

# 4th Australasian Conference on Child Death Inquiries and Reviews

## *Achieving Outcomes That Make a Difference*

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 November 2014  
Hyatt Regency Perth, Western Australia

## Day 1 – Thursday 6 November

8.30am **Registration**

9.00am **Welcome**

**Introduction** - Deborah Kennedy, Master of Ceremonies

**Welcome to Country** - Ingrid Cumming, Kart Koorn Wiern

9.25am **Opening Address**

**The Honourable Helen Morton**, Minister for Child Protection

9.45am **Introductory Address**

**Chris Field**, Western Australian Ombudsman

10.00am **Keynote Address – Challenges and Opportunities for Enhancing Child Death Review Functions**

**Professor Donna Chung**

This keynote address will consider the important question ‘how are child deaths reviews making a difference?’ and explore the challenges for child death review jurisdictions and opportunities for enhancing child death review functions. Professor Chung will also consider the outcomes of child death reviews and impact of these upon child protection services.

10.45am **Morning Tea**

11.15am **Panel Discussion 1 – Child Death Review: Achieving Outcomes That Make a Difference**

This panel will provide information on how different jurisdictions undertake child death reviews and develop recommendations for action to improve agency responses to child safety and wellbeing issues. Discussions will explore the methodologies of child death reviews (both individual and systemic) and the development and implementation of recommendations for child protection services and other agencies.

**Mary McAlorum**, Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria

**Steve Kinmond**, Office of the New South Wales Ombudsman

**Natarlie De Cinque**, Office of the Western Australian Ombudsman

**Dr Felicity Dumble**, Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee, New Zealand

12:45pm **Lunch**

## Day 1 – Thursday 6 November

### 1:45pm Presentation – Leading for Learning Following a Child Fatality

**Terry Murphy**, Resolutions Consultancy, Australia

This presentation outlines a case study where staff were helped to manage their emotional responses following a child fatality and looked to maintain a learning culture through the crisis and into the longer term. The presentation draws on a paper published by Andrew Turnell, Eileen Munro and Terry Murphy, and further seeks to identify the Signs of Safety elements that are at work in this approach.

### 2.15pm Presentation – Creating a Culture of Learning in Safeguarding Following a Crisis

**Jayne Forsdike**, Newcastle Children's Social Care

This presentation outlines the use of Appreciative Inquiry in case reviews and, through case examples, explores how valuable the approach has been by moving away from blame, and enabling participants to challenge themselves, one another and the systems around them in constructive ways.

### 2.45pm Afternoon Tea

### 3.15pm Panel Discussion 2 – Prevention of Youth Suicide

This panel will focus on the work being undertaken to review suicide deaths of young people. Information will be provided on the methodologies of reviews, emerging issues and risks, and the how the evidence base relating to youth suicide informs the development of multi-agency intervention and prevention strategies.

**Kim Lazenby**, Office of the Western Australian Ombudsman

**Dr Sharyn Watts**, Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee, South Australia

**Dr Kairi Kølves**, Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Griffith University

### 4.30pm Thank You and Close of Day 1

### 6.30pm Conference Dinner

## Day 2 – Friday 7 November

8.30am Refreshments

9.00am Keynote Address – Child Death: The Impact of Family and Domestic Violence on Aboriginal Women, Children and Families

**Victoria Hovane**

This keynote address will focus on the impact of family and domestic violence on Aboriginal children and families. The issue of what should be examined by family and domestic violence fatality review jurisdictions and what can be learnt from these deaths will be explored. This keynote address will also consider what is making a difference in responding to family and domestic violence for Aboriginal children and families and opportunities for intervention improvements.

9.45am Panel Discussion – Issues and Challenges for Family and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Jurisdictions and Child Protection Agencies

This panel will explore the challenges and emerging issues arising in the area of family and domestic violence fatality reviews. Information will be provided on methodologies used to undertake reviews, challenges for review jurisdictions and the development of recommendations to improve responses to families and children. This panel will also consider the challenges for child protection agencies in responding to family and domestic violence and addressing perpetrator accountability. Information presented by this panel will draw on the work being undertaken in New Zealand, Western Australia and New South Wales in reviewing and responding to family and domestic violence.

**Rachel Smith**, Family and Domestic Violence Health Quality and Safety Commission, New Zealand

**Dr Nicole Leggett**, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia

**Anna Butler**, Domestic Violence Death Review Team, New South Wales

10.45am Morning Tea

11.15am Workshop – Key Reflections from the Conference and Where to From Here

This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the conference presentations and consider the challenges, opportunities and next steps in making a difference to reduce and prevent child deaths and family and domestic violence fatalities. This workshop will draw together the reflections from representatives of the child death and family and domestic violence fatality review jurisdictions and child protection agencies in addition to those of the conference participants.

