Victorian audience, there is a lot of valuable information which Queensland based workers will find useful. The manual contains an overview of child development, the impacts of abuse and neglect, as well as information on assessment and case planning. To download the manual click [here](#).

## Kids Central

This site has guides, tools, booklets and resources for helping keep children safe. See [Kids Central](#) in the list above.

## Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak

The [CPP](#) (Child Protection Peak) is a non-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak is the peak body representing and working with its members and partners, to improve the safety and well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families. The site provides information and links to other useful sites.

## Resource for Carers.

Often, children and young people who have a care experience do not receive information that can help them make safe and healthy decisions about relationships and sexual health. A group of young consultants with a care experience from CREATE Foundation, have come together and developed a vodcast to help adults understand some of their experiences. Their key message is that 'knowledge is power' and children and young people in care need adults in their lives to have positive conversations with them about sexuality, relationships and sexual health. The vodcast is available to view at [Out of the Box](#). For more information about resources and training to support sexuality and relationships for children and young people in care visit [Family Planning Queensland](#).

## Children and Young People

### Best for Kids

The [Best for Kids website](#) is presented by Legal Aid NSW. The site provides information and resources on family law in Australia for children, parents and grandparents experiencing separation. It has videos including the "The 50/50 myth"; "Using Mediation" and separate videos for parents and children on "The Independent Children's Lawyer". There is also information on legal rights and where to get help. It offers English, Arabic, Chinese or Vietnamese captions.

## Bursting the Bubble. A Website for teenagers experiencing Domestic Violence

[Bursting the Bubble](#) is a website developed especially for teenagers: the aim is to help them to work out what's okay in a family and what's not. It lets them know what they can do if someone in the family is hurting or abusing them or another member of their family. It contains stories from young people and adults who have experienced abuse and a Quiz about identifying the signs of abuse, advice on how to help a friend and information on all the topics below:

### About Abuse

- [What is domestic violence?](#)
- [What is child abuse?](#)
- [What is sexual abuse?](#)
- [True stories](#)
- [FAQs - sexual abuse](#)
- [FAQs - domestic violence](#)
- [Why does it happen?](#)
- [The facts](#)
- [Dealing with feelings](#)
- [How is this affecting me?](#)

### What Can I do?

- [Steps you can take](#)
- [Telling someone - FAQ's](#)
- [Leaving home](#)
- [How can the law help?](#)
- [Safety action plan](#)
- [Getting Help - True or false](#)
- [What services can help?](#)
- [Links](#)

## CHaT First: a website for teens and children

[CHaT First](#) (Children and Teens First) is a website particularly developed children and teens whose parents have separated or divorced. Information is provided under three principal headings: *Kids*; *Teens*; *Parents* and a wide range of topics is covered under each heading. Each of the topics list below also has a variety of sub-topics attached. The topics are presented differently for each target group. This is a very comprehensive website.

### Kids

- [Family separation](#) Parents don't get along anymore. Why? What does it all mean?
- [After the separation](#) Things change when parents separate. What does that mean?
- [Weird Words](#) explaining unfamiliar words associated with family separation in the context of [People who can help](#); [Places](#); [Words used when parents separate](#); [People around you](#); [Best interests of the child](#)
- [Feelings](#) What are some feelings children have and what can they do about them?
- [Scary stuff](#) What to do when people are being hurt.
- [Legal stuff](#) Provides information to help allay confusion around legal matters
- [Children's Rights](#)
- [School](#) How to handle things at school after parents separate
- [Activities to do](#) A range of 8 fun activities

### Teens

- [Your parents and separation](#)
- [After the separation](#)
- [Emotions](#)
- [Rights](#)
- [Family violence and abuse](#)
- [School](#)
- [Legal stuff](#)
- [Other topics](#)
- [Where to get help](#)

### Parents Information for parents about their children and separation

- [Separation and your family](#)
- [Children's reactions and needs](#)
- [Helping your Children.](#)
- [Domestic and Family Violence.](#)
- [Your Feelings.](#)
- [Indigenous families and separation](#)
- [Migrant families and separation](#)

The information on the web site is based on research undertaken by the [Children and Families in Transition' project team](#) at the University of South Australia and Centacare Family Services (SA). However, there may be special circumstances where some of the guidance we have offered may not be relevant, such as where there is family violence, child abuse or neglect by one parent, mental health issues, addictions etc. Therefore a section on [Further information and support](#) is included.

## Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) Publications

The Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) began operation on 30 March 2012 at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS). To go directly to their web page click on [CFCA](#). The exchange incorporates the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse, National Child Protection Clearinghouse and Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia, directly affecting practitioners and policy makers within the children, families and communities sectors.

Publications of particular relevance to Family Law matters involving Children and Young People include:

- [Is resilience still a useful concept when working with children and young people?](#)
- [Communication with young people in a family services setting](#)
- [Supporting young parents](#)
- [Program spotlight : Supporting Children After Separation \(Anglicare WA\).](#)
- [The Children's Cases Pilot Project: an exploratory study of impacts on parenting capacity and child well-being : final report to the Family Court of Australia \(PDF\)](#)
- [Moving on: the expansion of the family network after parents separate](#)

Please visit [Child Family and Community Australia Publications by topic](#) for a full list of current publications.

### **Children and their families: best interest case practice model: Specialist practice resource.**

The Victorian Government Department of Human Services have published a practice manual for child protection practitioners titled "Children and their families: Best interest case practice model". While the guide is designed for a Victorian audience, there is a lot of valuable information which Queensland based workers will find useful. The manual contains an overview of child development, the impacts of abuse and neglect, as well as information on assessment and case planning. To download the manual click [here](#).

### **Children and Separation Booklet**

Separation or divorce does not normally end your involvement and responsibility as a parent. Children need the continuing affection and support of both parents. This will require cooperation with your former partner which may not always be easy. To help you support your family at this time a [Children and Separation Booklet](#) is available on The Australian Government's Family Relationship website.

### **Divorce and Teens**

This is a great resource for teens dealing with their parent's divorce. It's written from a teens perspective and validates what teens feel when their parent's divorce. If you have a teen that has been affected by divorce, definitely send them to this site....[Divorce and Teens](#) - The home site [Woman's Divorce](#) and the connected page [Divorce Links](#) are also well worth a browse.

### **Dr. John Irvine's Strategies For Helping Kids Cope With Family Breakdown**

Some children may suffer severe distress and even show symptoms of depression, following a family breakdown. This site provides a depression checklist and some strategies to help a child cope with a situation they don't like and cant change. See [Depression \(and coping strategies\)](#)

### **Good Parenting after Separation**

The [Parenting after separation](#) section of the [Raising Children](#) website has information and resources to assist both mums and dads, best support their children following family breakdown. This is a really good interactive website. Resources include:

- [Co-parenting](#)
- [Family breakdown: helping teenagers to cope](#)
- [Handling conflict with your ex-partner](#)
- [Help and support for single parents](#)
- [Helping children adjust to single parent families.](#)
- [Helping children adjust to two homes](#)



## Embrace the Future

The [Embrace the Future: Resilient Youth](#) is a mental health website for kids that contains comprehensive mental health information and a section specifically for kids affected by [divorce and separation](#).

## Family Breakdown: legal advice for kids

[Legal Aid Queensland](#) provides useful fact sheets suitable for children whose parents are going through separation or divorce.

- [Legal Information](#)
- [What powers and responsibilities do my parents have?](#)
- [What happens when my parents decide they want to split up?](#)
- [How old do I have to be to have a say?](#)
- [What is an independent children's lawyer?](#)
- [What if I would like to change which parent I am living with or what time I spend with a parent or other family member?](#)
- [Do I need legal advice?](#)
- [Where can I get legal advice](#)
- [Who else can help?](#)

## Family Separation: A Guide for Teens

Around 11 000 teenagers experience family separation in Australia each year. This website is just for them. The Child Support Agency (CSA) recognises separation can be a challenge for teenagers. So they've worked with a range of people to make available a useful website called [Family separation: a guide for teens](#). There are eight major topics covered: emotions; wellbeing; coping; friends; change; what now; your rights and more information - with additional resources covered in each of the sections.

## Healthy Relationships

The Children's Hospital Boston hosts the [Center for Young Women's Health](#) which has information around what [healthy relations](#) with parents, siblings and dating partners look like. There is also a lot of useful health information geared for teenagers on this site, and a link to [Young men's health](#) information.

## Itsallright

[itsallright](#) is a mental health webpage sponsored by SANE Australia, geared for younger people.

## Kids Central

The Kids Central kit was developed in response to a research project conducted by the Institute of Child Protection Studies at the Australian Catholic University on experiences of homelessness for accompanying children. The kit was developed over 18 months, in which staff interviewed children, parents and workers about the experiences and needs of children who are experiencing homelessness. One of the key messages that came out of both the kids' and adult interviews was that services greatly benefited from adopting a child-centred approach, but that sometimes workers wanted some ideas and tools for how to do this in practice. As a result, Kids Central was born.

Click [here](#) to go to Kids Central. The resources available provide great insights and service tips for anyone working with children.

**6 Booklets**, plus tools and resources for working with children are available.

- [Keep Me Safe](#)
- [One of a Kind](#)
- [My Family Is Special](#)
- [Make It Fun](#)
- [Keep Me in the Loop](#)
- [Who Else Matters?](#)

Adults should also read the [Guides and Tools for Keeping Children Safe](#) for guidelines on how to appropriately support children to stay safe.

### **Kids Health**

The [Children, Youth and Women's Health Service](#) site which also provides information in a user friendly child format on a wide range of matters that may impact on a child's wellbeing including:

- [Foster Families](#)
- [Keeping yourself safe from child abuse](#)
- [Family relationships](#)
- [Relationships with parents - working it out](#) for teens
- [Relationships with parents](#) for teens
- [Conflict and negotiation](#) for teens

### **Kids Help Line**

Website for the Kids Help Line 1800 55 1800 phone support service for kids. Go to: [Kids Help Line](#)

### **Law stuff for kids**

[Lawstuff](#) developed by the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, provides legal information for children and young people in Australia and there are state specific pages.

[Qld lawstuff](#) links to a vast range of information on a variety of topics with legal implications. These include: My Stuff (passports, privacy cars, voting etc.); School; Sex, Health and Love; The Law; *At Home* ; and On The Job. The "*At Home*" section includes information on [Domestic Violence](#) ; [Family Law](#) and [Child Abuse](#).

### **Questions and answers about separation for children**

Children are usually unsure of what is happening when their parents separate. Parents may be unsure themselves and find it hard to answer their children's questions. Information on this page attempts to answer the most commonly asked questions in simple terms a young person can understand. See: [Questions and answers about separation for children](#) from the Australian Government's [Family Relationships website](#).

### **Quirky Kid Clinic**

[Quirky Kid Clinic website](#) is a Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology Clinic based in Sydney and Wollongong. It has developed this website as a place for children and adolescents aged 2-18 years. It works from the child's perspective to help families find their own solutions. This includes a range of practical strategies through services, information and therapeutic resources – note: not all resources on this site are free.

### **Self Harming Behaviour in Adolescents**

Self-harming behaviours are not uncommon in adolescents and pose difficulties in establishing a diagnosis if the people around the person are not aware of the signs and clinical indicators. The Rural Health Education Foundation provides access to a free one hour DVD on [Self Harming Behaviour Management in Adolescence](#)

## Why am I going to see a Family Consultant

The [Family Law Court](#) website provides a wide range of resources including two especially tailored for children.

- [Why am I going to see a Family Consultant: Information for kids aged 5-8 \(Family Court\)](#)
- [Why am I going to see a Family Consultant: Information for kids aged 9-12](#)

## Youth Mental Health

See [Youth Mental Health](#) in this guide for a link to a website and an app. Especially targeted to young people with mental health challenges.

## Child Support

### Department of Human Services: Child Support Website

The Child Support website ([www.csa.gov.au](http://www.csa.gov.au)) has been incorporated into the Department of Human Services website [humanservices.gov.au](http://humanservices.gov.au). The new site is a convenient, single entry point for health, social and welfare payments and services.

Explore the [child support and separated parents](#) section which can assist separated parents with information, payments and support such as:

- [Child Support Agreement](#)
- [Child Support Assessment](#)
- [Child Support for Parents or Children Living Outside Australia](#)
- [Child Support Guide](#)
- [Child Support Online Services](#)
- [Child Support Payment](#)
- [Child Support Referral Services](#)

Alternatively, you can use the site search to locate the information you need.

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is responsible for administering Australia's Child Support Scheme, supporting separated parents to transfer payments for the benefit of their children. The [CSA](#) website provides access to all Child support forms, a number of support services offered and also has a number of publications. There are an amazing number of resources available on this site, some are listed here and others are included under their relevant headings elsewhere in this guide. It is worth the time to become familiar with all the resources CSA has available.

### Support services

- [Estimate child support](#)
- [Estimate care](#)
- [Local support services](#)
- [Plan your budget](#)

To view the range of booklets and hard copy resources available from CSA, please click on [Order Products](#).

Additionally CSA provides comprehensive online Guides to the administration of the new Child Support Scheme: see [The Guide](#) (for non legal people). The Guide is broke into 6 parts, listed below, and each section contains a number of topics. To help you find things easily there is also an A to Z index.

- [Part 1: About the scheme](#)
- [Part 2: Child Support Assessment](#)

- [Part 3: Registrable maintenance liabilities](#)
- [Part 4: Registering, seeking a review, appealing and applying to court](#)
- [Part 5: Collecting child support](#)
- [Part 6: Administration](#)
- [A-Z Index](#)

To assist legal professionals the Department of Human Services: Business and Employers page also provides the [Legal Practitioners' Guide](#)

*To assist Services Providers, CSA also provides a Service Providers' Advice Line on 1800 629 977: 8:30 am to 4:45 pm, Monday to Friday. When you call this number, you will be asked to identify yourself as either a service provider, financial counsellor or stakeholder. This will help CSA to offer you the best advice and information they can. You'll speak directly to a Technical Support Officer (TSO) when you call the 1800 number. The TSOs are specially trained and experienced in handling the complex child support matters your customers need help with.*

*The Service Providers Advice Line does not replace any of the existing contact numbers that customers use to contact CSA. If you're an authorised representative for a customer and want to discuss case specific information, please call 131 272.*

## **Dads On The Air**

See [Dads on the air](#) in this guide for more links to information on Child Support.

