

Supporting Families Going Through Separation

Webinar date and time: Wednesday, 5th August 2015, 7:15 – 8:30pm AEST

Webinar panellists

Dr Catherine Boland (NSW-based psychologist)

Dr. Catherine Boland is a Clinical Psychologist with expertise in working with children, young people and parents who are experiencing relationship issues and are in situations of family conflict and separation. Catherine is an experienced therapist offering services to families in Court proceedings where children are involved. Catherine holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, a Master Of Clinical Psychology (Hons), a Bachelor of Psychology (Clinical, Hons) and a Bachelor of Education. Catherine is a full member of the Australia Psychological Association (APS), the Australian Association for Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (AACBT) and the Association for Contextual Behavioural Science (ACBS). Catherine has worked in a range of sectors as a clinical psychologist such as hospitals, educational and community settings prior to working exclusively in private practice as Principal of The Relationspace. Catherine has authored a number of papers in the field of clinical psychology, provides commentary in media and speaks at conferences on child development, parenting and clinical intervention in high conflict families.



Vanessa Mathews (Vic-based social worker and family law specialist)

Vanessa Mathews is the founder and managing director of Mathews Family Law, and has the rare combination of social work qualifications and experience, combined with nearly 15 years' experience as a lawyer; it makes her approach to resolving legal relationship issues both sensible and sensitive. She is a fully accredited family law specialist, mediator (LEADR) and family dispute resolution practitioner, with a commerce degree – adding a financially astute aspect to her practice. Vanessa has extensive experience in complex issues that arise from relationship breakdown, and works in partnership with her clients, who regularly describe her as empathetic.



Vanessa is an active member of the family law profession and a member of:

- Law Institute of Victoria, Family Law Section
- Law Council of Australia, Family Law Section
- Association of Dispute Resolvers (LEADR)
- Relationships Australia Family Lawyers Panel
- Rotary Club of Malvern
- Australian Institute of Family Lawyers and Mediators

Mental Health Professionals' Network

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Dr Michelle Phillips (QLD-based psychiatrist)

Dr Michelle Phillips is a Child, Adolescent, Adult and Forensic Psychiatrist, now working full-time in Private Practice in Brisbane. Michelle completed her medical degree at the University of Queensland in 1998 and completed her specialty training in 2007. Michelle worked for five years at the Child and Youth Forensic Outreach Service which works with young people who engage in offending behaviour including sexual offending, arson and severe violence. She has also worked for two years at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and several years in Community and Inpatient Mental Health Settings. Her practice currently focuses on psychotherapy.



Dr Peter Maguire (WA-based GP)

Peter Maguire is currently a rural GP in Narrogin, Western Australia, and a sessional senior lecturer with the Rural Clinical School of WA. His interests include medical education, Emergency Medicine, Aged Care and Mental Health. He is also the Chairman of the Board of the WA GP training provider, and the rural GP representative for the AMA in WA.



He graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1977 and after completing GP training worked in a small general practice in outer metropolitan Perth for 10 years before taking up an educator position with the RACGP training program, which he combined with part time general practice. In 2010 he relocated to Narrogin to take up his current position.

Webinar facilitator

Vicki Cowling OAM (Vic-based social worker and psychologist)

Vicki Cowling, OAM, is a clinical social worker and registered psychologist working as an independent practitioner in child and family mental health. Vicki has worked with children and families in government and non-government settings, including public child and adolescent mental health services, in Victoria and New South Wales. She has also held positions in the field of mental health promotion, and has conducted research concerning children of parents with mental illness and their families. This work has led to the publication of several articles, and edited books, the most recent being *Infants of Parents with Mental Illness*.

