

CHILD REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE

NOVOTEL WOLLONGONG NORTHBEACH



4 – 5 March 2016

independent
children's
lawyers



Do you work with children and young people going through the family or care and protection legal systems? Would you benefit from some skills based training to enhance your work with children?

Legal Aid NSW is again conducting a Child Representation Conference in 2016 – this year at the Novotel, Wollongong Northbeach.

Take part in a series of optional skill-based pre-conference workshops on cross-examining experts, communicating with children or general refresher training for child legal representatives on Friday, 4 March.

A gala dinner with guest speakers featuring entertainment from the Wollongong legal profession will launch the conference on the evening of Friday, 4 March.

The conference features a range of well-respected lawyers, judges, social scientists and academics in the area of children's representation including; Judge Tom Altobelli, President of the Children's Court - Judge Peter Johnstone, Justice Robert Benjamin, Justice Hilary Hannam, Justice Garry Foster, Dr Peter Krabman and Stephen Ralph.

Attendance is encouraged for all child representatives, barristers, social scientists, FDRPs and child protection and family lawyers all who will be able to acquire MCLE points. Child representatives are also reminded that they are required to complete three CLE points each year specifically relevant to the practice of representing children.

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| ➤ Pre-Conference workshops (Friday, 4 March) | \$75 |
| ➤ Conference opening and dinner (Friday, 4 March) | \$150 |
| ➤ Attendance at conference only (Saturday, 5 March) | \$250 |

Accommodation can be booked directly with the *Novotel Wollongong Northbeach*:

Address: 2-14 Cliff Road, North Wollongong, 2520

Website: www.novotelnorthbeach.com.au

Phone: (02) 4224 3111



HELP

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Register Now:

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CHILD REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE

Program

Friday, 4 March 2016

Pre-Conference workshops (numbers limited and bookings essential)

10.00am – 1.00pm	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop A</p> <p>The Independent Children’s Lawyer refresher program</p> <p><i>Trainers: Vera Temelkowska, Dina Lioumis, Chris Lovell-Jones, Legal Aid NSW</i></p>
10.00am – 1.00pm	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop B</p> <p>Communicating with children – a skills based workshop</p> <p><i>Trainers: Family Consultant, Federal Circuit Court, Wollongong Registry and Anne Connor, Legal Aid NSW</i></p>
2.00pm – 4.30pm	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop C</p> <p>The expert witness masterclass</p> <p>Getting the best out of your expert</p> <p><i>Trainer: Dr Mitchell Byrne, Psychologist</i></p> <p>Cross-examination – preparation and performance</p> <p><i>Trainer: Hugh Selby, Barrister</i></p>
5.00pm – 6.00pm	<p>Conference registration & welcome drinks</p>
6.00pm – 10.00pm	<p>Gala conference dinner</p> <p><i>Featuring guest speakers and entertainment by Wollongong legal profession</i></p> <p>(includes 3 course meal with wine)</p>
Location	<p>Novotel Wollongong Northbeach</p> <p>2-14 Cliff Road</p> <p>North Wollongong NSW 2520</p> <p>Website: www.novotelnorthbeach.com.au</p> <p>Phone: (02) 4224 3111</p>



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CHILD REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE

