



# JUSTPARTNERS

FAMILY VIOLENCE, SPECIALIST COURTS AND  
THE IDEA OF INTEGRATION

A National Conference 22-23 May 2008 Rydges Lakeside, Canberra, Australia  
**REGISTRATION BROCHURE and PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**Jointly Hosted by:** the National Judicial College of Australia, and ACT agencies:- Director of Public Prosecutions, Courts & Tribunals, Victims of Crime Coordinator, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, ACT Policing, ACT Corrective Services, Office of Children Youth & Families, and the Department of Justice & Community Safety.

The Conference Organisers gratefully acknowledge financial contributions from the Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse and justice agencies in the ACT.





## FAMILY VIOLENCE, SPECIALIST COURTS AND THE IDEA OF INTEGRATION

Over the past 30 years, criminal justice agencies have made extensive efforts to reform responses to domestic and family violence. Courts have themselves undertaken initiatives to become more accessible and responsive to victims of domestic and family violence. More recently, courts have begun to explore innovations in both the civil and the criminal jurisdictions.

Specialised or problem-solving courts have been developed in relation to drug offences, for Indigenous offenders and for offenders with mental health problems. In Canada, the UK, and the USA specialised family violence court initiatives have been extensively implemented. Some specialisations exist in parts of Australia. Models of domestic or family violence courts vary from diversionary to therapeutic to those focussing on pre-trial and trial procedure.

Can courts “make victims safer” and “hold offenders accountable”?

JUST PARTNERS is a conference that is designed to explore different models of court innovation, the ways in which the claim of “integration” may and may not work, and future directions.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**VERA BAIRD QC** has been Solicitor General for the United Kingdom since July 2007. Under the Law Officers Act 1997, the Solicitor General, as the Attorney General's deputy, can discharge any of the functions of the Attorney General for England and Wales, and of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland. In 2006 Ms Baird was appointed

Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Department for Constitutional Affairs, now Ministry of Justice. Her responsibilities included the reform of the legal aid system. She was also the minister responsible for equalities, civil justice, social exclusion, women and sentencing. She was previously Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Home Secretary.

Prior to becoming a Member of Parliament in 2001, Ms Baird was a barrister at Tooks Court Chambers. From 1999 – 2002 she was a Human Rights Law Trainer for the Criminal Bar Association. In 1999 she was a visiting Law Fellow at St Hilda's College, Oxford where she undertook research on reforming the law on homicide. She is now an Honorary Fellow of St. Hilda's and of Teesside University. Ms Baird is also a visiting Professor at London South Bank University.

**HIS HONOUR, RAYMOND E. WYANT** was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba (Canada) in May 1998, and appointed as Chief Judge in July 2002. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, Judge Wyant practised as both a criminal defence lawyer and as a Crown Attorney. At the time of his appointment he was a Deputy Director for Prosecutions with the Crown Attorney's Department in Winnipeg. Chief Judge Wyant has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Political Science from the University of Saskatchewan (1973), and graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba in 1977. He received a Certificate in Public Sector Management from the University of Manitoba in 1997. Chief Judge Wyant is presently a member of the Canadian National Committee on Justice Efficiencies and Access to the Justice System, which includes the three major participants in the justice system: government, judges and the private bar. Chief Judge Wyant is also currently the Chair of the Canadian Council of Chief Judges.

## SPEAKERS

**PROFESSOR ARIE FREIBERG** is Dean of the School of Law at Monash University, Victoria. Prior to taking up this position in 2004, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne in 2003. He was appointed to the Foundation Chair of Criminology at the University of Melbourne in January 1991 where he served as Head of the Department of Criminology between January 1992 and June 2002 as well as holding the positions of Associate Dean (Resources) of the Faculty of Arts between 1996 and 2002 and Deputy Dean between 1999 and 2002.

Professor Freiberg graduated from the University of Melbourne with an honours degree in Law and a Diploma in Criminology in 1972 and holds a Master of Laws degree from Monash University (1984). He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Melbourne in 2001 and is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He lectured in law at Monash University between 1976 and 1990. Professor Freiberg has also held positions with the Australian Institute of Criminology and the office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Between 1996 and 1998 he was President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. He is currently a member of the Council of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and chair of the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council.

**ANNE GOLDSBOROUGH & MARIA DIMOPOULOS** are working together to develop and document good practice in court responses to family violence, and to develop related judicial education in Victoria.