## **Consent Orders**

### **Consent orders kit**

Using the [Family Court](#) consent orders kit, people can ask the Court to make 'consent orders' in the terms of their agreements. Use this kit to obtain an order when you have reached agreement about: Your children; Your property; Maintenance for a husband or wife or a party to a de facto relationship. Please be aware that there is an \$80.00 filing fee for an Application for Consent Orders. The Kit comes in the three formats below:

[PDF - File Size 840 KB - [View](#)] – Application for Consent Orders Kit

[RTF - File Size 4 MB - [Download](#)]

[Word - File Size 1.4 MB - [Download](#)]

This kit can be used to apply for consent orders about:

- the care, welfare and development of your children (known as parenting orders);
- the division of property or maintenance for a spouse or former spouse/de facto partner (known as spouse or de facto partner maintenance).

\* For further information or to get paper copies of this document sent to you, call 1300 352 000, or visit a family law registry near you.

## **Co-parenting**

### **Co-parenting: getting the basics right**

The [Raising Children](#) website has a large number of resources focused on providing parents sound advice to assist them to raise happy healthy children. Included in the section *Parenting and Separation* is a page on [Co-parenting: getting the balance right](#).

## Co-parenting Guide

“Children need and deserve the love, care, and support of both their parents” When parents split up, it’s hard on everyone in the family, especially children. This guide is full of information about ways parents who live apart can work together to take care of their children. The [Co-parenting Guide](#), produced by the Office of the Attorney General of Texas is packed full of useful information.

## Co-parenting with your ex and making joint custody work

Cooperative co-parenting with your ex can give your children continued stability and close relationships with both parents—but it certainly isn’t easy. In reality, putting aside relationship issues to co-parent amicably can be extremely difficult and fraught with stress. Despite the many challenges, though, with the right tools it is possible to initiate and maintain a cordial working relationship with your ex for the sake of your children. You have the power to remain calm, stay consistent, and avoid or effectively resolve conflict with your ex—all in the name of putting your children’s needs first. The [Helpguide](#) website provides advice on co-parenting under the topic: [Tips for divorced parents](#), which notes “For the continued stability and well-being of your children, learn how to amicably co-parent with your ex and make joint custody work.” Other useful topics covered on this site include:

- [Coping with a Breakup or Divorce](#)
- [Children and Divorce](#)
- [Guide to Step-parenting and Blended Families](#)

There is also considerable mental health information under the heading “Mental and Emotional Wellbeing” on the Homepage: [Helpguide](#) or see [The Helpguide](#) in this document.

## Dads On The Air

See [Dads on the air](#) in this guide for more links to information on co-parenting.

## Dealing with Separation

### Dealing with Separation

[Dealing with Separation](#) is an interactive page on the [Raising Children](#), webpage. It developed by the [Child Support Agency](#) (CSA) with the help of [The Learning Group](#). The feature is best-suited to **BROADBAND USERS**.

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### 'When Separating' – what you should know

[When Separating: Family Law + Roads to Resolution](#) is a website resource developed by Legal Aid Western Australia. You will find **Videos** about different subjects important to adults and children involved in a separation, whether of a marriage or a de facto relationship.

As well, there are **Info + Links** pages listing where you can seek further information and assistance services.

### Post Separation and Power and Control Wheel

The Duluth Abuse Intervention Program has developed a new "Using Children Post Separation" power and control wheel. The Power and Control Wheel was developed from the experience of battered women in Duluth who had been abused by their male partners. It has been translated into over 40 languages and has resonated with the experience of battered women world-wide. To access this pictorial depiction of post separation behaviour please click on [Post Separation Power and Control Wheel](#)

## Divorce

### Australian Divorce Blog

[Australian Divorce Blog](#) is an Australian divorce and family law website provided by a Brisbane family lawyer. It has information about property settlement, spousal maintenance, children, child support and domestic violence.

Still topical is the Stephen Page paper on [2012 Domestic Violence Changes](#) to the Family Law Act. There are over 20 topic listings with hundreds of legal articles on Family Law that may be accessed by scrolling down the right hand side of the home page.

### Divorce

The Federal Magistrates' Court of Australia webpage provides all the forms and the explanatory kits you may need to apply for divorce, serve your divorce forms or respond to a divorce application. See [Divorce Forms and Kits](#), which also has links to a wide range of other court forms and fact sheets.

Links of interest include:

- [Separation and Divorce](#): When, where and how to get a divorce and sort out the legal issues around separation. Information about de facto relationships.
- [De Facto Relationships](#): Parties to an eligible de facto relationship which has broken down can apply to the Family Court or the Federal Magistrates Court to have financial and children's matters determined in the same way as married couples.
- [Divorce](#) : Information about divorce in Australia, including laws, fees and answers to common questions.
- [How to apply for a divorce](#) : Step-by-step instructions and all the forms you need to apply for a divorce.
- [Proof of divorce](#): How to order a replacement divorce order.
- [Nullity](#): A marriage can be declared invalid in certain situations.
- [Separation](#): How separation affects you and your family. Practical considerations about children and financial matters.
- [Service of documents](#) : Step-by-step guide to serving papers on another party.
- [Withdrawal of application for divorce](#) : If you have filed an application for divorce and wish to withdraw the application you need to complete a Notice of Discontinuance

### Divorce and Division of Assets

When a marriage or de facto relationship breaks down, property and finances have to be sorted out. This is dealt with by either the Family Court or Federal Magistrates Court for both married and de facto couples, except in Western Australia, where de facto couples need to use the state Family Court of Western Australia. The *Divorce and the law* section of the [Raising Children](#) website has information on how to deal with [Divorce](#) and [Division of Assets](#) including:

- [Property and finance](#)
- [Spousal maintenance](#)
- [Financial agreements \(pre-nuptial agreements\)](#)
- [Registries](#)

### Divorce and Separation

Separation and divorce are nearly always stressful for everyone involved, especially when children are part of the equation. Parents in this situation are likely to be presented with a number of challenges, most of which can be overcome with a thoughtful and respectful approach. The [Parentline](#) is an Australian site with information on general parenting issues, and a page on [Separation and Divorce](#)

## **Transitioning Through Divorce.**

To read an American article with some sound advice click on [5 Steps to a "Good" Divorce.](#)

## **Domestic Violence**

### **A Guide for Service Providers working with women with a disability**

The [Getting Safe Against the Odds](#) guide (available in hard copy or .pdf) is for service providers in the family violence and disabilities fields. It is based on information gathered from interviewing women with disabilities about their personal experiences of surviving violence. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity with which the women shared their experiences with the hope that we as workers may develop a better understanding of how to provide support to other women.

The guide provides an insight into the experiences of women with disabilities, and practical tips for individual workers and agencies. Women with disabilities share their ideas on what workers can do to best assist their clients to become safe. The guide builds on the expertise developed through DVIRC's Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project.

### **Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Good Practice Database**

The Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Good Practice Database is a publicly accessible collection of examples of Australian domestic violence related programs, services or responses which reflect elements of good practice.

The database helps to promote high standards across the sector, by enabling agencies and service providers to keep up-to-date with service models, new initiatives and current standards of practice and to assist planning and development in a field where resources are often limited. In addition, the database can help ensure cash-strapped services are not "re-inventing the wheel", and is testimony to the collaborative and cooperative ethic embraced by professionals working to reduce violence or support victims. If you want further information on good practice in Domestic Violence Service go to: [Want to know more?](#) If you want to search the database go to: [Click here to search the database](#)

### **Centre for Domestic Violence and Family Research**

The Central Queensland University's Centre for Domestic Violence and Family Research has a number of resources and fact sheets available. They also produce the CDFVRe@der, a quarterly publication that aims to inform stakeholders about relevant research findings, policy initiatives, innovative service delivery, professional development opportunities and current issues in the field of domestic and family violence prevention. Each quarter, the CDFVRe@der is distributed in hard copy and electronic form to stakeholders across the State and beyond. To subscribe to the reader or access the fact sheets click [here](#).

### **Domestic Violence Application Forms**

The [Queensland Department of Communities](#) provides information on domestic and family violence prevention and links to application forms.

- [Form DV1: Protection order application \(PDF, 220 KB\)](#)
- [Form DV5: Revoke or vary domestic violence order \(PDF, 132 KB\)](#)
- [Form DV8: Application for interstate domestic violence order \(PDF, 111 KB\)](#)
- [Form DV10: Notice of appeal \(PDF, 101 KB\)](#)
- [Form DV12: Summons of a witness \(PDF, 54 KB\)](#)

## **Domestic violence guide to legal justice processes – ‘Your court, Your safety’**

The [NSW Government](#) provides a statewide guide that will assist victims of domestic violence through the legal justice process and help them obtain the necessary safeguards they need against their abusers. The guide was launched as part of the State Government’s \$50 million Domestic Family Violence Action Plan, *Stop the Violence End the Silence*. Minister for Women, Jodi McKay said that the guide will ‘ensure all victims of domestic and family violence receive the same reliable information’.

The guide can be downloaded at: [Domestic Violence Booklet](#)

## **Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 App.**

The Qld Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research recently launched their great new product - a mobile phone app that provides access to, and information about the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. This free app is designed for service providers and workers within the family law system- it also includes hyper links to definitions and plain English explanations of relevant sections. To download a free copy or access the app via your computer, go to: <http://www.noviolence.com.au/> this website also contains a wonderful presentation (and corresponding slides) from Dr. David Adams who has been facilitating and investigating psycho-educational work with perpetrators for over three decades.

## **dvconnect**

[dvconnect](#) provides free help for women, men, children and pets affected by domestic and family violence across Queensland. Domestic Violence is an abuse of power. It occurs when one person in an intimate relationship engages in behaviour that causes fear or harm to the other person. This can include physical violence, damage to property, non-consensual sexual contact, financial control, emotional manipulation and abuse, or threats to commit any of the above. Phone help is also available on Womensline: 1800 811 811; Mensline 1800 600 636.

## **Duluth Power and Control Wheels.**

In 1984, staff at the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) began developing curricula for groups for men who batter and victims of domestic violence. They wanted a way to describe battering for victims, offenders, practitioners in the criminal justice system and the general public. Over several months, they convened focus groups of women who had been battered. We listened to heart-wrenching stories of violence, terror and survival. After listening to these stories and asking questions, they documented the most common abusive behaviors or tactics that were used against these women. The tactics chosen for the wheel were those that were most universally experienced by battered women.

Battering is one form of domestic or intimate partner violence. It is characterized by the pattern of actions that an individual uses to intentionally control or dominate his intimate partner. That is why the words "power and control" are in the center of the wheel. A batterer systematically uses threats, intimidation, and coercion to instill fear in his partner. These behaviors are the spokes of the wheel. Physical and sexual violence holds it all together—this violence is the rim of the wheel.

To access the home page click on [The Duluth Model](#). To go directly to Power and Control Wheel diagrams see:

- [Using Children Post Separation](#)
- [Equality](#)
- [Creator](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Power and Control](#)
- [Abuse of Children](#)
- [Nurturing of Children](#)



## Family Violence – My Family is Separating, What Now?

In Australia it is against the law to commit acts of family violence or child abuse regardless of your ethnic or religious background. Where people find themselves in a violent or abusive situation, they should call the police on **000** for immediate assistance.

Whether people are escaping a situation or deciding to separate there are many decisions they will need to make regarding the safety of themselves and their children, financial matters and their future. The following information is a guide through the process and includes information to help people work out their options.

- [Child Support Agreement](#)
- [Child Support Assessment](#)
- [Child Support Payment](#)
- [Child Support Referral Services](#)
- [Child Support for Parents or Children Living Outside Australia](#)
- [Payments for families](#)
- [Payments to help raise children](#)
- [Explore payments based on your situation](#)

View the [Department of Human Services, Separated Parents](#) webpage to access additional useful information and remember for immediate assistance call the police on **000**.

## Fact Sheets

The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, in consultation with its 16-member advisory group, members of the domestic violence sector, Legal Aid Qld and Brisbane Women's Legal Service, has developed a Fact Sheet for Women. This fact sheet is designed to answer questions women frequently ask when they are considering action to take in response to domestic violence (specifically, intimate partner abuse). It is designed to allay fears women may have about attending a domestic violence service by explaining what domestic violence services will and won't do, and also to help women who may not recall responses to all their questions when they do attend a service. The Fact Sheet for Women provides a web link to a wide range of domestic violence and sexual assault support services available in Queensland. [Fact Sheet for Women](#). Other titles for women include:

- [Strong women - Hard yarns](#)
- [Young People \(English\)](#)
- [Children 4-12 \(English\)](#)
- [Babies and toddlers \(English\)](#)
- [Domestic Violence Goes to Work](#)
- [Respectful Relationships](#)
- [Adolescent to Parent Abuse Fact Sheet \(Full Version\)](#)
- [Adolescent to Parent Abuse Fact Sheet \(Print Version\)](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Violence: Facts and Figures](#)

Translations of some titles are available. There are also resources for men:

- [Young People and their Fathers](#)
- [Children 4-12 and their Fathers](#)
- [Babies and toddlers and their Fathers](#)

## fast facts

In 2011, the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse introduced a new product - fast facts. The Clearinghouse produces four of these a year, available for download [here](#), with a summary version printed in each issue of their quarterly Newsletter. These provide easily accessible facts and statistics on specific topics for quick reference.

## Infosheets for Women

For information on Domestic Violence developed to meet the needs of women go to [Infosheets for Women](#) below in this Guide.

## **Mensline**

For information and support tailored for men go to [Mensline](#) below in this Guide.

