

# LEGAL AID NSW CHILD REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE

*Do you represent children in the family or care and protection jurisdiction?  
Would you benefit from some skill based training to enhance your skills as a child  
representative?*

Legal Aid NSW will be conducting the inaugural child representation conference at the Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach on Friday 25 May (conference dinner) and Saturday 26 May 2012.

A special feature of the conference will be an emphasis on practical workshop style breakout sessions, with topics as diverse as advocacy for child representatives, interviewing children and cross examination of experts, clinicians and report writers. Speakers and presenters include judicial officers, members of the NSW Bar and well respected family and child psychologists and psychiatrists.

Keynote addresses include the Honourable Justice Judy Ryan on the changing nature of the family in the 21st century, Professor Graham Vimpani on the impact of trauma on the developing brain and Federal Magistrate Tom Altobelli on resilience for family lawyers, children and families.

## **Register**

Registration is now open via our Learning Management System (LMS)  
<https://learning.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

Download the instructions for registering [here](#).

The cost of the dinner is \$100.00.  
The cost of the conference is \$350.00

## **Accommodation**

Please book your accommodation directly with the hotel:  
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/legalaid>

Cost estimate is \$220 - \$260 depending on the room type.

I look forward to seeing you in May 2012.

*Kylie Beckhouse  
Executive Director, Family Law  
Legal Aid NSW*

FRIDAY 25 AND SATURDAY 26 MAY  
2012  
CROWNE PLAZA – COOGEE BEACH

# 2012 Inaugural Legal Aid NSW Child Representation Conference

## *Crowne Plaza Hotel, Coogee Beach*

### *Provisional Program (April 2012)*

| Friday, 25 May 2012 |   | Saturday, 26 May 2012 |   |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 6.00–7.00pm         | Pre dinner drinks   | 8:30am                | Registration  |
| 7.00pm              | <b>Dinner</b><br>(3 course meal including refreshments)<br><i>Oceanic Ballroom</i><br><br>Featuring Create Foundation Speaker<br><br><b>Debate:</b> <i>"Should we encourage more participation of children in the legal process?"</i><br><br><b>Moderator:</b><br><br>The Hon Justice Anne Ainslie-Wallace<br><br><b>Speakers Include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hon Justice Ian Loughnan</li> <li>Catherine Boland, Psychologist</li> <li>Dr Antony Milch, Psychiatrist</li> <li>Paul Lodge, Family Consultant</li> </ul> | 9.00–10.00am          | <b>Welcome to Country</b><br><br><b>Conference Welcome and Opening</b><br>Kylie Beckhouse, Executive Director, Family Law, Legal Aid NSW<br><br><b>Opening address:</b><br><i>The Role of the Child Representative into the Future.</i> |
|                     |   | 10.00-11.00am         | <i>The changing nature of the family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</i><br>Speakers include:      The Hon Justice Judy Ryan, Family Court of Australia<br>Professor Jenni Millbank, University of Technology, Sydney                    |
|                     |   | 11.00-11.15am         | Morning Tea   |
|                     |   | 11.15-12:30pm         | <b>Workshop A *</b>   |
|                     |   | 12:30-1:30pm          | Lunch   |
|                     |   | 1.30-2.30pm           | <i>Neurobiological Effects of Childhood Mistreatment</i><br><br>Professor Graham Vimpani<br>Community Child & Family Health University of Newcastle   |
|                     |   | 2.30-3.45pm           | <b>Workshop B *</b>   |
|                     |   | 3.45-4.00pm           | Afternoon Tea   |
|                     |   | 4.00-5.00pm           | <i>Parents, Children &amp; Lawyers – What Makes them Resilient?</i><br>Federal Magistrate Tom Altobelli   |
|                     |   | 5.00pm                | Close   |

***\*For further details on the Workshops please see the attached leaflet***

# Workshops

| Workshop A (11.15am-12.30pm) |   | Workshop B (2.30pm-3.45pm)      |  |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Centennial Room</b>       | <b>Talking to Children</b><br><i>Presenters: Catherine Boland &amp; Donna Bowen</i><br>This hand on skills based workshop focuses on interview techniques to either employ or avoid when meeting with children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to appropriately &amp; positively involve children.</li> <li>• Environment for interviews.</li> <li>• Age appropriate content.</li> <li>• Establishing rapport.</li> <li>• Language.</li> </ul>  | <b>Centennial Room (Repeat)</b> | <b>Talking to Children</b><br><i>Presenters: Catherine Boland &amp; Donna Bowen</i><br>This hand on skills based workshop focuses on interview techniques to either employ or avoid when meeting with children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to appropriately &amp; positively involve children.</li> <li>• Environment for interviews.</li> <li>• Age appropriate content.</li> <li>• Establishing rapport.</li> <li>• Language.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Clovelly Room</b>         | <b>A Marriage of Necessity? Unpacking the Relationship Between Expert &amp; Child Representative</b><br><i>Presenters: Federal Magistrate Judith Walker, Alex Wearne &amp; Dr Milch</i><br>This session will explore how experts & child representatives can work together to get the best outcome for children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the right expert for the matter?</li> <li>• What questions should be asked of each other?</li> <li>• What collaboration is appropriate?</li> <li>• Ethical constraints for experts and lawyers?</li> </ul> Federal Magistrate Walker will provide her insights on how experts and child representatives can work together to assist the Court. | <b>Clovelly Room</b>            | <b>The Expert/Family Report: The Good, The Bad &amp; The Unhelpful</b><br><i>Presenters: The Hon Justice Judy Ryan &amp; Deborah Fry and Paul Lodge, Family Consultants</i><br>In this session Family Court Judge Judy Ryan, and senior Family Consultants Deborah Fry and Paul Lodge take you through what makes a good report (and what doesn't). Session will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes a good report, and where errors are often made.</li> <li>• What a report should not contain, including opinion evidence or evidence outside the expertise of the report writer.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Bronte Room</b>           | <b>Cross Examination of the Report Writer</b><br><i>Presenters: Liz Boyle, Melissa Gillies, Karen Gabriel &amp; Rachel Brace</i><br>Come to this workshop prepared to ask some questions! Using an expert report & an expert witness, participants will be led through the art of examination of an expert witness from the perspective of a child representative but with insight from an expert.  | <b>Bronte Room</b>              | <b>Understanding &amp; Working with a Traumatized Child</b><br><i>Presenters: Prof Vimpani, Karen Gabriel and Laurie Robertson</i><br>This practical workshop helps put the theory into practice. Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicators of trauma in a child.</li> <li>• Interviewing a traumatised child.</li> <li>• Appropriate therapeutic interventions.</li> <li>• Developing recommendations</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Coogee Room</b>           | <b>Advocacy for Child Representatives in the Care Jurisdiction</b><br><i>Presenters: The Hon Justice Ainslie-Wallace, Children's Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi and Paul Guterres</i><br>This workshop focuses on the advocacy skills required of the ILR & DLR in the care jurisdiction. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective advocacy practices in the care jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Presenting evidence, including views and wishes.</li> <li>• Communicating your position/drafting orders.</li> <li>• Your relationship with Community Services.</li> </ul>   | <b>Coogee Room</b>              | <b>Advocacy for the Child Representative at Interim Hearings</b><br><i>Presenters: The Hon Justice Anne Ainslie-Wallace, The Hon Justice Ian Loughnan &amp; Alex Wearne</i><br>Using a practical based scenario, participants will workshop the role of the child representative in an interim hearing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective advocacy practices.</li> <li>• Presenting Evidence.</li> <li>• Communicating your position/drafting orders.</li> <li>• Conduct of hearing.</li> </ul>   |