Anne Goldsborough has been a Magistrate since 1996 and is the State



Supervising Magistrate for Family Violence and Family Law in Victoria. Since 2003, she has been based at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, where she sits in the Family Violence List as lead magistrate each day and has undertaken the Courts' extensive Family Violence and Family Law jurisdiction supervision duties. Anne has led the development of a range of specialist Family Violence initiatives in the Magistrates' Court. Maria Dimopoulos has a formal legal background, and worked for over ten years as a legal worker at the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. She continues to work as a legal trainer and legal policy consultant with a broad background in community service delivery and service development relevant to family violence. She has provided training and consultancy on a range of issues related to family violence to the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, Family Court of Australia, various police jurisdictions and legal aid bodies. She has held numerous positions on government, judicial and community committees relating to family violence

**KRISTINE HERMAN** is Associate Director of Domestic Violence Programs, Centre for Court Innovation, NYC, USA. The Centre for Court Innovation is a public/private partnership between the New York State Unified Court System and the Fund for the City of New York. The Centre is a non-profit think tank that helps courts and criminal justice agencies aid victims, reduce crime and improve public trust in justice.

**ROBYN HOLDER** has been the independent statutory advocate for victims of crime in the ACT since 1996. Since 1998 she has facilitated the development and strategic direction of the ACT Family Violence Intervention Program. Prior to taking up the appointment in the ACT, Robyn worked in the UK in areas of

community safety & crime prevention, and violence against women.

**DR MICHAEL KING & BECKY BATAGOL** both work at the Faculty of Law, Monash University. Dr King was formerly a Magistrate in Western Australia. He had responsibility as the supervising Magistrate in the Perth Drug Court, and was previously magistrate in Geraldton. Dr King is an exponent of therapeutic jurisprudence and is currently a Senior Research Fellow. Ms Batagol has been a Lecturer in Law since 2006. In 2005 she was a visiting scholar at the Oxford Centre for Family Law and Policy in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Oxford University.

**REKHA MALAVIYA** is Acting Supervising Senior Crown Attorney, Domestic Violence Unit, Manitoba, Canada. Ms Malaviya has worked in fields related to domestic violence for almost 20 years. She became a Crown attorney in 2001 and has been working in the Domestic Violence Unit in Winnipeg, Canada since that time. She currently supervises this specialized unit of 17 Crown Prosecutors. For 11 years, prior to her career in law, Ms Malaviya coordinated the Outreach and Volunteer Programs at Osborne House, Canada's largest shelter for abused women and their children. She has been the Chairperson of the Osborne House Board of Directors since 2004. Over the years, she has worked with youth, sexual assault victims, sex trade workers, intravenous drug users, people with disabilities, and domestic abuse victims. She has been hired as a consultant to the government for projects involving gang-related issues and immigrant newcomers, and contracted to provide training to agencies throughout the province.

**DR ELENA MARCHETTI** is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Griffith University, Queensland. Elena joined the Law School in 2005. She was previously lecturing

criminal law in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University. Dr Marchetti completed her doctorate in 2005 on the topic 'Missing Subjects: Women and Gender in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody'. Her research interests focus on access to justice for minority groups, Indigenous and feminist critiques of criminal justice processes, and legal education.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MANDY MORGAN** is Head of the School of Psychology, Massey University, Aotearoa/New Zealand. She is currently principal researcher for the Domestic Violence Interventions and Services Research Programme. The programme involves critical discursive research on the ways in which service and intervention providers and users understand their experiences. The research programme aims to identify possible solutions to problems of service delivery by systematic analysis of discourses mobilised by service providers to explain domestic violence within the context of their work. Current projects involve speaking with refuge workers, judges and women who have had experience of police intervention.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Judicial officers, court administrators, program managers and researchers present and discuss different models of specialised court and approaches to family violence.

- Judge Phil Recordon, Mandy Morgan, Leigh Coombes, & Sarah McGray Waitakere Family Violence Court, Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand
- Michael Hill, Deputy Chief Magistrate, Magistrates Court of Tasmania



- Eugene M. Hyman, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, USA
- Leah Hickey, Magistrates Court of Victoria, & Erika Owens, Courts & Tribunals Unit, Department of Justice, Victoria
- Mandy Young, Attorney General's Department, NSW.
- Valmaine Toki, Faculty of Law, The University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

Prosecutors working in specialised approaches share their experiences.