## **Online support for victims of violence and abuse**

Australians have access to free counselling and confidential professional advice online, if they have suffered or are at risk of a sexual assault or domestic and family violence. A 24 hour service website [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au) offers an important access portal for victims of violence, who are seeking help, and further complements the 1800RESPECT National telephone counselling service . The telephone counselling service has averages around 185 callers a week - a sobering reminder that there is demand for this sort of service out in the community. 1800RESPECT is staffed by tertiary qualified counsellors and social workers, who are able respond in a professional and sensitive manner to victims' needs and further provide them referrals to relevant services.

## **Reachout**

The [Reachout](#) website provides information on domestic violence, weblinks, video's and opportunity to blog.

## **Safe at Home, Safe at Work Booklet**

This booklet was produced for workers experiencing domestic violence and will help them to understand their rights and how to stay safe at work. It was funded by the Australian Government as part of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse's, Safe at Home, Safe at Work project. Alarminglly, one in three Australia women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime and two thirds of women who experience domestic violence are in paid work. Workplace prevention and response initiatives to violence against women are becoming increasingly important because violence, whether happening in a person's private life or in the workplace, impacts on women's health and safety and their ability to do their work. The booklet explains the implications, rights and responsibilities for the employer and employee. It gives victims of domestic violence practical information pointing out that what they are going through constitutes domestic violence and that there is support available. It also includes contact details of where they can turn to for professional help and support. The booklet can be found at [www.dvandwork.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dvandwork.unsw.edu.au) under 'worker information'.

## **The Family Court's Best Practice Principles**

These Principles were first developed as part of the Family Court's Family Violence Strategy in March 2009. Those principles have since been revised and were launched by the Commonwealth Attorney- General on 19 July 2011. To download the most recent version click on :

[Best Practice Principles for use in Parenting Disputes when Family Violence or Abuse is Alleged](#)

## **Violence and Family Law**

The Australian Government's Family Relationship website provides information on [Violence and Family Law](#)

## **Womensline**

Womensline provides information and a freecall number especially for women experiencing Domestic Violence. See [Womensline](#) below in this Guide.

## Drugs, Alcohol and Gambling

### Alcohol Awareness

The [Alcohol Awareness kit](#) is a resource developed by the University of Sydney to help staff talk about alcohol with their clients. It includes information about harms, recommended drinking limits, and tips on how to change drinking. Note: this resource is designed to be printed as double-sided A4 pages. These can be laminated so they last better. *Please note: This resource is a large file (7.5Mb).*

### Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Information Services

This site provides a wide range of alcohol and drug related information, accessible on a National or state by state level and covering a wide range of topics including:

- [Alcohol and drug treatment and information services](#)
- [Co-morbidity](#)
- [Databases and Research](#)
- [Indigenous Communities](#)
- [Information for schools](#)
- [Multicultural Communities](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [University Counsellors](#)
- [Young People](#)
- [research](#)
- [tobacco](#)
- [treatment](#)
- [Young Adults](#)
- [Youth](#)

### DrugInfo

*DrugInfo* offers hundreds of free resources about alcohol and other drugs, including fact sheets, pamphlets and reports.

- [Browse by drug](#)
- [Browse by audience](#)
- [Browse by topic](#)

### Fact Sheets

The team at Dovetail have developed a series of fact sheets designed to help frontline workers, which can be download from our website. The topics include "Tips for dealing with intoxication", and "What is opioid replacement therapy?". [Go to "Dovetail Fact Sheets"](#)

Also available is [Legal Highs](#) a Fact Sheet for educators and support workers. There are many legal drugs which people take in order to change the way they feel, think or behave, or fight illness or disease. Common examples include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and over-the-counter and prescribed medicines. Learning about all such drugs is a core part of drug education in schools. However, the term 'legal highs' as used in the media does not refer to the examples above, but to a group of drugs more accurately called 'novel psychoactive substances'. These are designed to imitate the effects of illegal drugs: either stimulants, cannabis or hallucinogens. This briefing paper is produced by the Drug Education Forum, for schools and others involved in drug education or informal drug prevention.

### Gambling self help

Excessive or problem gambling is when a person spends more money, energy and time than they can reasonably afford. The result negatively impacts the person's own sense of wellbeing, their finances, their relationships, and other important areas of their life.

[Problem Gambling: A Self Help Guide](#) (QLD edition) was originally designed by the Gambling Impact Society (NSW) Inc (GIS). Relevant support information has been changed for the Queensland edition.

- [Read more about UnitingCare Community's Gambling Help service](#)

## **Handbook for Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Work**

This guide developed by the University of Sydney, has been written for Aboriginal health workers and others working with this population. It covers all elements of alcohol and other drug work, including specific drug information, but also information on mental health, prevention, harm reduction, legal issues, community-wide approaches and much more. It is a significant piece of work which has been a long time in the making. The Handbook for Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Work is a practical tool to use in your everyday work with clients. It can help build on your skills and local knowledge. [Read a copy online](#) for free or [buy a hard copy](#). Please note: This resource is a large file (4.1Mb).

## **Network of Drug and Alcohol Services Policy Toolkit**

The Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (NADA) Policy Toolkit is a resource designed to guide non government drug and alcohol services to develop and review operational policy documents and support their formal quality improvement program. The resource provides practical policy development templates related to governance and leadership, administration and support, and service delivery. The development of the NADA Policy Toolkit is a collaborative project between the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing funded Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships Project and the NSW Health funded Sector Development Program. Please [click here](#) for more information and the toolkit webpage and resources.

## **Preventing Alcohol Harms in Young People: a worker resource**

This resource was commissioned by New South Wales (NSW) Health to provide information about the family's role in preventing alcohol-related harm in young people. The resource is designed to inform the practice of drug and alcohol workers, mental health workers, outreach workers, psychologists, counsellors, health promotion and prevention project managers/officers, social workers, special population workers and Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) project officers. The resource includes both information and practical tips. [Preventing alcohol harms in young people: family based interventions: a worker resource](#).

## **The Peer Model Manual**

The Self Help Addiction Resource Centre and the Association of Participating Service Users provide a resource which will be useful for many services in Queensland. "The Peer Model Manual: Consumer Participation in Action" is a training manual designed for people who have personal experience of alcohol and other drug concerns who would like to effectively contribute to the development and improvement of the alcohol and other drug sector. The manual covers three programs including "The Peer Helper Training", "Experts by Experience" and "The Speaker Bureau". This resource will be very helpful for any agency that wants to improve its consumer participation practices.

[The Peer Model Manual: Consumer Participation in Action \(955KB PDF\)](#)

## **Family**

### **Establishing Boundaries After Divorce**

This article is on an international website however it does provide some useful tips on setting boundaries with your ex-spouse and your kids. To read more click on [Establishing boundaries after divorce: how to do it](#).

### **Family Facts and Figures**

The Australian Government's Institute of Family Studies website provides access to Statistical information provided in charts and data tables on a range of topics including:

➤ [Australian Families](#)

➤ [Australian Households](#)

- [Cohabitation](#)
- [Divorce](#)
- [Marriage](#)
- [Parent Child Contact](#)
- [Glossary](#)

**A range of seven family related facts sheets may also be found on:**  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/charts/menu.html>

### **Data Sets on Family Life**

Data Sets on Family Life can be found at: [inference  
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/aifsdatasets.html>](http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/aifsdatasets.html)

### **Family Relationships**

The Federal Government's [Family Relationships](#) webpage provides links to information; services to help; registered family dispute resolution providers and Family Law Pathway Networks.

[Family Law Services](#) include: Children's Contact Services; Counselling; Family Dispute Resolution; Parenting Orders Program; Post Separation Cooperative Parenting; Supporting Children After Separation.

[Family and Children's Services](#) include: Communities for Children; Community Playgroups; Family and Relationship Services; Specialist Services

There is also information for

- [For Children](#)
- [For Couples](#)
- [For Grandparents](#)
- [For Parents](#)
- [For Teenagers](#)
- [For Carers](#)

You can also [download or order brochures and other publications](#)

To view the whole website go to: <http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au>

### **Family Relationship Advice Line: Phone: 1800 050 321**

Advice may be just a phone call away. The Australian Government [Family Relationships Advice Line](#) is a national telephone service established to assist families affected by relationship or separation issues.

The Advice Line provides information on family relationship issues and advice on parenting arrangements after separation. It can also refer callers to local services that can provide assistance. The Advice Line complements the information and services offered by Family Relationship Centres. It ensures that people who are not able to attend a Centre can be helped. The page lets people know how and when they can access service and the type of information that can be provided.

### **Financial Information**

#### **Cash up! Guide to living on a limited budget**

The Geeveston Community Centre has developed a 32 page guide on living on a limited budget. There are 80 tips on how to save and manage money, budget sheets, information on concessions and discounts, Centrepay, cheap recipes for dinners and school lunches and more. Some of the information is specific to Tasmania, but the tips and general information are useful. Click on [Cash Up](#) to download an electronic copy of the booklet.

## Financial Support: Separated Parents

The Department of Human Services, [Separated Parents](#) web site provides information and resources on the financial support available to parents following a relationship breakdown including:

- [Child Support Agreement](#)
- [Child Support Assessment](#)
- [Child Support Payment](#)
- [Child Support Referral Services](#)
- [Child Support for Parents or Children Living Outside Australia](#)
- [Payments for families](#)
- [Payments to help raise children](#)
- [Explore payments based on your situation](#)
- [Managing your money](#)
- [Payments to help you raise children](#)
- [Support for non-parent carers](#)

Also available is the [Child Support Guide](#), a technical resource, setting out the department's guide to the administration of the child support scheme.

Parents receiving Child Support can call the [Child Support Info Service](#) on **131 107** for information about Child Support payments 24 hours a day

### Estimating child support.

Click on [Child Support Estimator](#) to calculate an estimate of what your new child support and family assistance payments might be.

### Getting your finances back on track

This client resource aims to provide basic financial information to assist women affected by domestic violence. It arises from the Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Seeking Security project. [http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/financial\\_security.htm](http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/financial_security.htm)

### Family Budgets

The [Kid's Spot Family Budget](#) has a range of useful money management resources including:

- [Family budgets](#)
- [Slash your shopping bill](#)
- [Credit card know-how](#)

### Financial Tips For Saving Money on Legal Expenses

This information on how to save money on legal expenses may be helpful but remember the site is not Australian. See [Tips on saving money on legal expenses](#)

### Money Smart

[Money Smart](#) is an Australian /government website with information on how to deal with money matters following separation or divorce. Breaking up is hard to do: The end of a relationship can be an emotional and traumatic time. You may feel anxious or overwhelmed about such a big change in your life. Be kind to yourself. Ask for support if you need it. There are lots of places you can go for help. Start by sorting out a few simple things, like doing a financial stock take, then work your way up to tackling the bigger money issues. Below are links to some tips to help you keep your finances healthy.

- [Getting started](#)
- [Adjusting to a change in income](#)
- [Getting financial information and advice](#)
- [Organising your will, insurance and superannuation](#)
- [Taking care of children](#)

## Gay and Lesbian Support

### Gay and Lesbian Support

The [Gay and Lesbian Welfare Rights Association](#) provides a confidential telephone counselling services are available everyday from 7pm to 10pm and are staffed by trained members of the LGBTI Community. They are solely a telephone counseling service and unfortunately are unable to provide online counselling services, or respond to email counselling enquiries about individual circumstances and requests for assistance. The Freecall number is 1800 184 527.

### Rainbow Service

Rainbow Service is a specialised counselling service supporting people within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. The focus is relationships and the problems impacting on you or your relationships, including:

Coming out	Separation	Communication
Managing conflict	Re-partnering and family relationships	Homophobia and heterosexism
Trust issues	Domestic and family violence	
Sexual difficulties		
Grief and loss		

As well as providing a counselling service, the Rainbow Service supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities through the following structures:

For more information on the location of the Rainbow Services across Qld see [Rainbow Service](#) or to make an appointment please call **1300 364 277**.

## Grandparents

### Grandparenting and Step Grandparenting

The [Helpguide](#) webpage has great tips on [Grandparenting](#) in general and if you scroll down there are some special tips on *Step Grandparenting*.

### Grandparents rights under the Family Law Act

The [Findlaw Australia](#) website has numerous resources including [Grandparents rights under the Family Law Act](#).

### Step Grandparenting Advice

For some advice for step-grandparents see [First things](#).

### Separation and Step Grandparenting

The Children, Youth and Women's Health Service has general information on [Grandparenting](#) and in particular [Separation and Step Grandparenting](#). This is a very comprehensive site with lots of tools and resources on parenting and grand parenting.

## Indigenous Support

### Aboriginal Families

The Children, Youth and Women's Health Service has general information on

- [Aboriginal - grandparents](#)
- [Aboriginal - step-families](#)
- [Aboriginal - family togetherness](#)
- [Aboriginal - our children, our families, our way](#)

## **Culturally appropriate supervision**

The Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative has produced a new resource titled "Supervision: A culturally appropriate model for Aboriginal workers". The resource contains a range of useful information including a culturally appropriate definition of supervision, an overview of the supervisory relationship, supervision agreements as well as guidelines for working through complex issues. The guide also contains a comprehensive list of resources which workers and supervisors can draw on. [Click here](#) to download the resource

## **Indigenous Australians**

This site provides information on Federal Government payments and services available to [Indigenous Australians](#)

## **Indigenous families and the Family Law Courts**

The [Family Law Court](#) website has a range of resources including one particularly for Indigenous families. See: [Indigenous families and the Family Law Courts](#)

## **Indigenous Mental Health Best Practice**

The Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) along with the Telethon Institute's Kulunga Research Network, funded via the Department of Health and Ageing, have developed a useful resource— [Working Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice](#).