Program

Saturday, 5 March 2015

8.30am	Registration		
9.15am	Opening and Welcome to Country		
9.30am	Children's Participation - a look towards the future * Justice Robert Benjamin, Family Court of Australia * Judge Tom Altobelli, Federal Circuit Court * Judge Peter Johnstone, Children's Court of NSW * Dr Peter Krabman, Child and Family Psychiatrist * Kylie Beckhouse, Director, Family Law, Legal Aid NSW Chair: Lorelle Longbottom (DGB Lawyers), Family Law Chair – Wollongong Law Society		
11.00am	Morning Tea		
11.20am	Crime Pays: finding and using material from associated criminal law proceedings * Justice Hilary Hannam, Family Court of Australia * Justice Garry Foster, Family Court of Australia Chair: Vera Temelkovska, Legal Aid NSW		
12.20pm	The Idealised Parent – critiquing personal biases and their impact on legal processes * Dr Felicity Bell, Lecturer University of Wollongong * Stephen Ralph, Psychologist Chair: Helen Volk, Helen Volk Lawyers		
1.15pm	Lunch		
2.00pm	Concurrent Workshops		
	Session A	Session B	Session C
	Understanding contemporary approaches to addressing problematic and harmful sexual behaviour by children and young people Dale Tolliday OAM, Clinical Advisor, New Street Services and Office of Kids and Families Chair: Norman O'Dowd, Legal Aid NSW	Memories – make us who we are. Keeping children's archives and Life Story Work Anne Hollingsworth, Psychologist and Melissa Newans, Manager Casework, Metro Intensive Support Services, Department of Family & Community Services Chair: Nicola Callander, Legal Aid NSW	Understanding the impact of drugs and alcohol on parental capacity – an intensive George Klein, Substance Abuse Expert Chair: Eva Karagiannis, Legal Aid NSW
3.00pm	Concurrent Workshops		
	Session A	Session B	Session C
	Trauma informed practice - assessing risk to children Sue Foley, Director Children's Court Clinic NSW Susannah O'Reilly, Legal Aid NSW Chair: Clare O'Donnell, Legal Aid NSW	Direct legal representation – most frequently asked questions Nicola Callander, Kate Vassie, Legal Aid NSW Jeffrey David, Hansons Lawyers Chair: Tim Horsley, Johnson Horsley Lawyers	Part 2: Understanding the impact of drugs and alcohol on parental capacity – an intensive George Klein, Substance Abuse Expert Chair: Eva Karagiannis, Legal Aid NSW
4.00pm	Same families, different courts – new approaches – a Q & A * Judge Tom Altobelli * Vera Temelkovska, Legal Aid NSW * Peter Williamson, Verekers Lawyers Chair: Alex Colquhoun, Legal Aid NSW		
4.30pm	Close		



Conference Speakers

Judge Tom Altobelli

After 25 years in practice Dr Tom Altobelli was appointed as a Federal Magistrate on 13 November 2006 and is currently sitting as the Federal Circuit Court Judge in Wollongong. He holds a Master of Laws and Doctorate in Juridical Science, and is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law, University of Western Sydney. Before his appointment, Tom was accredited as a specialist in the areas of Family Law, Children's Law and Mediation. He was, formerly, Special Counsel at Watts McCray Lawyers, and an Associate Professor at the University of Western Sydney. He was also a member of the Executive of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. Tom has authored four books on family law and dispute resolution as well as 50 articles in Australian and International Journals. Judge Altobelli is involved in a number of Court committees dealing with Judicial Education and Best Practice in Children's Cases.

Justice Robert Benjamin

His Honour has been a Justice of the Family Court of Australia since August 2005 based in Hobart and is also a Presidential member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Prior to appointment Justice Benjamin practiced in the private profession for thirty years and he was President of the Law Society New South Wales in 2003. He is a member of the Family Law Council of Australia.

Kylie Beckhouse

Kylie was appointed Director of Family Law at Legal Aid NSW in 2009. She is an accredited specialist in family law and an independent children's lawyer. She is appointed to the Family Law Council of Australia. She is also a member of the NSW Children's Court Advisory Committee, Family Courts Children's Committee, Law Society of NSW's Family Law Issues Committee, and National Legal Aid's Family Law working group. In 2014 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate the administration of child legal representation schemes.

Dr Felicity Bell

Dr Felicity Bell worked as a Legal Associate at the Family Court of Australia, a solicitor in private practice and as a sessional lecturer at the University of Sydney. In 2014 she completed her PhD thesis - an empirical study of Independent Children's Lawyers, who represent the interests of children in family law disputes. She is interested in identity construction, ideas of best practice and ethical obligation among lawyers. Felicity researches in the areas of family law, children and the law and legal professional ethics. She has lectured at the School of Law at Wollongong University since 2015.

Dr Mitchell Byrne

Dr Byrne has been a Senior Lecturer (Clinical Psychology) at the University of Wollongong since 2001. He is also a Director of Gagliardi, Byrne and Associates, Forensic and Clinical Psychology Services. He has won many awards for his contribution to teaching and to the field of clinical psychology generally and is well published.

Sue Foley

Sue has been providing clinical services to children and families since 1972. She has worked as the Senior Social Worker – Clinical Specialist in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. For many years she undertaken legal assessments of families, children and young people for the Children's Court Clinic and Family Court. In 2016 Sue Foley commenced work as the Director Children's Court Clinic NSW. Her areas of clinical expertise and interest are in the areas of physical abuse prevention, factitious disorder by proxy identification and treatment, treatment of trauma and effects of abuse, loss and neglect of children and young people. She has presented research and discussions papers at a number of Australian and International conferences, and have attended many Child Protection and Children in Care conferences.