- Margaret Jones, Senior Family Violence Prosecutor, Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions
- Michele Williams SC, Sex Offences Unit, Office of Public Prosecutions, Victoria

Victim advocates and program managers discuss the challenges to working with victims in the criminal justice system, and in partnership with courts and other justice agencies.

- Vicki Tattersall, Court Support & Liaison Service, Department of Justice, Tasmania.
- Maggie Woodhead, A/Program Consultant & Damian Hart, FDV Consultant & Services Coordinator, Western Australia.
- Denise Simpson, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, & Jane Caruana, Victim Support ACT.

Program managers and researchers will present on challenges to managing different family violence offenders in specialised approaches.

- Jane Goodman-Delahunty, Associate Professor, School of Psychology, University of NSW & Dale Tolliday, CEDAR House

- Michael Brandenburg, Child & Family Services, Ballarat, Victoria.
- Jessica Pratley & Jane Goodman-Delahunty

## DISCUSSION PANELS

Two discussion panels will bring together experts in the field and from different academic disciplines to probe the theory and practice of specialised courts, their approaches to family violence, the knowledge base about their efficacy, and challenges in implementation.

**PANEL 1:- RESEARCH, EVALUATION & APPROACHES** including Dr Stuart Ross, Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne; Professor Gabriele Bammer, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU; Laura Rodwell, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research

**PANEL 2:- FUTURE DIRECTIONS** in specialised court responses to family violence.

## THE VENUE

Canberra is Australia's capital city and home to many museums and national attractions. May is the month of music in Canberra with shows as diverse as blues and roots man Joe Jackson and crooner Michael Bublé, to the Canberra International Music Festival. The renowned Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company is in Canberra fresh from London's Sadler's Wells. Stay the weekend after the conference to catch the National Gallery's exhibition of landscapes, From Turner to Monet, or to visit the region's vineyards, villages and mountains.

The conference venue is Rydges Lakeside situated beside Lake Burley Griffin and close to all the city's amenities.

## ACCOMMODATION

Conference participants are urged to book accommodation early given other events taking place in Canberra. Rydges Lakeside has a range of accommodation to suit all needs and price ranges from \$189.00. Rydges require one night's pre-payment. Call 1800 026 169 and ask for the Just Partners Conference Delegates' Rate. See [www.rydges.com.au](http://www.rydges.com.au) for more information about the venue.

A nearby alternative is the Novotel on 02 6245 5000 or visit [www.novotelcanberra.com.au](http://www.novotelcanberra.com.au)

Alternatively call Canberra Getaways on 1300 733 228 or visit the Canberra Tourism website for accommodation and information on events and facilities in Canberra [www.canberratourism.com.au](http://www.canberratourism.com.au)

### *Cancellation Policy*

*All alterations or cancellations to your registration must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by post, facsimile or e-mail. Notification should be sent to:*

*The Victims of Crime Coordinator,  
GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6205 2066 or 1800 822 272  
Facsimile: (02) 6205 0177  
E-mail: [vocc@act.gov.au](mailto:vocc@act.gov.au)*

*A refund of registration fees, less an administration charge of \$50 will be made to any participant cancelling before Friday 2 May. After Monday 12 May refunds will be at the discretion of the organisers. However, if you are unable to attend, substitutes are welcome at no additional cost.*

*The organisers reserve the right to amend the conference program.*



## REGISTRATION FORM

TAX INVOICE

ACT Department of Justice & Community Safety ABN 98 636 852 025

**JUST PARTNERS Family Violence, Specialist Courts and the Idea of Integration**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Name for badge \_\_\_\_\_

Special requirements (eg dietary, please give details) \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

\$ 330.00 (incl. GST) Non-government & community organisations

\$ 385.00 (incl. GST) Government & private agencies

\$ 65.00 (incl drinks) Conference Dinner

ITEM	COST
Registration	
Conference Dinner	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment for registration and social events must accompany this form. Please post to:

Victims of Crime Coordinator

GPO Box 158, CANBERRA CITY, ACT 2601

Fax 02 6205 0177

[ ] Enclosed is my cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "ACT Department of Justice & Community Safety".

[ ] I'm faxing my registration, payment follows by mail

### CONFERENCE ENQUIRIES

Regular conference updates are on [www.victimsupport.act.gov.au](http://www.victimsupport.act.gov.au)

Contact for information: [vocc@act.gov.au](mailto:vocc@act.gov.au) or 1800 822 272