## **Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services in Aboriginal Australia**

This website developed under the auspices of the Australian Psychologists Society will assist service providers seeking to develop, or improve, a culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To assist in better meeting the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the website showcases 'promising practice' principles and methods, and features examples from existing programs and services. The website –Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services in Aboriginal Australia ([www.sewbmh.org.au](http://www.sewbmh.org.au)) – was developed following a comprehensive review of 46 Indigenous-specific services in remote, rural and urban settings across Australia. This review was conducted for the APS by a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists who went on to form the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) following their involvement in the project, which was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

## **SNAICC resources and publications**

The SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Childcare) Resource Service, provides valuable information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices. Some resources need to be paid for and some information is free. To access the site click [here](#)

## **Legal**

### **Answers to Family Law Legal Questions Online.**

The [Just Answer](#) website allows you to type in your Immigration or Family Law question online and receive a quick response via email, text message or whilst you wait online. The site allows you to read responses to other people's questions. This is an Australian site, with 2 lawyers normally online.



## Australian Divorce Blog

[Australian Divorce Blog](#) is an Australian divorce and family law website provided by a Brisbane family lawyer. It has information about property settlement, spousal maintenance, children, child support and domestic violence.

There are over 20 topic listings with hundreds of legal articles on Family Law that may be accessed by scrolling down the right hand side of the home page.

## Community Legal Centres

The [Community Legal Centre Directory](#) provides contacts for all Community Legal Centres. Community Legal Centres offer free legal advice but do not represent people in court. For further information on CLCs see the [National Association of Community Legal Centres](#) website.

## Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 App.

The Qld Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research recently launched their great new product - a mobile phone app that provides access to, and information about the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. This free app is designed for service providers and workers within the family law system- it also includes hyper links to definitions and plain English explanations of relevant sections. To download a free copy or access the app via your computer, go to: <http://www.noviolence.com.au/> this website also contains a wonderful presentation (and corresponding slides) from Dr. David Adams who has been facilitating and investigating psycho-educational work with perpetrators for over three decades.

## Family Law Court Information: 60 topics covered

The Australian Government's [Family Law Court](#) website provides information on over 60 topics under the key headings listed below. For those working with people negotiating the Family Law System, this site is highly recommended.



### [Family Law Principles](#)

Principles such as no fault divorce, the best interests of the child, parental responsibilities, property division and dispute resolution.



### [Getting Help](#)

Services that help people with particular needs, for example: legal, dispute resolution including counselling, translations.



### [Separation and Divorce](#)

When, where and how to get a divorce. Information on legal issues around separation.



### [Family Violence](#)

What family violence is and how it affects others. How the Courts deal with family violence.



### [Children's Matters](#)

How to make arrangements for children during and after separation. How separation affects children.



### [About Going to Court](#)

What happens at Court. Forms, publications and information about the family law courts system.



### [Property and Money Matters](#)

How to divide property and assets, including spousal maintenance and superannuation.



### [Appeals](#)

When, where and how to appeal against a court decision.



### **Court Orders**

What court orders are and how to follow, change and/or enforce them.



### **Communities & Individuals**

Specific information for people from Indigenous, regional, rural or culturally diverse backgrounds or with disabilities.

## **45 Family Law Legal Information Sheets developed by Hartley Healy Family Law Specialists**

See the [Hartley Healy](#) website for 45 Information Sheets on a wide variety of Family Law matters, arranged in alphabetical order starting with [Affidavits](#) and [Appeals](#) and going through to [Your day in Court](#). There are many sheets that provide information on matters associated with children; for example, [Child Maintenance - your rights on separation](#) and [Child Support - the important facts you need to know](#)

### **Family Law Resources and Publications**

The [Family Law Web Guide](#) webpage provides up to date Family Law News and resources on:

#### **Information**

- [Self Represented Litigants](#)
- [Child Support](#)
- [First Steps: things to consider](#)
- [Shared Parenting](#)
- [Parenting Plans](#)
- [Various Courts](#)

#### **Articles**

- [Child Support](#)
- [Depression](#)
- [Family Law](#)
- [Financial](#)
- [For Dads](#)
- [For Mums](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Research](#)

The site also has links to Child Support Forums; Family Law Forums and General Forms.

### **Family Law Internet Resources**

The Parliament of Australia, Parliamentary Library webpage [Key internet Links on Family Law](#) contains links to Internet resources and documents in the area of federal family law, as well as providing links to other guides and directories which contain material on State and Territory and overseas law.

- [Legislation](#)
- [Court and Tribunal decisions, law reports etc](#)
- [Key National Bodies](#)
- [Australian sites](#)
- [Overseas sites](#)
- [Key Publications](#)
- [Government and Parliamentary reports](#)
- [ACT civil partnership legislation chronology](#)

### **Findlaw Australia and Family Law Newsletters**

[Findlaw Australia](#) provides legal information that is free to read, as well as a Directory of lawyers (however most are based in capital cities.). There is a wide range of Family Law resources, some free and some available for purchase.

Useful information can be found on the following links:

- [Your Rights as a Grandparent](#)
- [Creating limited child support agreements or binding financial agreements](#)
- [Spousal maintenance and the Family Law Act](#)
- [Are trusts that interfere with the health of a marriage, valid?](#)
- [The rules of evidence in family law proceedings](#)
- [An introduction of the court process, regarding family law proceedings](#)
- [Can a child consent to medical treatment?](#)
- [When is Surrogacy in Queensland against the law?](#)
- [Child Support – What payments are recognised as Child Support?](#)
- [Family Law Queensland Newsletter](#)
- [Surrogacy](#)
- [Children - Who decides which school?](#)
- [Who pays the mortgage?](#)
- [Grandparent rights under the Family Law Act](#)
- [The Nuts and Bolts of Pre-Nuptial Agreements](#)
- [Separation](#)
- [Separation Checklist](#)
- [About marriage annulment and divorce](#)
- [Divorce: DIY or get a lawyer](#)
- [AVO/Domestic Violence](#)
- [Children](#)
- [Divorce](#)
- [Marriage and Civil Partnerships](#)
- [Property Settlement](#)
- [Spousal Maintenance: what to expect](#)

This site is well worth a thorough browse.

### **Legal Aid Queensland**

The [Legal Aid Qld](#) website provides information on a range of legal matters. See the topics covered below:

- [Can I get legal aid?](#)
- [Need to sort out a family law problem?](#)
- [Need help with your family dispute resolution conference agreement?](#)
- [Independent children's lawyer](#)
- [How will a separate representative help my child in their child protection matter?](#)
- [Family Law - Family Report](#)
- [Family Law Property Arbitration - Client](#)
- [Family Law Property Arbitration - Solicitor](#)
- [Organising child support and care arrangements for your children](#)
- [Child support, Family Tax Benefit and your child care levels](#)

### **Legal Information and Resources**

The [National Pro Bono Resource Centre](#) promotes and supports pro bono (work done without compensation, for the public good) through its independent role as advocate, broker, coordinator, researcher and resource provider. Individual case referrals are directed to [Pro Bono clearing houses and schemes](#) which exist in many States of Australia, including Queensland. The site has a wide range of [publications](#) and information on its [current activities](#). Some of the topics of family law service provider or client interest include:

- [How to find legal help](#)
- [Legal Aid](#)
- [Community Legal Centres](#)
- [Legal Info and phone help](#)

There are also specific resources for Lawyers, for Law students and for Community Legal Centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and for Legal Aid services, these include [A Guide to Internet Legal Resources in Queensland](#) . There is a special section on Family Law within the guide and Guides are also available for other states.

### **How to address a Federal Circuit Court Judge**

Download a PDF printable version of [How to address a Federal Circuit Court Judge](#)

### **Plain Language Family Law.**

Plain language explanations of common family law terms are available on a web-based tool. The *Family Law TermFinder*, online resource provides people with accessible and authoritative translations of the most common family law terms. "This web resource is an important source of information for anyone involved with family law who wants to better understand the system. Family Law TermFinder is especially useful for families living in rural or remote areas and for those who represent themselves in family law proceedings.

The Family Law TermFinder is a source of information, not legal advice. The tool provides information in context and it can be used visually or through aural mediums to meet different levels of literacy and cognitive styles. The Information provided is also being translated into several community languages, so Australians from non-English speaking backgrounds can access the resource. The Family Law TermFinder is currently being translated into Mandarin, Cantonese and Arabic, to be completed by the middle of 2013.

Family Law Term Finder can be accessed at: <http://lawtermfinder.mq.edu.au>

### **Womens Legal Service**

For more information on this site go to [Womens Legal Service](#) below in this Guide.

## **Men**

### **Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) Publications**

The Child Family Community Australia (CFCA Information Exchange) began operation on 30 March 2012 at the [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#) (AIFS). The exchange incorporates the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse, National Child Protection Clearinghouse and Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia, directly affecting practitioners and policy makers within the children, families and communities sectors.

Publications of particular relevance to Family Law matters involving men include:

- [Engaging fathers in child and family services](#)
- [Father-inclusive practice and associated professional competencies](#)

### **Dad Can Do**

[Dad Can Do](#) is about Dads getting the most out of the time they spend with their children. It also provides some quick tips to help Dads appropriately support their children following a family breakdown. See [Being There](#).

### **Dads in Distress**

The [Dads in Distress](#) is a dedicated support group of men in Australia whose immediate concern is to stem the present trend of male suicide due to separation and divorce. The website is a self help site. It has audios, videos and printable resources and there is a lot of [downloadable information](#) on family law matters. The service number is 1300 853 437.

## Dads on the Air

The [Dads On The Air](#) site is dedicated to Australian Family Law and matters such as child support, child custody, visitation and alimony. As a parent you have both responsibilities and rights and supporting your child is one of those responsibilities that you cannot avoid. Dads on the air.net provides assistance to people to get through difficult moments such as a divorce or separation, always putting first the children's best interest.

Topics covered include:

- [Australian child support and family law](#)
- [Child support after divorce](#)
- [Australian Child Support Agency](#)
- [Gay dads, single gay parent](#)
- [What is a single parent](#)
- [Single parent dating and kids](#)
- [Single stay at home dad](#)
- [Single parents groups](#)
- [Joint custody and parenting plan](#)
- [Family law in Australia](#)
- [Family court of Australia](#)
- [Sex talk opportunities](#)

## Father Inclusive Practice Guide

This guide was developed for FaHCSIA by a panel of practitioners from key community organisations and research institutions, and builds on years of Australian and international practice wisdom gained by practitioners and organisations working with families. It provides a tool to support the inclusion of fathers in a holistic approach to service delivery. It can be accessed by clicking [Father Inclusive Practice Guide](#)

## Fatherhood Inclusive Practice Audit Tool

This check list was developed by the South Australian Government for Early Childhood Centres but is relevant to any service working with families. See [Fatherhood Inclusive Practice Audit Tool](#)

## Lone Fathers Association

[Lone Fathers Association of Australia](#), a national Peak Body, is a non-sexist, non-sectarian, non-profit, and self-help educational and welfare organisation devoted to the interests of lone fathers, their friends, relatives, grandparents, extended family, carers and children. The group's vision is: To assist and encourage parents who have, or desire to have, shared parenting status or care of their children to support and sustain their children in a happy and viable family unit, and to help parents without shared parenting status to maintain adequate, positive contact with their children. Membership of the organisation is open to all separated parents, with the proviso that members must be willing to help financially support their children. 30% of the membership of the organisation are women. Access to reports and archived newsletters, weblinks etc is provided free. To be on the regular mailing list you must join the Association.

## Man Therapy

See [Man Therapy](#) in the Mental Health section of this guide.

## Managing Conflict

Conflict can occur when opposing points of view come head to head. Although conflict is a normal part of our relationships and is perfectly healthy if handled well, it sometimes escalates and becomes destructive. The Australian Government's Family Relationships website has available information on [Managing Conflict](#) developed by Mensline Australia.

## **Non-Custodial Dads**

An American website <http://fatherhood.about.com> provides a large number of resources with a particular focus on the non-custodial dad. Some are relevant only to those covered by American laws, however many are of a general nature and are equally applicable to dads in Australia. These include:

### [Coping with a New Stepfather in Your Kids' Life](#)

When your kids' mom remarries, it can be pretty disconcerting to a father. Many dads feel competitive with the stepfather, or may wonder about his children's loyalty and love. What should a dad do when there is a new stepfather in his children's life?

### [Keep Close To Home After a Divorce](#)

A recent study published in the Journal of Family Psychology documents the need that children have for access to both parents after a divorce. The evidence is clear and convincing: keeping both parents close by is critical for children to survive a family breakup.

### [Making the Most of Visitation](#)

Divorced dads who have visitation rights often are concerned about the lack of time they have with their kids. This article by Kirk Bloir, Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agent with the Ohio State Extension Service offers solid recommendations for dads to maximize the value of their visitation time.

### [The Effects of Divorce on Children and How to Cope](#)

Children are the innocent victims of parents who divorce. Recognize why children whose parents divorce are at risk emotionally, learn and watch for the danger signs, and find ways to help them and you cope with the impacts of divorce.

### [What You Need to Know About Child Support](#)

Many fathers have lots of questions about child support: how it works, how it is calculated, and what happens if you fall behind or want to change the arrangements. This article reprinted from the 'Lectric Law Library offers answers to the most common questions about child support.

### [Dating for Divorced Dads](#)

So, it has been a while since the divorce and you are anxious for some female companionship. Dating is more difficult after a divorce than when you were single the last time. How should a divorced dad go about finding and dating women? And what do you say to the kids and when?

### [Keys for Success as a Divorced Dad](#)

Being a successful divorced dad--that is maintaining a good relationship with the children despite being divorced from their mother--is an extra burden for dads to bear. What can you do to have a greater probability of success in this situation?

There are also a wide range of resources found under the headings [Raising Great Kids](#); [Support for You](#); and [Divorced Dads](#) and additional useful information provided on this site

## **The Men's Right's Agency**

The [Men's Rights Agency](#) provides resources to support men dealing with the Family Law System. Their website provides comments on Family Law matters from a male perspective. Self-represented litigant family law training courses are offered in Brisbane. Assistance is also directly available from MRA with Child Support Agency problems, emergency housing, employment, friendship and suicide prevention

## **Mensline Queensland**

[Mensline](#) is a free, confidential telephone counselling referral and support service for men. It is a Queensland wide service that currently operates between the hours of 9am - 12am midnight, 7 days a week. The Mensline website provides a lot of information on the organisation itself, and how it can support men.

