

Friday 30 October 2009

8.15 am Conference registration

9.00 am Welcome to country

Welcome to participants, CEO Legal Aid NSW, Alan Kirkland

9.15 am Commonwealth Attorney General, Robert McClelland

9.30 am Future directions, Chief Justice Dianna Bryant

10.00 am Keynote: 30 years of Legal Aid, Justice Judy Ryan

11.00 am Morning tea

11.20 am Family violence, assessing risk and evidence gathering

Sexual assault, a legal morass?

Dr Patricia Brennan, Forensic Physician, Acting Director, Clinical Forensic Unit, NSW Police

Impact of family violence on children and their behaviour

Mary Jo McVeigh, Child Protection worker

A study on women's journeys after leaving an abusive relationship

Annette Michaux, General Manager, Social Policy and Research, The Benevolent Society

Cases involving family violence: are lawyers doing enough?

Janet Loughman, Principal Solicitor, Women's Legal Service

Chair: Kylie Beckhouse, Director, Family Law, Legal Aid NSW

1.10 pm Lunch

2.00 pm Children's participation in family law disputes, lawyer, counsellor and child's views:

Patrick Parkinson, University of Sydney

Panel: ICL views: Christine Hafey, Legal Aid NSW, Parramatta

Family Consultant views: Michael O'Sullivan, Family Consultant, Family Court of Australia, Parramatta,

Chair: Dina Lioumis, Legal Aid NSW, Parramatta

3pm Concurrent Sessions

Session 1

Moving towards culturally competent practices in FDR

Dr Susan Armstrong, University of Western Sydney

FDR procedures for the Muslim community

Ghena Krayem, PHD student, University of Sydney

FDR processes for Aboriginal people: the experiences of an Aboriginal mediator

Bronwyn Penrith, Aboriginal FDRP

Chair: Elaine Harrison, Manager, FDR, Legal Aid NSW

Session 2

Expert Evidence or Voodoo Logic: keeping junk opinion out of the Family Law Courts

Pat Fitzgerald, Senior Advocate, Legal Aid Tasmania

Chair: Clyllyn Sperling, Advocate, Legal Aid NSW

3.45pm Afternoon tea

4.10pm Concurrent sessions

Session 1

Sexually transmitted debt and saving the matrimonial home

Bob Cruickshanks, ITSA Australia

Karen Cox, Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW)

Chair: Julie Fellowes, Legal Aid NSW, Blacktown

Session 2

International child abduction: current issues in Hague Convention cases

Karen Shea, Advocate, Legal Aid NSW

Children's voices in Hague matters

Ms. Deborah Fry, Family Consultant,

Family Court of Australia, Sydney

Chair: Norman O'Dowd, Legal Aid NSW, Central Sydney