Justice Garry Foster

Judge Foster practiced as a solicitor for 27 years including 10 years as an accredited specialist solicitor in family law before being called to the NSW Bar in 2001. He was appointed as a Federal Magistrate in 2011 - initially sitting in the Newcastle registry, and later sitting in the Sydney and Wollongong registries. He was appointed as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia in 2013.

Dale Holliday

Dale Holliday OAM is the Clinical Advisor to the New Street Services within NSW Health. He works at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and NSW Health's 'Kids & Families'. Dale's professional training is in Social Work and Law. He has a particular interest in training and professional standards for people working with those who have sexually harmed children. Dale is also actively engaged in supporting the development of an Aboriginal clinical workforce and culturally safe services.

Justice Hilary Hannam

Judge Hannam completed a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Sydney in 1983. Since then, she has practised as a solicitor in private practice, a principal legal officer with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for 13 years, and since 2000 has been a magistrate. Hilary Hannam presided in the Local Court of New South Wales (NSW) from 2000 until August 2010 when she was appointed as the Chief Magistrate of the Northern Territory (NT). Hilary has recently returned to NSW to preside in the Family Court of Australia, Parramatta Registry. She has a particular interest in therapeutic jurisprudence and problem-solving or solution focused courts, having travelled to the United States in 2002-2003 as a Churchill Fellow to investigate specialist courts, and having been the magistrate in the NSW Youth Drug and Alcohol Court for four years prior to her appointment in the NT. She also has a particular interest in the children's jurisdiction, having presided in the Children's Court in NSW for a number of years and in the youth justice and care and protection jurisdictions in the NT.

Dr Anne Hollingsworth

Dr Hollingsworth is a psychologist with specialist expertise in family law and child protection assessments, including mental health, parenting capacity, attachment and child development. She is a Regulation 7 Family Consultant and a registered Children's Court clinician. She has authored numerous articles and papers and delivered presentations on these topics relating to children and mental health, including in 2015 an article titled "*A modest proposal for treating children with respect in care proceedings*".

George Klein

George Klein started his working life in addictions treatment as a graduate counsellor in a specialist drug treatment community health centre in inner Sydney in 1981. He then worked in the Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine at Sydney University, where he undertook research on the cognitive and functional impact of opiate dependence on self-care among heroin users. He commenced at Nepean hospital in outer western Sydney in 1998 and spent 13 years there as a senior clinician. He has also worked at the Transcultural Mental Health Centre NSW, first as the evaluation researcher and then setting up a service for people jointly afflicted by mental illness and substance abuse. He currently works as a counsellor in the Department of Hepatology at Nepean hospital with people affected by viral hepatitis and liver disease. As a hobby, he tutors for Sydney University Medical School in respiratory medicine, cardiovascular medicine, neurosciences, endocrinology, renal medicine and gastroenterology. He also lectures in the Tobacco Dependence and Treatment program at the Brain and Mind Institute NSW. In 2013 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his work in substance abuse treatment.

Dr Peter Krabman

Dr Peter Krabman is a child, adolescent and family psychiatrist in Sydney. Dr Krabman prepares single expert reports in family law matters. In addition to his general clinical work he has a particular interest and expertise in the provision of therapy to parents and children in the context of current family law proceedings, or of the requirement to adapt to final orders. He serves on the Professional Advisory Group to the Children's Court Clinic in NSW. He has a background in research, addiction medicine and military medicine. He enjoys meeting with troubled and troubling children and the adults charged with protecting, nurturing and raising them.

Stephen Ralph

Stephen is an Indigenous psychologist. He has an M.A. (Hons) from Sydney University. He is a member of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists. Stephen is in private practice and is a consultant in family law and child protection; preparation of court reports; psychological assessments; counselling and therapy with individuals, families and children. He is a Regulation 7 Family Consultant, Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and an accredited Cognitive Behaviour Therapist (CBT Australia). Stephen has nearly 20 years' experience working within the Family Court of Australia as a Manager/Family Consultant, including 5 years as National Coordinator (Indigenous Programs).

Hugh Selby

Hugh Selby is a barrister, teacher and author. His teaching and writing has developed his presentation, analysis and critical skills that are essential in his barrister work – advising and appearing in court. He has developed advocacy training materials and courses for novice and experienced litigators in Australia and overseas. He is the author, contributor, and editor of various works on expert evidence, advocacy, appellate practice, coronial practice, civil pleading, policing, and current legal issues. His other training activities are with lay and expert witnesses. His clients include police, the medical profession, accountants, engineers, acoustic specialists, transport accident investigation specialists, quantity surveyors, building consultants, psychologists, and rehabilitation specialists.