Mensline offers professional counselling and information, and acts as a strategic point of referral for Queensland men around issues of:

- domestic and family violence
- relationship problems and separation issues,
- men's health,
- child support,
- family law issues,
- suicide
- and other significant issues for men.

To access this service use FREECALL 1800 600 636

A MensLine's video counselling service was launched in 2012 and is currently available on Mondays and Tuesdays between 3.30pm and 8.00pm EST from August 13. Appointments can be booked online at [mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au) or by calling MensLine on 1300 78 99 78.

MensLine video counselling aims to remove some of the barriers to men accessing professional services in a timely manner.

## **Men's Shed Online**

Men who feel isolated and alone may like to join [Men's Shed Online](#) or go to [www.theshedonline.org.au](http://www.theshedonline.org.au)

## **Single Dads**

The [Single Dads](#) section of the [Raising Children](#) website has information and resources to assist single dads and help them support their children following family breakdown.

## **Support for fathers.**

A community of practice has recently been launched to work with fathers. This generative practice learning group is full of ideas, practice exercises, forums and learning materials provided via DVD. A number of key facilitators who work with fathers and men's groups are involved in this innovative resource. This multimedia site shares ideas about generative change & working with fathers. For more information go to:

[www.groupworksolutions.com.au/join-wwm-learning-group](http://www.groupworksolutions.com.au/join-wwm-learning-group)

## **Mental Health**

### **Access to Allied Psychological Services Program (ATAPS): Information on Better Access Changes**

The Access to Allied Psychological Services Program [ATAPS](#) webpage has information on the changes to the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) initiative. See also [Fact sheets for Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and GPs through the MBS initiative](#)

### **Beyond blue: Supporting people who may be depressed or anxious**

The [beyondblue](#) website has a large number of resources to help people who may be experiencing Mental Health challenges. There are a number of resources that may particularly useful for people.

There are [Symptoms Check Lists](#) : for depression, anxiety, bipolar and post natal depression disorders. There is also extensive information on each of these topics, including how you can help people and how they can help themselves. See:

- [Depression](#)
- [Anxiety](#)
- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
- [Postnatal Depression](#)

*Beyondblue* also has information and resources to support people from Multicultural backgrounds. See [Multicultural People](#) and [Translated Resources](#) (scroll down)

### **Blackdog Institute**

The [Black Dog Institute](#) is a not-for-profit, educational, research, clinical and community-oriented facility offering specialist expertise in depression and bipolar disorder. Topics covered include:

- [Bipolar disorder explained](#)
- [Fact sheets](#)
- [For health professionals](#)
- [Depression explained](#)
- [Self-test - Depression](#)
- [Bipolar Self-Test](#)

### **Breaking the Cycle of Depression and Anxiety**

This new DVD for parents with mental illness was launched in January 2013. It is estimated that up to 23 per cent of children live in a household where mental illness is experienced and these children obviously face some unique challenges. We know that these children are at greater risk of developing a mental health or substance abuse issue. Parents are encouraged to be open and talk about their mental health issue with their children and the DVD is designed to help start the conversation. Many parents find it tough to talk about their experience of depression and anxiety with their children, yet talking about the problem helps the whole family to manage together.”

The DVD, called Family Focus, is based on an approach developed by US-based Dr William Beardslee, an internationally acclaimed specialist in mental illness prevention. It was developed in collaboration with Australian psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, researchers and Australian parents and children with lived experience of parental depression/anxiety. The DVD is available for free from the Family Focus website <http://www.copmi.net.au/familyfocusdvd> or call COPMI (Children of Parents with a Mental Illness) on (08) 8367 0888. Also see directly below.

### **Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI)**

Are you aware that [Children of Parents with a Mental Illness \(COPMI\)](#) not only has great user friendly resources for Mums, Dads, young children, teens, young adults and family friends, but also provides FREE online training for professionals?

For example:

*The Child Aware Supervision elearning course* provides training for supervisors in strategies that promote child and family-sensitive practices in their service. It is tailored for supervisors in mental health, drug and alcohol, domestic violence, housing services. It's designed specifically to support supervisors and includes demonstrations of supervision being applied in different service settings. It's also interactive, practical and engaging and includes links to practical resources that can be used in practice. *You can view all content on your iPad!* It is estimated that the course will take 2-3 hours to complete (there are several video scenarios



to watch). Ultimately you can take it at a pace that suits you as the resource is accessible 24/7 online. You access the course now [Login here](#) or [Register as a new user here](#)  
*\*The Child Aware Supervision course has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Click on [Other FREE eLearning Courses](#) to see what other training is available from COPMI.*

### **Embrace the Future**

The [Embrace the Future: Resilient Youth](#) produced by the Mental Health Council of Australia is a mental health website for kids that contains comprehensive mental health information .

### **itsallright**

[itsallright](#) is a mental health webpage sponsored by SANE Australia and geared for younger people.

### **headspace**

[headspace](#) is Australia's national youth mental health foundation. *headspace* provides young people, parents and carers with support, services and information about: general health; mental health and wellbeing; alcohol and other drugs; education, and employment. *headspace* takes into account the different challenges young people are faced with such as depression, body image issues, drug and alcohol use issues, family or relationship problems and difficulties at work or school.

[ehespace](#) live info sessions are also available as an anonymous way to ask an expert questions and learn from other peoples questions.

### **Man Therapy**

[Man Therapy](#) is a mental health website supported by the Australian Government and *beyondblue* and designed to battle depression and anxiety in Aussie men. This very humorous site is hosted by the cult figure of Dr Brian Ironwood (the fictional character appointed to head up the campaign). He is a self-described "straight-talking, irreverent, man's man" with a PhD in everything. The Man Therapy campaign is the first of its kind in Australia and urges men to have the balls to take action on depression and anxiety while reminding them that a real man looks out for his mates.

In Australia, one in eight men are likely to experience depression in their lifetime, and one in five men are likely to experience anxiety. These rates are lower than women, but Australian men are more than three times more likely to die by suicide than women, with at least 1727 men dying from suicide in 2011.

And ABS data shows that men are much less likely to seek treatment with only 27 per cent of men who have recently experienced a mental health condition getting help for it compared to 40 per cent of women. As Dr Ironwood says: "What the f\*\*\* is going on?!" The site is both very funny and informative, and well worth a look.

### **Mental Health Information Line and Online Support Service - 1300 729 686: 9:00am to 7:00pm Mon-Fri.**

Call from anywhere in Queensland to access support, information and referral to mental health related services in your area. The Mental Health Association Australia holds Queensland's most comprehensive mental health service directory. They can provide support and assistance to connect people to Services including support groups, men's services, respite, child and youth services and many more. They can discuss the best options for getting the support needed. This may be a service MHA can provide or a referral

to a particular service that might assist a person or a loved one. They also have a range of information packs on mental illness and mental wellbeing which we can send someone seeking support. MHA can let you know where the nearest appropriate service is located.

[Contact us](#) to find out how services in your community can either help you, your family or your friends. In addition to this, callers to this line from Queensland can be referred with their consent to the Mental Health Association's newly operating Online Support Service. The Online Support Service is staffed by Clinicians qualified to provide longer term counselling. This free service enables people to access professional support via online video or phone to assist in addressing any issues that may be affecting mental health and quality of life. You can call the **Mental Health Information Line** on **1300 729 686** for the cost of a local call. Call today for information and referral and take action to improve your mental wellbeing.

### **Mental Health Resource for Veterans and ADF Personnel**

It's not unusual for people who have served in the armed forces to experience sadness, distress or anger after deployment. The Department of Veterans' Affairs [At Ease](#) website can help veterans, ADF personnel, and family members identify the symptoms of not coping. When you need to reach out, seek treatment or identify effective ways to move forward, At Ease can provide tips, treatment options & resources. At Ease also has clinical resources for health professionals who may be treating members of the veteran & defence community.

### **mindhealthconnect**

Studies show that that one in five Australians will experience a mental illness every year and only half of these people will seek treatment. The [mindhealthconnect](#) portal, is a Federal Government initiative designed to provide a trustworthy source of information, support and a gateway to therapy for people seeking help for mental health disorders who don't want to access traditional assistance.

### **Online psychological testing**

"Healthy Place" in the United States has made available for everyone "free online psychological testing" for a range of disorders. If you wish to participate, you can register for free and navigate through the range of options including ODD, ADHD, Bipolar, Substance Abuse and list is extensive. Please click on the following link: <http://www.healthyplace.com/psychological-tests/>

### **SANE Australia**

[SANE Australia](#) is a national charity working for a better life for people affected by mental illness – through campaigning, education and research. SANE conducts innovative programs and campaigns to improve the lives of people living with mental illness, their family and friends .

A large number of research bulletins and fact sheets relating to mental illness can be found directly at [Sane Research Bulletins](#) and [Sane Information](#). Some information particularly useful in supporting families includes:

- [Parenting and mental illness: the early years](#)
- [Parenting and mental illness: the school years](#)
- [Kylie Griffin speaks about parenting and mental illness](#)
- [Something not quite right -checklist](#)
- [SANE Guide for Families](#)

## Self Harming Behaviour in Adolescents

The Rural Health Education Foundation provides access to a free one hour DVD on [Self Harming Behaviour Management in Adolescence](#)

### The Helpguide

[The Helpguide website](#) provides a large range of information and resources on key topics ranging from Mental and Emotional Health, Family and Relationships, Healthy Living and Seniors and Aging. Subjects covered under these headings include specific information on a range of mental illness and other highly useful information on:

- [Abuse;](#)
- [Addiction;](#)
- [Emotional Health,](#)
- [Emotional Skills Toolkit,](#)
- [Grief and Loss,](#)
- [Stress,](#)
- [Suicide Prevention,](#)
- [Parenting and Family,](#)
- [Relationship Help,](#)
- [Childhood Challenges.](#)

And under these subject headings are even more resources, for example:

- [Coping with Break-Up and Divorce,](#)
- [Children and Divorce,](#)
- [Tips For Divorced Parents,](#)
- [Step-parenting and Blended Families.](#)

This site is really worth a good browse.

### Mindframe

The [Mindframe](#) website was developed with the assistance of media professionals, suicide and mental health experts and consumer organisations to inform appropriate reporting of suicide and mental illness, to minimise harm and copycat behaviour, and reduce the stigma and discrimination experienced by people with mental illness. However this site provides lots of information and statistics that are very useful for people working in the field and to support funding submissions or advocacy.

The areas relevant to people working in the Family Law System are:

- [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#)
- [For Police](#)
- [For Courts](#)

These sections contain information especially relevant to those professions, about things to consider when working with people with a mental illness.

The [Media Professionals](#) section has lots of interesting statics, and information about mental illness that can be very useful for funding submissions, advocacy and education.

### Working Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice.

The Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) along with the Telethon Institute's Kulunga Research Network, funded via the Department of Health and Ageing, have produced a useful resource— [Working Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice](#). This booklet about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing is intended for staff and all practitioners working in areas that support Indigenous mental health and wellbeing and is free of charge. Working Together offers new approaches to Indigenous mental health that acknowledge the importance of cultural identity and resilience, the pervasive effects of racism, and the disempowerment of colonization and assimilationist policies. It incorporates culturally

specific clinical mental health assessment processes and culturally appropriate treatment interventions. Feedback to this resource has been very positive; confirming a high quality, comprehensive examination of issues and strategies influencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander mental health and wellbeing.

For more information, or to access order forms go to [Kulunga](#) website at the Telethon Institute for Child Health research or email [enquiry@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@ichr.uwa.edu.au)

### **Youth Mental Health: 'Toxic Thinking Tablet'**

iPads, smartphones and computers are the new weapons in the war against mental health problems. A new web-based application (WebApp) has been developed to show people how they can change the way they think and help minimise their risk of developing a mental illness. The program helps to identify the 'Early Warning Signs' and provides information and the steps to get help for people before their problem gets out of control.

The program also includes Australia wide referral and support information and links to videos and fact-sheets from Headspace, Beyond Blue, MIFA, Reach Out, ABC Radio, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and many others. This free program was produced by Trevor & Annie Boulton of the Fraser Coast in association with the Mental Illness Fellowship of North Queensland, A member of the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia.

The program is now available free from: [www.toxicthinking.info](http://www.toxicthinking.info).

## **Multicultural**

### **Answers to Family Law and Immigration Questions Online.**

The [Just Answer](#) website allows you to type in your Immigration or Family Law question online and receive a quick response via email, text message or whilst you wait online. The site allows you to read responses to other people's questions. This is an Australian site, with 2 lawyers normally online

### **Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Information Sheet**

Kids Helpline has produced an information sheet on culturally and linguistically diverse young people. [Read the information sheet](#).

### **Beyondblue Resources for Multicultural People**

Australia is home to the world's oldest continuous cultures, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, as well as Australians who identify with more than 270 ancestries from across the world. *beyondblue* recognises the complexities of identity and that people may identify with a number of communities. Depression and anxiety can affect people from all cultures. Studies have highlighted the barriers people from diverse backgrounds encounter when accessing mental health services and finding help.

The *beyondblue* site has a [Multicultural People](#) page with a video, information, a blog and translated resources in over 25 language. To access the translations click on [Translated Resources](#) scroll to the bottom of the page.

To see the homepage click [beyondblue](#).

### **Free interpreting services**

The Australian Government, through TIS National, provides free interpreting services to non-English speaking Australian citizens and permanent residents communicating with the following approved groups and individuals:

- private medical practitioners (defined as General Practitioners and Medical Specialists) providing Medicare-rebateable services and their reception staff to arrange appointments and provide results of medical tests  
See: [Medical Board of Australia-Medical Specialities and Speciality Fields](#)
- non-profit, non-government, community-based organisations for case work and emergency services where the organisation does not receive funding to provide these services  
Note: Organisations that require language services (such as interpreting) and receive government funding should incorporate the cost of these services into their application for funding
- Members of Parliament for constituency purposes
- local government authorities to communicate with non-English speaking residents on issues such as rates, garbage collection and urban services
- trade unions to respond to members' enquiries or requests
- Emergency Management Australia
- pharmacies for the purpose of dispensing Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medications.

