14-16 AUGUST
2025
ADELAIDE

PACIFICA CONGRESS

A CHILD'S WORLD IN FAMILY LAW

DAY 1 | THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2025 | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

8.00am - 9.00am	Registration							
9.00am - 10.30am	**Location: Room A**		**9.00am - 10.30am**	**Location: Room B**		**9.00am - 10.30am**	**Location: Room C**	
9.00am - 10.30am	Part 1: Controlling the Controllables: Staying Enthusiastic in Family Law	Perpetua Kish *Balance Family Law* Dr Phil Stahl *Parenting After Divorce, Los Angeles & Melbourne* Brintyn Smith *Barrister, Auckland*	9.00am - 10.30am	Part 1: Family Report Writer Training: How to Give Expert Evidence in Court	Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*	9.00am - 10.30am	Part 1: Family Report Writer Training: Capturing Children's Experiences in Family Reports	Dr Simon Kennedy Michael Bilyk Dr Sara Salessi Alexa Bailey Finlayson Chris Kirmos *Psychology Camberwell, Melbourne*
10.30am - 11.00am	**MORNING TEA**							
11.00am - 12.30pm	**Location: Room A**		**11.00am - 12.30pm**	**Location: Room B**		**11.00am - 12.30pm**	**Location: Room C**	
11.00am - 12.30pm	Part 2: Controlling the Controllables: Staying Enthusiastic in Family Law	Perpetua Kish *Balance Family Law* Dr Phil Stahl *Parenting After Divorce, Los Angeles & Melbourne* Brintyn Smith *Barrister, Auckland*	11.00am - 12.30pm	Part 2: Family Report Writer Training: How to Give Expert Evidence in Court	Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*	11.00am - 12.30pm	Part 2: Family Report Writer Training: Capturing Children's Experiences in Family Reports	Dr Simon Kennedy Michael Bilyk Dr Sara Salessi Alexa Bailey Finlayson Chris Kirmos *Psychology Camberwell, Melbourne*
12.30pm - 1.30pm	**LUNCH**							
1.30pm - 3.00pm	**Location: Room A**		**1.30pm - 3.00pm**	**Location: Room B**				
1.30pm - 3.00pm	Part 1: Empowering Clients Through Self-Awareness: Transforming Outcomes in Family Law – A Child's World Perspective	Rose Cocchiaro *Founding Partner, Resolve Divorce* Dr Tiffany De Sousa Machado *University of Adelaide*	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Part 1: Family Report Writer Training: From Family Report to the Stand: Mastering Forensic Analysis & Cross-Examination	The Hon. Steve Strickland KC Rachel Oakeley *Barrister, Perth* Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*			
3.00pm - 3.30pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**							
3.30pm - 5.00pm	**Location: Room A**		**3.30pm - 5.00pm**	**Location: Room B**				
3.30pm - 5.00pm	Part 2: Empowering Clients Through Self-Awareness: Transforming Outcomes in Family Law – A Child's World Perspective	Rose Cocchiaro *Founding Partner, Resolve Divorce* Dr Tiffany De Sousa Machado *University of Adelaide*	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Part 2: Family Report Writer Training: From Family Report to the Stand: Mastering Forensic Analysis & Cross-Examination	The Hon. Steve Strickland KC Rachel Oakeley *Barrister, Perth* Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*			
5.00pm - 6.00pm	**Welcome Drinks**							

DAY 2 | FRIDAY 15 AUGUST 2025

8.00am - 9.00am	Registration	
9.00am - 9.30am	**Conference Opening** **Location: Room A, B & C**	
9.00am - 9.30am	Conference Opening	The Hon. Steve Strickland KC
9.30am - 10.30am	**Plenary 1** **Chair: The Hon. Steve Strickland KC** **Location: Room A, B & C**	

