

TFLP

Quarterly Newsletter

HELLO AND WELCOME to the first issue of the *Association of Therapeutic Family Law Professionals* (TFLP) Newsletter!

For those who are not familiar with us, we are a collection of psychologists, counsellors, and social workers who specialise in family law. Although we work with other family law professionals everyday (such as Parenting Coordinators, Mediators, Lawyers, Independent Children's Lawyers, Barristers, and Judicial Officers), there continues to be a significant gap between the family law system and social science. TFLP aims to assist in bridging this gap, while offering a space for fellow therapeutic family law professionals to seek support, engage in further education, and build connections within the field.

On that note, we are excited to introduce the brand new TFLP quarterly Newsletter! Each publication will detail upcoming events, discuss points of interest, highlight new research and relevant papers, provide feedback on events, and offer peer support. We hope you like it as much as we do, and as always, we welcome all feedback and ideas. Enjoy!



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TFLP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



DR MEGAN MORRIS
PRESIDENT

Dr Morris is a Psychologist and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. She provides therapeutic support for individuals and families, family reports, child consultancy for mediation, and mediation for parenting issues.



DR SARAH ANGEL
VICE PRESIDENT

Dr Angel is a Clinical Psychologist with over 24 years' experience operating her own private practice. She prepares family reports, provides reunification therapy, individual therapy, and family therapy, and acts as a child consultant for child informed mediations.



SUSAN DE CAMPO
SECRETARY

Ms De Campo has been a Family Report Writer since 1998 and undertakes child-inclusive mediation, court-ordered counselling, family therapy and post-separation parenting programs. She is the director of the largest private supervised contact service in Queensland.



DR LATIKA SADASHIV
TREASURER

Dr. Sadashiv is a Clinical Psychologist and EMDR Therapist. She has over 18 years' experience in forensic psychology and mental health. She is the Director of Child & Family Matters, a child, adult and family focused service offering clinical assessments and interventions in private practice.



TOM FITZGERALD
GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Mr FitzGerald has been a social worker for 30 years, working exclusively in the field of family law since 2004. He provides family reports as a single expert witness and regulation family consultant. Mr FitzGerald also participates as a child consultant in child inclusive mediation.



DR RAYLEIGH JOY
GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Dr Joy is an accredited mental health social worker with over 25 years' experience in clinical mental health practice, family and individual therapy, family report writing, and providing therapeutic services in the area of post separation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR MEGAN MORRIS

Welcome everyone to our first edition of our TFLP newsletter! The development of this association has been several years in the making and it is an absolute delight to see so many therapeutic family law professionals taking membership and attending our events.

Each of our events is aimed at advancing our knowledge and expertise in working with family law clients and providing companionship and support within the sector. Within the first 6 months of launching TFLP, we have activated our support group (monthly and virtual), organised the first of our intimate professional development events (an evening with Dr Varghese), launched our newsletter and booked two forthcoming events. Over the next 6 months we will have our research page available to members which will offer relevant helpful links, articles and current research statements to assist with keeping our reports current and grounded in evidenced based research.

This newsletter includes the link to the groundbreaking Australian Child Maltreatment Study, and the outcomes that are being released

concerning the experience of children in Australia. The published results are expected to be very helpful for therapeutic and report writing work, as they provide contemporary evidence for better understanding the adverse consequences for children, particularly in relation to parental separation and conflict.

Coming up we have an evening with Senior Registrar Kara Best, then an evening with Independent Children's Lawyers and our Festive Season networking evening, and the TFLP team look forward to seeing you at these events.

Other suggestions from our members include an interactive mock cross examination evening, an evening with adult children of family court orders, a children's panel and a networking with legal representatives' night. We will consider all ideas so please feel free to send in your suggestions.

Finally, over the last few months of 2023 we will make available our affiliative membership tier, which will be available for specialist (non-therapeutic) family law professionals who wish to network with therapeutic professionals and gain insight into our work through selected events and professional development evenings.

Thank you for your membership, and we look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Dr Megan Morris

Please join our online peer support groups, held on the **last Thursday of each month from 5.15pm to 6.15pm**. TFLP will send a reminder to all members prior to each meeting, and a link will be provided on request.

Peer support meetings aim to provide a forum for therapeutic practitioners and report writers to discuss practice dilemmas, issues, ideas, and share practical tips. Members are welcome to nominate topics and may wish to discuss some of their (de-identified) cases with the group.

PEER SUPPORT

LAST THURSDAY
5:15PM

MONTHLY

We have recently explored issues related to relocation and parenting capacity. We look forward to seeing you for the next meeting on **Thursday, 26 October 2023**. Please join us and bring ideas for future topics to discuss!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

an evening with...
SENIOR JUDICIAL REGISTRAR
KARA BEST



Bridging the gap between practitioners working in family law and Judicial Officers.

Wed
18

OCTOBER

5:00 PM



Free



179 North Quay
Ground Floor



Limited Spaces
RSVP Essential
info@tflp.com.au

2023 CELEBRATIONS

Christmas and New Years Celebrations
Date TBC - likely February.

QML PATHOLOGY

Speaker: Charles Appleton from QML
Discussing all things pathology testing.

ICL EVENT

Opportunity to meet ICLs and discuss what makes a good report.

UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

MOCK EXAMINATION

An evening of cross examination role play providing the opportunity to practice being 'on the stand' while supported by therapeutic and legal colleagues. Learn helpful tips and strategies from barristers!

RESEARCH

AUSTRALIAN CHILD MALTREATMENT STUDY

This Study has identified for the first time how many Australians have experienced multi-type maltreatment. A gold standard methodology was undertaken, bridging across all 5 types of child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence). The findings are comprehensive and imperative to ensuring our work is evidence based.

SCAN ME



www.acms.au/findings



MEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS

HANNAH'S
STORY

Podcast Recommendation
by Dr Rayleigh Joy

I strongly recommend everyone listens to the podcast, *Hannah's Story*. Although very challenging, this story is an important one. The podcast takes listeners on a journey through the life of Hannah Clarke – as a daughter, mother, friend, and wife.

News presenter, Melissa Downes, delves deeper into the years of abuse Hannah and the children lived through. She includes discussions with Hannah's family, friends, first responders, and domestic violence experts, fleshing out what happened leading up to that horrendous day in February 2020.

Despite my years of experience with the suffering and messiness of human life and relationships, **this podcast shocked me, distressed me, and left me questioning what can be done better** - because it *has to be done better*. Whilst Hannah's story is unquestionably confronting, we cannot forget that, on average, one woman is killed by a partner or former partner every week.

The biggest takeaway, for me, is the importance of understanding the nature of coercive control. It is so pervasive, yet can be so hidden. Identifying risk involves a nuanced exploration, weaving through the contours of an intimate relationship. It requires skill, experience, awareness, a recognition of patterned behaviour, and a constant returning to our priority, the safety and wellbeing of children.

Three years ago, in a leafy, quiet, suburban street of Camp Hill, one of the most horrific acts of family violence in Australian History unfolded.

Hannah Clarke, 33, and her three children, aged 6, 4, and 3, were brutally murdered by Rowan Baxter, their estranged husband and father, respectively.

*This event sparked outrage, shock, and ruptured longstanding beliefs that family violence was given a disproportionate level of attention. It also shone light on a form of domestic violence unheard of in the general public and too often missed by those working with issues of family and domestic violence - **coercive control**.*



Listen on
Apple Podcasts

Want your story to be featured in the next issue of the TFLP newsletter?
Members can submit suggested contributions by emailing info@tflp.com.au