Non-profit, non-government, community-based organisations can apply for a fee exemption for calls through TIS National. Please download and complete the 'Application for exemption from TIS charges' form. Emailed applications are preferred however if faxed please address: *Attention:* TIS National Client Liaison and Promotions.

See: [Application for exemption from TIS charges](#) ( 67KB PDF file)

Email: [tispromo@immi.gov.au](mailto:tispromo@immi.gov.au) Fax: 1300 654 151

If you have questions about your eligibility for free interpreting, please contact the TIS National Client Liaison and Promotions team. Telephone: 1300 655 820  
Email: [tispromo@immi.gov.au](mailto:tispromo@immi.gov.au)

### ***Free translating service***

The Australian Government also provides a free translating service, through TIS National, for people settling permanently in Australia. Permanent residents, eligible temporary/provisional visa holders and Australian citizens are able to have personal documents translated into English during their initial two year settlement period.

Detailed information about the free translating service is available online.

See: [Help with Translations](#)

See the whole website: [Department of Immigration and Citizenship](#)

### **Mental Health Resources for People from a Multicultural Background**

Beyondblue (mental health site) has information and resources designed to support people from Multicultural backgrounds. Go to [Multicultural People](#)

### **Relationships in a New Country**

Relationships Australia has a webpage and information to assist people who are new to Australia and experiencing difficulties with their relationships. See [Relationships in a New Country](#)

### **Translations of Hague Convention Documents**

International parental child abduction occurs when one parent or guardian takes their child from its home country without the permission of the other parent or guardian, or without the

authorisation of a court. The [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#) is the main international agreement that covers international parental child abduction. It provides a process through which the 'left-behind' parent can seek to have their child returned to their home country.

The Hague Convention also deals with issues of international child access. When a parent or guardian lives in a different country to the home country of their child, it may be hard to work out access to them. Access can include telephone, Skype, email or other long-distance forms of contact. Access can also involve travel by either the parent or child to allow them to visit each other. The Hague Convention provides a process through which a parent can seek to have access orders made in the child's home country allowing them to have access with their child.

An application under the Hague Convention for the return of a child or access to a child can only be made to or from a country that has signed the Convention, and which Australia has recognised. There is more in-depth information within the links and documents below

Translations of Hague Convention Documents in around 25 different languages are available [here](#)

### **Queensland interpreter card**

The National Interpreter Symbol and the Queensland Interpreter Card aim to help people with limited English proficiency access language services when using government services.

The [Queensland interpreter card](#) can be used by any person who speaks a language other than English and needs or wishes to use an interpreter to communicate.

- The card is free of charge.
- A person may obtain one or more cards.
- The card can be freely shared among people who speak the language indicated on the front of the card (e.g. family members).
- The card can be used at Queensland Government agencies and some local and Commonwealth agencies (including Centrelink).

The [National Interpreter Symbol](#) and the Queensland Interpreter Card aims to help people not fluent in English to access an interpreter when using government services.

The Queensland Interpreter Card, featuring the National Interpreter Symbol, can assist clients to request an interpreter. Of similar size to a credit card, the card features an area to write the name of the language required.

Cards are distributed to Queensland government agencies, community groups, and not-for-profit agencies for distribution to their clients who are not fluent in speaking English.

To *order free copies* of the cards, contact the department on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email [MAQcommunities@communities.qld.gov.au](mailto:MAQcommunities@communities.qld.gov.au).

[Using the interpreter card](#) page includes information on how to issue and use the information on the interpreter card and facts sheets covering the topic below.

- [How to obtain an interpreter \(PDF, 1.5 MB\)](#) [How to obtain an interpreter \(RTF, 18 KB\)](#)
- [Procedural checklist for locating a professional interpreter \(PDF, 601 KB\)](#) [Procedural checklist for locating a professional interpreter \(RTF, 25 KB\)](#)
- [Why should you work with a professional interpreter? \(PDF, 1.2 MB\)](#) [Why should you work with a professional interpreter? \(RTF, 18 KB\)](#)
- [How do you work with an interpreter onsite? \(PDF, 563 KB\)](#) [How do you work with an interpreter onsite? \(RTF, 18 KB\)](#)

- [How do you work with an interpreter on the telephone? \(PDF, 1.2 MB\)](#) [How do you work with an interpreter on the telephone? \(RTF, 18 KB\)](#)
- [AUSIT Code of Ethics for interpreters and translators fact sheet \(PDF, 511 KB\)](#) [AUSIT Code of Ethics for interpreters and translators fact sheet \(RTF, 24 KB\)](#)
- [Language list \(PDF, 353 KB\)](#) [Language list \(RTF, 619 KB\)](#)
- [Ausit Code of Ethics](#)

## **New Relationships**

### **Establishing a New Relationship**

The article [Are you ready for a new relationship?](#) provides information and links to resources that can assist you move on with your life, following divorce or separation.

### **Building Healthy Families and Blended relationships after Divorce**

The divorce is final, any lingering wounds have healed and you're ready to move on and start dating again. But, things have changed. You're not the same person you were during your earlier dating years. You have children. You have more obligations. And, you're probably much more cautious about allowing people into your life. So, how do you get back on your feet and allow relationships again after divorce? Click on [Relationships and blended families](#) for more information on this topic.

## **Parenting Plans**

### **An Introduction to Parenting Plans**

A parenting plan is an agreement that sets out parenting arrangements for children. The fact sheet [An Introduction to Parenting Plans](#) is available on the Australian Government's Family Relationship website.

### **Parenting Plans and Consent Orders – what are they?**

Legal Aid Queensland has a short 2 minute You Tube video on [Parenting Plans and Consent Orders](#).

### **Share the Care: Parenting Plan: Collaborative Parenting Apart**

[Parenting Plan: "Share the Care": Collaborative Parenting Apart](#) is a free 33 page write in work booklet developed by Relationships Australia to support parents to work collaboratively in the best interests of their children. Divorce and separation are painful for everyone involved—particularly children. At this challenging time children need support, love and contact with both parents. Some certainty about the future is also very important for everyone. A written parenting plan, worked out between parents, will help clarify the arrangements needed to be put in place to care for children. It will help everyone involved to know what is expected of them and it will be a valuable reference as time passes and circumstances change

### **Worksheets to Help Craft a family's Unique Parenting Plan**

[Singleparents.about.com](#) is an American website, so the legal information provided is not relevant however the online Parenting Plan Tutorial and eight worksheets may be useful for some people. The set of sample parenting plan worksheets helps ensure that all of the important issues are addressed in writing in the plan. Topics covered include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ➤ <a href="#">Residential schedule</a> | ➤ <a href="#">School vacations</a>       |
| ➤ <a href="#">Visitation schedule</a>  | ➤ <a href="#">Transportation</a>         |
| ➤ <a href="#">Holiday plans</a>        | ➤ <a href="#">Schedule changes</a>       |
| ➤ <a href="#">Special occasions</a>    | ➤ <a href="#">Special considerations</a> |

## Recovery Orders

### Family Law – Children - Recovery Orders

[LAC Lawyers](#) provides information on recovery orders in an informative article. They note that once a person separates, they and their former partner will need to make some immediate decisions about practical issues about their children. It is a good idea once they have made the decision to separate to get legal advice. Unfortunately children often become embroiled in a tug-o-war situation when their parents are living separately, but both parents need to remember that they need to put the child's best interests before any other concerns.

### International parental child abduction and child access

The *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. The "Child Abduction Section" provides information about the operation of the Convention and the work of the Hague Conference in monitoring its implementation and promoting international co-operation in the area of child abduction.



Please note that the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference has no mandate to assist in individual abduction cases! If you have a question relating to international child abduction and your country is a [Party](#) to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention. You can find the webpage for Central Authority for Australia on [www.ag.gov.au/childabduction](http://www.ag.gov.au/childabduction) or email: [CentralAuthority@ag.gov.au](mailto:CentralAuthority@ag.gov.au)

### Recovery orders: Family Law Court Information

This Australian Government sites provides fact sheets on:

[Parenting Order Obligations and Recovery Orders](#) with information on the obligations and consequences of parenting orders, who can help

[Recovery Orders](#) explains what a recovery order is and who can apply for a recovery order. It also includes information about what you can do when a child has been taken from Australia without consent, or has not been returned to Australia.

NOTE: Before applying to the Court for a recovery order, a person should seek legal advice. If a child is in immediate danger, contact the State or Territory police and/or the State or Territory Child Welfare Department.

### Support Services for Families Experiencing International Parent Child Abduction (IPCA)

If you have clients or are working with families who have experienced (or may be considering) international parental child abduction, the International Social Service (ISS) is a national support service who provide non-judgmental, non partisan support to families and individuals affected by IPCA. ISS are funded by the Attorney General's Department and for information regarding their service delivery see: [www.iss.org.au](http://www.iss.org.au) or contact [iss@iss.org.au](mailto:iss@iss.org.au) or 1300 657 843

## Step Parenting

### 10 Tips for Happier step parenting

The Victorian Government's [betterhealth](#) website provides a short information sheet called [10 tips for happier step parenting](#)



## Guide to Step Parenting for Blended Families

Stepfamilies, also known as blended families, are more of a norm now than ever, with 65% of remarriages including children from previous relationships. When families “blend” to create stepfamilies, though, things rarely progress smoothly. Some children may resist the many changes they face, while parents may become frustrated or disappointed when the new family doesn’t function like their previous family. The [Guide to Step Parenting for Blended Families](#) on the [Helpguide](#) website, provides extensive information to support families successfully adapting to these changes in their lives.

This site also has information on co-parenting, divorce and mental illness, to access this go directly to [Helpguide](#).

## Step Parent Adoption

Legal Aid Queensland provides extensive information on adoption including a section on [Can I adopt a step child or a child related to me.](#)

## Raising a Stepchild

Step-parents have a lot to cope with – they might be sorting out problems from old relationships and dealing with issues with their own children, as well as coming to terms with their new children. Read about one stepfamily and the challenges facing step-parents around the country on [Raising a Stepchild](#).

## Stepfamilies Australia

Stepfamilies Australia is a national peak body working with a network of state stepfamily groups and community service providers to strengthen stepfamilies across Australia, through providing quality information, family support services, practitioner training, research and advocacy. See <http://www.stepfamily.org.au/> for a range of tips, links, information and resources. Tips sheets include:

- [Stepmothers](#)
- [Biological Mothers](#)
- [Stepfathers](#)
- [Biological Fathers](#)
- [Ex-partners](#)
- [An ‘Ours’ Baby](#)
- [Grandparents](#)
- [Children](#)
- [Teenagers](#)
- [Part time Stepfamilies](#)
- [Schools supporting families through change and transition](#)
- [Stepfamilies: an Overview](#)
- [Stepparents’ Legal Rights and Responsibilities in Australia](#)

## Step parents

Step-parenting is a role that no one receives training for. While being a step-parent can be frustrating and difficult, it’s also possible to develop warm, loving, and meaningful relationships with step-children. The [Parentline](#) is an Australian site with information on general parenting issues, and a page on being [Step Parents](#)

## Step Parenting – What You Need to Know

You need patience plus a good understanding of the emotions and thoughts your newly acquired step-child is experiencing in order to become a successful step-parent. The [KidsLife](#) website provides information on [Step Parenting - What You Need to Know](#).

## Twelve Mistakes to Avoid in Step parenting

Most people go into a blended family situation desperately wanting to make it work. They've previously suffered from a relationship loss, either by divorce or death, and don't go easily

into a new alliance, especially because children—theirs, the new spouse's, or both—are involved. But regardless of how hard the struggle with major issues, it is often the little things that trip people up and lead to the big fallout. According to many experts, over half of all remarriages end in divorce. The [life.family education](#) website provides information on twelve ways in which people trip in stepfamilies. Become aware of these potential stumbling blocks so you can keep both your balance and your blended family intact. See [12 Mistakes to Avoid in Step Parenting](#)

## Welfare Rights

### The National Welfare Rights Network

The National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) is a network of community legal centres throughout Australia which specialise in Social Security law and its administration by the Department of Human Services. Based on the experience of clients of NWRN members, the Network also develops policy and advocates for reform based on the principles and rights set out below.

It provides a number of [Factsheets](#) for people who experiencing problems accessing social security.

The [Independent Social Security Handbook Online](#) is a subscription publication: however the cost of subscription varies across states as some governments have made blanket arrangements for Not For Profit organizations within their borders. To find out the situation in your state contact your nearest organization directly. Contact details are available by clicking on [Welfare Rights](#). There are Welfare Rights offices in every state and you're the nearest on to you may be located by clicking [here](#).

## Women

### Find a service

[Find a Service](#) provides a link to a wide range of services providers in Queensland., and Women's Infolink on **1800 177 577**, Monday to Friday, 8.00 am - 6.00 pm.

### Single Mums

The *Single Mums* section of the [Raising Children](#) website has information and resources to assist single mums and help them support their children following family breakdown.

[Dealing with people's attitudes to single mothers](#)

[Healthy living for single mothers](#)

[Single mothers: early days](#)

### Women's Divorce

The [Women's Divorce](#) website is an international site that has links to relevant Australia sites and provides other generally useful information. This is a site worth browsing. Links to resources of value to Australian users include:

- [General Divorce Links](#)
- [AU Divorce Links](#)
- [Children's Issues](#)
- [Paternity](#)
- [Domestic Violence Resources](#)
- [Financial Resources](#)
- [Resources for Starting Over](#)
- [Infidelity](#)

## **Women's Legal Service**

The [Women's Legal Service](#) is a Community Legal Centre that provides free legal advice to women in Queensland. The site also provides contact and general information on domestic violence, separation and family law changes. It also has publications for sale. Some resources of interest include:

- [Separation: where to begin](#)
- [Separation and Safety Plan](#)

Women's Legal Service has also re-opened the Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) legal advice telephone service. The RRR telephone service number is: 1800 457 117. Available each Tuesday from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

## **Womensline**

Domestic Violence occurs when one person in an intimate relationship behaves in a way that causes fear or harm to the other person. It is the use of fear and power to control another person's physical, emotional, social, sexual and/or spiritual being. Domestic Violence is more than a conflict or argument where both people feel they can freely express themselves, rather it occurs where one person is using their power over the person.