9.30am - 10.30am	Neuroaffirming Family Law Practice: A Discussion Between a Judge and an Expert	Justice Tom Altobelli *FCFCOA, Sydney* Stephanie Lau *Educational and Developmental Psychologist, Melbourne*									
10.30am - 11.00am	**MORNING TEA**										
11.00am - 12.30pm	**Plenary 2** **Location: Room A, B & C**										
11.00am - 12.30pm	Better Family Law Reports, Better Evidence, Reliable Single Experts; Interviews and Discussion	The Hon. Simon Moncrieff SC *Perth* Rod Hooper SC *Barrister, Perth* Clare Rowe *Educational & Developmental Psychologist, Rowe & Associates, Sydney* Dr Simon Kennedy *Clinical & Forensic Psychologist, Behaviour Work Group*									
12.30pm - 1.30pm	**LUNCH**										
1.30pm - 3.00pm	**Workshop 1** **Chair: Kirstie Colls** **Location: Room A**		**1.30pm - 3.00pm**	**Workshop 2** **Sponsored by The Relationspace** **Chair: Fiona Darroch** **Location: Room B**		**1.30pm - 3.00pm**	**Workshop 3** **Chair: Justice Joanne Stewart** **Location: Room C**		**1.30pm - 3.00pm**	**Workshop 4** **Chair: Judge Peter Cole** **Location: Room D**	
1.30pm - 3.00pm	'Talk to Us, Not About Us': Children's Understandings and Experiences of Participation in Australian Family Law	Dr Georgina Dimopoulos *Associate Professor of Law and a Research Associate of the Centre for Children and Young People at Southern Cross University*	1.30pm - 3.00pm	From Frolics in the Conclave to Playing in the Hot Tub: The Pros and Cons of Conferencing and Concurrent Expert Evidence	Fiona Darroch *The Relationspace, Sydney* Kristy Kerswell *Kerswell Valuations, Sydney* Tracey Middleton *Mills Oakley, Sydney* Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*	1.30pm - 2.15pm	Trauma-Informed and Culturally Appropriate Communication with Children in Family Law Cases	Sharyn Green-Arndt *The Co-Parenting Institute, Perth*	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Children's Wishes: Wading Through the Sea of Influence	Kate Gray *Family Focus Psychology, Melbourne* Ciaran Barton *Family Focus Psychology, Melbourne*
						2.15pm - 3.00pm	Children's Between-Home Transitions After Parental Separation	Professor Bruce Smyth *Australian National University*			
3.00pm - 3.30pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**										
3.30pm - 5.00pm	**Workshop 5** **Sponsored by Our Family Wizard** **Chair: Debra Parker** **Location: Room A**		**3.30pm - 5.00pm**	**Workshop 6** **Chair: Elisa Turco** **Location: Room B**		**3.30pm - 5.00pm**	**Workshop 7** **Chair: Rachel Oakeley** **Location: Room C**		**3.30pm - 5.00pm**	**Workshop 8** **Chair: The Hon. Steven Strickland KC** **Location: Room D**	
3.30pm - 5.00pm	In The Midst of the Storm: Divorce and Conflict From a Child's Perspective	Rachel Brace *The Relationspace, Sydney* Bella Duncan *A Kid With Two Homes, Sydney*	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Secrets, Lies, and Identity: The Importance of Truth Telling in Families	Dr Phil Watts *Mindstate Psychology, Perth*	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Lip Service: Children of Surrogacy and the Myth of Equality	Sarah Jefford OAM *Surrogacy Lawyer, Melbourne*	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Children and the Impact of the 2023 Amendments	Assoc. Prof. Noam Peleg *University of NSW Sydney* Dr Michelle Fernando *University of South Australia* Dr Georgina Dimopoulos *Southern Cross University* Stephen Bourne *Manager of Family Law, Legal Services Commission of SA*
5.00pm - 6.30pm	**Networking and Social Drinks**										
DAY 3 | SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025											
7.00am - 9.00am	Directors Board Meeting										
8.30am - 9.00am	Registration										
9.00am - 10.30am	**Plenary 3** **Chair Debra Parker** **Location: Room A, B & C**										
9.00am - 10.30am	Parental Alienation: Where Are We Now?	Justice Tom Altobelli *FCFCOA, Sydney* Assoc. Prof Zoe Rathus AM *Griffith University Law School* Dr Phil Stahl *Parenting After Divorce, Los Angeles & Melbourne*									
10.30am - 11.00am	**MORNING TEA**										
11.00am - 12.30pm	**Plenary 4** **Location: Room A, B & C**										

11.00am - 12.30pm	The New Order; The Effect of Family Violence in Property Settlements and Spousal Maintenance	The Hon. Steve Strickland KC The Hon Justice Anna Parker *FCFCOA Adelaide* Dr Michelle Fernando *University of South Australia, Adelaide*						
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Pacifica Congress Surprise Announcement							
1.00pm - 2.00pm	**LUNCH**							
2.00pm - 3.30pm	**Workshop 9** **Chair: Clare Rowe** **Location: Room A**		**2.00pm - 3.30pm**	**Workshop 10** **Chair: Brintyn Smith** **Location: Room B**		**2.00pm - 3.30pm**	**Workshop 11** **Sponsored by Relationships Australia** **Chairs: Nick Tebbey & Dr Susan Cochrane** **Location: Room C**	
2.00pm - 3.30pm	Should Kids Have a Voice and/or a Choice When Their Parents Separate?	Clare Rowe *Rowe & Associates* Shelby Timmins *Divorce Done Differently* Chanel Hughes *Chanel Hughes Mediation*	2.00pm - 3.30pm	A Victim's Innate Ability and Approach in Mitigating Risk for Their Family in the Context of Domestic Violence	Franchesca Isla *Evergreen, Canberra* Brintyn Smith *Barrister, Auckland*	2.00pm - 2.30pm	Ways of Hearing the Child's Voice in Family Dispute Resolution: Mapping Diverse International Models	Dr Genevieve Heard *Manager Research Relationships Australia, Victoria* Melody Velasquez-Tan *Relationships Australia*
						2.30pm - 3.00pm	Extending Family Violence Risk Screening to Children is Acceptable, Useful and Meaningful	Dr Jamie Lee *Practice Manager Family DOORS, Relationships Australia, South Australia*
						3.00pm - 3.30pm	Managing the Complexity of Parent and Child Relationships Post Separation and Following Court Perspectives and Insights from Relationships Australia Children's Contact Services	Michelle Ewington *Director, Family Law Services. Relationships Australia, Tasmania*
3.30pm - 4.30pm	**End of Conference Social Drinks**							

*Program is subject to change.