The [Womensline](#) site provides useful information on domestic violence. using a women's refuge, safety, protection orders and the impacts of violence on children  
The number to call for assistance is 1800 811 811

## REPORTS, PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS.

### Online Libraries

#### Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearing House

The Clearinghouse produces a wide variety of publications available online and by subscription. You can catch up on news through the *Newsletter*, access papers by Clearinghouse and external writers, access critical research, conference and seminar papers and other publications. Some publications produced before 2011 may be available to request as a print copy at no cost. Multiple copies of some items may be available, but supplies are limited. Currently available are:

[Issues papers](#) : Now published online twice a year, this series of in-depth, peer reviewed papers provide a detailed analysis of current and emerging issues to inform policy makers, workers, advocates and researchers. As of June 2013 25 topics are covered. The two most recent topics covered are:

Paper 25: [The Gender Debate in Domestic Violence: The Role of Data](#)

Paper 24: [The Elephant in the Room: Responding to Alcohol Misuse and Domestic Violence](#)

Other categories of publications covered include:

[Stakeholder papers](#): This series of detailed, peer reviewed papers discusses key practice issues of relevance to practitioners and others addressing domestic and family violence. Papers are now published online twice a year.

[Topic papers](#): Since their introduction in 2000, these online papers have covered a range of subject areas, highlighting specific issues and responses to domestic and family violence.

[Research reports](#): Documenting the findings of Clearinghouse research studies, these in-depth research reports are published online and in hard copy.

[Thematic reviews](#): Thematic Reviews draw on a select number of leading research papers to inform the sector about critical themes in recent research. This series is published online three times a year.

[Research & Practice Briefs](#): Research and Practice Briefs aim to raise awareness of current research evidence and best practice, for application in policy, service delivery, program implementation, and evaluation. This series is published online three times per year.

To access all The Clearinghouse Publications and submissions click [here](#).

To go directly to the home page click on [Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse](#)

#### Australian Government: Attorney-General's Department

Australian Government: Attorney-General's Department has an extensive range of publications available at [AG Publications](#). You can sort through the list by alphabet or date, or take a short cut to relevant topic areas, including:

- [Families and marriage](#)
- [Rights and protections](#)
- [Legal system](#)

The Australian Government: Attorney-General's Department home page is available [here](#).

## **Australian Government: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website provides a lot of general information about all aspects of child welfare. It has also produced a number of papers on Child Protection which can be found at [Children's Services Publications](#)

To see the AIHW homepage click [here](#)

## **Australian Government: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)**

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has an Occasional Paper series produced by FaHCSIA's Research and Analysis Branch. These non-refereed papers are designed to disseminate data and analysis on a range of topics. Produced on an irregular basis, the papers provide an outlet for ad hoc information and data considered useful for government, researchers and the community. There are currently 47 papers in this series and a list of publications can be located at [FaHCSIA Publications](#). Some papers of particular relevance are:

[Number 46: Parental marital status and children's wellbeing](#) : This paper compares the wellbeing of children whose biological parents are married and those whose parents are cohabiting; it also looks at children in sole-mother families.

[Number 42: New father figures and fathers who live elsewhere](#): This report investigates outcomes for children who experience a 'new father figure' moving into their home, as well as the effects of having a biological father who does not live with them.

[Number 38: Financial and non-financial support to formal and informal out-of-home carers](#)  
This report describes the supports and services available to formal and informal out-of-home carers.

The Australian Government: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) home page can be found [here](#).

## **Australian Institute of Family Studies: *Child Family Community Australia***

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) is the Australian Government's key research body in the area of family wellbeing. Its role is to increase understanding of factors affecting how Australian families function. The [AIFS Publications](#) site holds a vast bank of publications with topics listed including those produced by Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) as well as from three previous AIFS clearinghouses: National Child Protection Clearinghouse (NCPC), Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse (AFRC) and Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia (CAFCA).

### Families and Relationships

- [Facts and figures](#)
- [Adolescents](#)
- [Adoption](#)
- [Defence force families](#)
- [Infants and children](#)
- [Fathers](#)
- [Grandparents](#)
- [Marriage and cohabitation](#)
- [Mothers](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Relationship formation](#)
- [Rural and remote families](#)
- [Same-sex parents](#)
- [Siblings](#)
- [Sole-parent families](#)
- [Step-families](#)

## Protecting Children

- [Facts and figures](#)
- [Child abuse and neglect](#)
- [Children who harm others](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Leaving care](#)
- [Out-of-home care](#)
- [Responding to children at risk](#)
- [Risk factors for maltreatment](#)

## Indigenous Families and Children

- [Facts and figures](#)
- [Service provision](#)

## Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families and Children

- [Facts and figures](#)
- [Service provision](#)

## Economic and Social Pressures

- [Bullying](#)
- [Carers and caring](#)
- [Cost of children](#)
- [Disability](#)
- [Domestic and family violence](#)
- [Drug and alcohol abuse](#)
- [Financial disadvantage](#)
- [Food security and nutrition](#)
- [Gambling](#)
- [Housing and homelessness](#)
- [Internet and the media](#)
- [Mental health and illness](#)
- [Multiple and complex needs](#)
- [Natural disasters \(including drought\)](#)
- [Social inclusion](#)
- [Suicide](#)
- [Trauma, grief and loss](#)
- [Work-family balance](#)

## Family Breakdown

- [Conflict - effects on children](#)
- [Relocation](#)
- [Separation and divorce](#)
- [Shared care](#)

## Legal Issues

- [Child protection legislation](#)
- [Family law](#)
- [Mandatory reporting](#)
- [Working with children check](#)

## Working with Families and Children

- [Child participation](#)
- [Child-safe organisations](#)
- [Communities and families](#)
- [Early intervention and prevention programs](#)
- [Engaging hard-to-reach families](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Family relationship centres](#)
- [Family relationship education and skills training](#)
- [Family counselling](#)
- [Family dispute resolution](#)
- [Family Support Program](#)
- [Interagency collaboration](#)
- [National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children](#)
- [Preventing abuse and neglect](#)
- [Research to practice](#)
- [Statutory child protection](#)
- [Workforce development](#)

## Publication Archives

- [Publications from the former Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse](#)

- [Publications from the former Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia](#)
- [Publications from the former National Child Protection Clearinghouse](#)

Short articles can also be found on [CFCA Connect](#), our news and discussion section.

For publications on more topics [search the AIFS library catalogue](#)

### **Australian Law Reform Commission**

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) is committed to improving public access to its work and all final reports and recent consultation papers are available for free download. It is also possible to purchase print editions of reports, provided they are in stock.

Currently there are at least 15 publications focused on Family Law and a very large number of other publications on legal issues available – you can search by topic, or year.

The most recent Family Law publication is:

[Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws—Improving Legal Frameworks \(ALRC Report 117\)](#) Published on: 8 February 2012 [Final Report](#)

To access the complete library of publications please click on [ALRC Publications](#).

### **Australian Parliamentary Library**

You can browse all the topics available on the Australian Parliamentary Library by clicking [here](#).

Areas of interest covered include:

- [Communities and families](#): Including children, women and youth
- [Key internet links on Calendars of Events](#)
- [Key internet links on Community Grants](#)
- [Key internet links on Family Law](#)

### **Australian Policy Online**

The Australian Policy Online (APO) has publications covering arrange of topics including:

- |                                    |                                     |                          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ➤ <a href="#">Crime</a>            | ➤ <a href="#">Law</a>               | ➤ <a href="#">Rights</a> |
| ➤ <a href="#">Crime prevention</a> | ➤ <a href="#">National security</a> |                          |
| ➤ <a href="#">Justice system</a>   | ➤ <a href="#">Policing</a>          |                          |

Of particular relevance to the Family Law system are articles on Child Protection including:

- [Child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children](#)
- [Do not damage and disturb: on child protection failures and the pressure on out of home care in Australia](#)
- [Child protection Australia 2009-10](#)
- [2011 Views of children and young people in foster care survey](#)
- [Hearing directly from vulnerable young Australians](#)

The APO home page can be found [here](#).

### **Australian Psychological Society**

The APS is committed to advancing psychology as a discipline and profession. The APS is dedicated to advancing the discipline and profession of psychology for the benefit of its members and the communities they serve. Its webpage allows even non members to access

its publications (including Journal articles). To see everything that is available click on [APS Publications](#).

Some articles of interest are:

- [Relationship Pressures on Australian Families: Some implications for psychologists](#): This article provides insights into how relationship and/or family factors may underpin or exacerbate mental health issues and the implications for psychologists.
- [A multidimensional evaluation of the new family law system](#): A multidimensional evaluation of the new family law system. By Dr Jodie Lodge MAPS, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- [A cultural shift in family law](#): A cultural shift in family law. By Dr Andrew Bickerdike MAPS, Manager Client Services, Research and Training, Relationships Australia (Victoria)
- [Family law changes in children's cases](#): Family law changes in children's cases
- [Family Law and Psychology](#) (APS Member Groups website) APS Family Law and Psychology Interest Group homepage

The APS home page can be found [here](#)

### **The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth**

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), progresses and promotes evidence-based programs and strategies to improve the wellbeing of children and young people. By collaborating with researchers, policymakers and practitioners, ARACY turns 'what works' into practical, preventative action. Visit the [ARACY](#) homepage or go straight to [ARACY Publications](#)

### **Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria**

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRC) provides a Discussion Paper series that furthers debate in the family violence field by providing comprehensive analysis of current issues. To read more about each paper see below:

- [Just Say Goodbye](#)
- [Bad mothers and invisible fathers](#)
- [Behind closed doors](#)
- [Violence-induced disability](#)
- [What is child sexual abuse](#)
- [Family violence and homelessness](#)
- [Men as victims](#)
- [What's in a name](#)

Additionally [Getting Safe Against the Odds](#) a useful resource on how to support women with disabilities experiencing violence (also available in pdf and hard copy) can be found this site. The resource provides suggestions from women with disabilities, as well as practical tips on what individual workers and agencies can do.

Other books and resources are available for purchase by clicking on [DVRCV Publications](#)

### **Family and Relationship Services Australia**

Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) have a small range on publications available on [FRSA Publications](#).

Most relevant to the Family Law system is: *Community Engagement in Post Separation Services: mAn Exploratory Study*. The purpose of this project was to explore community engagement activities undertaken in the post-separation services funded by the Attorney-General's Department, through the Federal Government's Family Support Program



(FSP). Through this research FRSA sought to understand how community engagement should be defined and understood in the context of post-separation services. Post-separation service providers were invited to identify the purposes and benefits of engaging with the broader community and sought to identify factors that drive and restrain community engagement, both internal and external to the organisation. A clear and consistent message was that community engagement requires long term commitment, the development of relationships of trust and respect, and the utilisation of community strengths and skills. Hard copies can be provided on request or [Download PDF](#).

The FRSA home page can be found [here](#).

### **Federal Circuit Court of Australia**

All publications produced by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia can be found at [Court Publications](#).

- [Brochures and Fact Sheets](#), contains an extensive range of resources specifically around Family Court and Child Support.
- [Papers and Reports](#), includes presentations and speeches made by people of importance within the family Law system including Attorneys General and Federal Magistrates.
- A couple of significant papers are:
- [Collaborative and Creative approaches to family dispute resolution: Perspectives from the Bench](#), Family and Relationship Services Australia - National Conference, 2011  
Chief Federal Magistrate John Pascoe
- [Mental Health and Family Law –a question of degree](#) by Federal Magistrate Judy Ryan 2006

The Federal Circuit Court of Australia home page can be found [here](#).

### **Institute of Child Protection Studies**

Publications developed by the Institute of Child Protection Studies (Australian Catholic University) are available by year of publication, by subject matter, and by publication type. Publications include research reports, literature reviews, evaluation reports, journal articles and other papers. For media releases and news articles, visit [Media](#). To view publications by individual staff member (including those published prior to their commencement at the Institute), visit [Our Staff](#).

- [All publications by year](#);
- [Publications by subject matter / topic](#);
- [Publications by format / type of publication](#).

### **The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)**

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) Flinders University is an internationally recognised research centre that works as a catalyst for change in the alcohol and other drugs field.

(NCETA), in conjunction with Odyssey House Victoria, have launched a new resource designed to assist workers in addressing domestic and family violence. They have produced two documents: "Breaking the Silence: Addressing family and domestic violence problems in alcohol and other drug treatment practice in Australia" which is a literature review covering the links between AOD use and domestic and family violence, alongside "Can I ask...?" which is a clinicians guide to addressing domestic and family violence in an

AOD context.

Download "[Can I ask...?](#)" (1.26MB PDF)

Download "[Breaking the Silence: Addressing family and domestic violence problems in alcohol and other drug treatment practice in Australia](#)" (2.21MB PDF)

Below are links to the comprehensive list of all NCETA publications. This list may be sorted by title, publication date, type of publication (i.e., journal article, report), and topic. Please note that while the NCETA has endeavoured to provide links to the journal articles, there may be restricted access in some instances due to subscription and/or copyright requirements.

Browse by: [Title](#) | [Topics](#) | [Publication Date](#) | [Type](#) | [Authors](#)

- |                             |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ <a href="#">All</a> [287] | ➤ <a href="#">2002</a> [17] | ➤ <a href="#">2008</a> [18] |
| <a href="#">1997</a> [15]   | <a href="#">2003</a> [14]   | <a href="#">2009</a> [24]   |
| <a href="#">1998</a> [26]   | <a href="#">2004</a> [17]   | <a href="#">2010</a> [12]   |
| <a href="#">1999</a> [6]    | <a href="#">2005</a> [30]   | <a href="#">2011</a> [24]   |
| <a href="#">2000</a> [17]   | <a href="#">2006</a> [30]   | <a href="#">2012</a> [5]    |
| <a href="#">2001</a> [20]   | <a href="#">2007</a> [6]    | <a href="#">2013</a> [6]    |

To see the NCETA homepage click [here](#).

### **NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research**

A list of all the publications from NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) can be found by clicking on [BOCSAR Publications](#)

Of particular interest is *Factors which influence the sentencing of domestic violence offenders, Crime and Justice Statistics Bureau Brief, Issue paper no. 48*, Ringland, C., and Fitzgerald, J. (2010). This paper shows the main findings of the first-ever Australian study into the sentencing of domestic violence offenders showed that the most common penalty imposed on offenders is a bond. Offenders who injure their victims, who breach an apprehended violence order (VROs in WA) or who have a prior conviction for violence, however, are at high risk of going to prison. More details at:

[http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll\\_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/BB48.pdf/\\$file/BB48.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/BB48.pdf/$file/BB48.pdf)

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research home page can be found [here](#)

### **Prevention Action**

Prevention Action is an online news publication reporting internationally on innovation and effectiveness among programs for improving children's health and development.

Prevention Action is primarily concerned with efforts to prevent or address impairments to children's health or development and to promote children's well-being. The focus of the website extends to physical, behavioral, emotional, social and intellectual development, incorporating attempts to prevent violence, crime and school failure, as well as physical and mental illness. It investigates the potential causes of impairments to children's health and development, such as poverty, poor housing, genes and gene-environment interactions, and family dysfunction. Prevention Action is also interested in public policy, professional practice and public behavior that bears on the success of prevention, for example in architecture, environmental design and community action.

To see the articles, journals, blogs and other publications available go to [Prevention Action](#)

Prevention Action is an independent online publication. It has been initiated and is managed by the [Dartington Social Research Unit](#).

### **Social Need Advocacy Database**

This is a searchable directory of over 500 reports and submissions relating to social need in Australia. Created by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre in collaboration with ACOSS, the Social Needs Advocacy tool provides an easily navigable and searchable directory of key reports and submissions concerning social needs in Australia since 2007. Each of over 500 reports and submissions can be directly accessed through the directory by clicking on the report or submission name. The directory will be updated as often as resources permit but at least annually. The tool can be found at [www.socialneeds.net.au](http://www.socialneeds.net.au). For reports that deal specifically with unmet legal need see the [Just Search](#) facility of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW.

### **Womens Legal Service Queensland**

Womens Legal Service Queensland (WLSQ) has a small range of relevant publications available including:

- [Summary of Family Law Changes from July 1 2006](#)
- [Separation: Where to Begin](#)
- [Separation: Safety Plan](#)
- [“Dying to be Heard”: Domestic and Family Violence Death Reviews - Discussion Paper November 2008](#)

The WLSQ home page can be found [here](#)

### **Other useful papers and reports**

#### **ACT Family Violence Intervention Program review**

This Technical and Background Paper reports on a review of the Australian Capital Territory’s Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP). The FVIP provides an interagency response to family violence matters that have come to the attention of police and then proceeded to prosecution. The scope of the review was to analyse the program’s activities and outcomes using 2007–08 data provided by participating agencies, supported by in-depth interviews with key stakeholders including victims whose matters had been finalised in court. Although not within the scope of this evaluation, these data pointed to some preliminary improvements in the FVIP. To access the review report [click here](#).

#### ***CALD Services – Mediation in Ethnic Communities* 2011**

This report, Culturally Responsive Family Dispute Resolution in Family Relationship Centres: Access & Practice, looks at FDR services in NSW areas with large ethnic populations. There was now significant research to suggest CALD communities are underrepresented in their use of family relationship centres (FRCs) and family dispute resolution (FDR) services. There are a number of barriers other than language which prevent ethnic families from utilising FDR services.

The report recommends mainstream service providers strive to establish strong working relationships with community leaders & existing CALD service providers. The specific issues facing ethnic communities must be established and myths and misunderstandings regarding services such as FDR are dispelled. Developing trust and reciprocal referral pathways may lead to greater uptake of FDR & other family relationship services by CALD communities. To read the full Report click [here](#).

**Cultural Diversity and Child Protection : A review of the Australian research on the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)and refugee children and families.** This paper explores the research into the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families with regards to child protection. With one in four Australians born overseas, a significant body of research and policy has been developed around many issues faced by migrant communities, however there remains large gaps in the child protection literature. This paper serves as a launch pad, by reviewing current research on the needs of migrant and refugee communities and identifying gaps and priorities for future research. To read the report click [here](#).

**Domestic Violence and Child Protection: Best Practice from a Feminist Perspective (2009) Women's Community Aid Association Qld Ltd: Women's House Shelta 5/11/2009**

This 2009 Discussion Paper provides a feminist perspective on the difficulties that occur in trying to cope with domestic violence issues within the Family Law System. To read the whole paper click [here](#)

**Effective work with families experiencing problems**

A recent report has been published by the UK's Department of Communities and Local Government, titled "Working with Troubled Families: A guide to evidence and good practice". The guide contains an overview of the evidence base for effective family interventions, including the roles of a dedicated worker focused on working with the whole family, the provision of practical hands-on support, a persistent and assertive approach and building a common purpose and agreed course of action. The report contains case studies illustrating the application of these principles in real practice settings in the UK. Download ["Working with Troubled Families: A guide to evidence and good practice"](#)

**Facilitating psychological support for Family Law Court clients: The Mental Health Support Program** by Clare Witnish and Catherine Caruana

Services working with families involved in family law litigation may be interested to learn more about court protocols relating to the management of client mental health problems. The courts' Mental Health Support Program also provides a potential template for services wishing to improve both their support of distressed clients and their partnerships with organisations available to assist them. See the website below for the full article that provides an overview of the strategy as it applies in the Family Law Courts, including insights from one of the architects of the strategy, Justice Le Poer Trench of the Family Court of Australia. See: [Facilitating psychological support for Family Law Court Clients: The Mental Health Support Program](#)

**Papers and resources from the 2013 World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights.**

The World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights was held in Sydney in March 2013. The congress brought together government officials, family law practitioners, jurists, advocates, policing and protection agencies, medical practitioners, politicians and other organisations and individuals with a common interest in the active protection of children and the promotion of good family law. There were an amazing number of papers and resources presented at this congress that have now been made available to the public. They may be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.lawrights.asn.au/6th-world-congress/papers.html> The congress website link is: <http://www.lawrights.asn.au/>

**Persistent poverty damages young children's cognitive development**

A recent report published by the [Institute of Education](#) in the United Kingdom (UK) has found that persistent poverty has a corrosive effect on children's cognitive development.

Researchers found that seven-year-olds who have lived in poverty since infancy perform significantly worse in a variety of ability tests than those who have never been poor. The researchers found that poverty, especially persistent poverty, has a larger impact on cognitive development than factors such as whether or not parents read to their children, take them to the library, or help them with reading, writing and maths. The study also shows that being poor can adversely affect parents' ability to take an active role in their children's learning, which further affects their scores. Analysis was based on data from the Millennium Cohort Study, which follows the lives of 8,000 children born in the UK in 2000-01.

### **Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Children & Young People**

This research report for the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, investigated the conceptualisation of social and emotional wellbeing for children and young people, and policy implications. [Click here](#) to download the report

### **Unaffordable and out of reach: the problem of access to the Australian legal system:** Community Law Australia.

The report gathers recent research and inquiry recommendations, together with commentary from prominent legal figures, to paint a concerning picture of Australia's justice system and what needs to happen to change it. It highlights the problems faced by many Australians in accessing the legal system, synthesising research, reports and information on access to the legal system from a range of sources over the past decade. It shows that repeated government and Parliamentary inquiries over the past decade have recognised that the legal system is out of reach for many Australians. Yet, despite some worthwhile policy initiatives, the large scale reforms needed to remedy the situation have not been undertaken. In particular, it shows that Australian Government funding for legal assistance services has failed to keep pace with demand, inflation and population growth, and budget figures show falls in real terms in per capita funding for the next three years. The full report is available at: [http://www.communitylawaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/CLA\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.communitylawaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/CLA_Report_Final.pdf)

### **What about the Children? Parenting post separation and divorce.** Brown, T., and Monash University, (2010) Family Life, Sandringham, VIC.

This study reports on the development of the Frankston and Mornington Family Relationship Centre, one of the first centres to be established under the family law legislation introduced in 2006. Download the report at:

[http://www.familylife.com.au/site-images/latest-news/Parenting\\_Report.pdf?PHPSESSID=22857ba2274eef69d0c58067c2f4dc90](http://www.familylife.com.au/site-images/latest-news/Parenting_Report.pdf?PHPSESSID=22857ba2274eef69d0c58067c2f4dc90)

### **Women and Divorce in Later Life** Dr. Anthony

[Women and Divorce in Later Life](#) highlights the difficulties for older women experiencing divorce and separation after many years of marriage. Although an American article, it is relevant to Australian women.

## LEGISLATION

### Australian Legislation -weblinks

[Current bills, Attorney-General's portfolio](#) (provides links to Bills, Explanatory Memoranda, Bills Digests, parliamentary speeches)

[House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs](#)

[Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs](#)

[Child Support \(Assessment\) Act 1989](#)

[Child Support \(Registration and Collection\) Act 1988](#)

[Family Law Act 1975](#)

[Family Court of Western Australia \(Orders of Registrars\) Act 1997](#)

[Family Court Act 1997 \(Western Australia\)](#)

[Marriage Act 1961](#)

[Civil Unions Act 2012 \(ACT\)](#)

[Relationships Register Act 2010 \(NSW\)](#)

[Relationships Act 2011 \(QLD\)](#)

[Relationships Act 2003 \(TAS\)](#)

[Relationships Act 2008 \(VIC\)](#)

### 2012 Changes to the parenting payment.

In October 2012 the rules changed for people who started receiving Parenting Payment before 1 July 2006. The same rules will apply to these parents as to someone who is claiming for the first time. From 1 January 2013, single parents will no longer be eligible for Parenting Payment when their youngest child turns:

- six years of age if they receive Parenting Payment Partnered, or
- eight years of age if they receive Parenting Payment Single.

As these changes can be difficult to understand and may not be easy for some people, the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) has made support available to help. Through DHS people can arrange an interview with their local service centre to talk about the change and their options. Any changes will depend on whether a person is receiving the single or partnered rate of Parenting Payment. If they are moved to Newstart Allowance they will still be able to access a lot of the same allowances they could while on Parenting Payment. If some-one on Parenting Payment Single moves to Newstart Allowance their payment may be less. Some parents will be eligible for a higher rate of Newstart Allowance, which is the same amount as Parenting Payment Single. Single principal carers with large families of four or more, foster carers, and those who are providing home schooling or distance education have access to this higher rate. Where this applies DHS can help people with their claim in their interview. For more information please click [here](#).

### Australia Government Comlaw

[Comlaw](#) has the most complete and up-to-date collection of Commonwealth legislation available. And it has just upgraded it, to make it easier to find information quickly. This is a user friendly site with lots of resources. To help get you started you can download [How to use ComLaw PDF 1.1MB](#) as a document.

Some links to other helpful material are:

- [How to read legislation](#)
- [Explore the law: an A-Z of key jargon](#)
- [What lawmakers need to know](#)
- [More help](#)

## **Australian Legal information Institute**

[The Australian Legal Information Institute](#) website provides:

- Full text legislation in all Australian jurisdictions
- Full text case law in most Australian Courts and Tribunals
- Full text international instruments;

and gives access to [451 databases](#) from all Australasian jurisdictions

## **Child Support and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Act 2010** by Rae Kaspiew and Sharnee Moore

Commencing from 1 July 2010, the *Child Support and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Act 2010* (the *Amendment Act*) has made several amendments to the child support and family assistance law. These amendments are principally in relation to the calculation of the percentage of care for child support and family assistance and estimations of income for child support purposes. See [Family law update](#)

## **Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility Act) 2006**

The *Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act 2006* commenced on 1 July 2006 and represents the most significant reforms to the family law system in 30 years.

The Shared Parental Responsibility Act implements a significant number of the recommendations of the Every picture tells a story report, the majority of recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report on the exposure draft of the Bill, and recommendations of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee.

The amendments are part of the Government's bold new reform agenda in family law. The legislation complements the package of measures announced in the 2005 Budget, amounting to \$397 million over four years. These initiatives represent a generational change in family law and aim to bring about a cultural shift in how family separation is managed: away from litigation and towards cooperative parenting.

The Shared Parental Responsibility Act reflects the Government's determination to ensure the right of children to grow up in a safe environment with the love and support of both their parents, and places an emphasis on the protection of children from family violence.

[The Australian Government Attorney-General's Department](#) website provides information on the key aspects of the changes that will affect families that have experienced breakdown.

To read the complete Act see: [Family Law Amendment \(Shared Parental Responsibility\) Act 2006](#)

## **Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act 2011**

[Family Law Legislation Amendment \(Family Violence and Other Measures\) Act 2011](#)

## **Legislation and Family Court Practice**

This page on the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse webpage contains an extensive online library of [papers on Legislation and Family Court Practice](#)

## **Links to current Bills in the Australian Attorney General's Portfolio**

[The Parliament of Australia, Parliamentary Library](#) provides links to current Bills in the Australian Attorney General's Portfolio, existing Legislation, court and tribunal Reports.

## **Parliament of Australia**

The [Parliament of Australia](#) website has comprehensive information on:

- Full text bills
- Hansard, and
- Parliamentary committees

## **Queensland Legislation**

The [Queensland Legislation](#) webpage of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel provides access to:

- State legislation and legislative data
- Bills, and the
- Parliamentary website

## **Qld Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2012**

On Monday 17 September 2012, new domestic violence laws came into effect. The new *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*, which repealed the previous Act, provides police and the courts with better powers to impose police protection notices and domestic violence orders. [Click here](#) to find out more information. To obtain a copy of the Act, visit [Queensland Legislation](#). For help in dealing with domestic and family violence, call the DVConnect helpline on 1800 811 811 or view the information about [support for victims of abuse](#). For more information about the government's violence prevention initiatives visit the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services [violence prevention web pages](#).