**Facilitated by:** **Deborah Kennedy**, Master of Ceremonies  
**Karen Whitney**, Office of the Western Australian Ombudsman  
**Cheryl Barnett**, Department for Child Protection and Family Support

12:45pm Thank you and Close of Conference

**Emma White**, Director General, Department for Child Protection and Family Support

1.00pm Lunch

## Speakers



### Hon Helen Morton MLC

#### Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection

Helen Morton is currently serving her second term as the upper house member of the East Metropolitan region. She was first elected as the East Metro member on February 26, 2005 and after five years of hard work, she was appointed Minister for Mental Health and Disability Services on December 14, 2010. Her portfolio expanded to include Child Protection on March 21, 2013 following the State elections.

In her time as a member of the Legislative Council, Helen held the positions of Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for Water, Mental Health, Minister for Housing and Minister for Science and Innovation.

During the Liberal Party's time in opposition, Helen performed in the roles of Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Women's Interests and Public Sector Management.

### Chris Field

#### Western Australian Ombudsman

Chris Field is the Western Australian Ombudsman. He concurrently holds the roles of Energy and Water Ombudsman and State Records Commissioner. Chris is a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the International Ombudsman Institute. He is also the Chair of the Western Australian Integrity Coordinating Group.

Chris is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Australia and founder and co-coordinator of the unit *Government Accountability – Law and Practice*. Chris is also the author of a range of publications on law, economics and public policy, including the university text, *Current Issues in Consumer Law and Policy*. He is also the 'Consumer Dealings' editor of the *Australian Business Law Review*.

He commenced his career as a lawyer at Arthur Robinson and Hedderwicks (now Allens Linklaters), prior to holding the roles of Executive Director, Consumer Law Centre Victoria and Chairman, Australian Consumers' Association (now Choice). Immediately prior to his appointment as Ombudsman, he was an inaugural Member of the Western Australian Economic Regulation Authority. He holds Arts and Law (Honours) degrees.



### Emma White, Director General

#### Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Emma White has worked in the community services arena since 1994, working in a variety of service delivery roles in Government and non-government sectors. Emma has also worked in the policy and evaluation arena of State Government and has been employed by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support since 2005. Emma commenced her child protection service in the West Kimberley following which she worked in various service delivery positions in the West and East Kimberley, including Team Leader and District Director before transferring to the District Director Fremantle role (metropolitan) in 2010.

In 2012, Emma commenced as Executive Director, Country Services where she was responsible for implementation of strategic direction, ensuring case practice standards and resource management of the State's nine Country Services Districts. Whilst in this role Emma also contributed to the effective strategic management of the Department as a member of the Department's Corporate Executive and identify, through community engagement, significant issues that might impact on service quality.

In March 2014, Emma commenced as the Acting Director General and in August 2014 was appointed as the Director General of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

## Speakers

### Professor Donna Chung

#### Head of the Department of Social Work at Curtin University

Donna Chung is Professor of Social Work and Head of the Department of Social Work at Curtin University. Donna's work in the area of gendered violence has involved research, program evaluation and providing policy advice to governments. Areas of interest include coordinated models of intervention; domestic violence and employment; women's homelessness following violence; sexual violence and young people; and evaluating interventions for men using violence against partners.



### Victoria Hovane, Consultant

An Aboriginal woman from Broome in the Kimberley region of WA, Victoria holds a First Class Honours Degree in Psychology and is nearing completion of a PhD (Forensic Psychology) aimed at informing an Aboriginal cultural dimension in psychological theories of sexual offending against children. Victoria is an experienced consultant and practitioner having worked in a number of social welfare, legal, victim and offender services, research projects and advisory roles over the past 30 years.

### Jayne Forsdike

#### Childrens Safeguarding Standards Manager, Newcastle Social Care

Jayne Forsdike brings over 20 years' experience in Child Protection practice, currently working as a Senior Manager in Children's Safeguarding in Newcastle upon Tyne. Previously Jayne worked in Manchester, another UK core city characterised by high levels of deprivation and domestic violence, as a social work practitioner and child protection manager. In her current role Jayne is a member of the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board, chairs the Serious Case Review Committee and leads on Complex Abuse involving large scale, high profile investigations.

Jayne has a track record of leading on transformational change. This includes her ground breaking work in Manchester where she co-located and managed a multi-agency homeless families safeguarding team working with homeless and displaced families. Jayne has pioneered an Appreciative Inquiry approach and as an accomplished practitioner over the last 5 years has facilitated a number of case reviews using the approach. She now encompasses a range of strength based approaches in her work to facilitate change and develop practice. Jayne has successfully led on the implementation of Signs of Safety across the children's workforce in Newcastle, covering statutory services, as well as early intervention. Jayne prides herself on keeping close to practice through mentoring practitioners, observing practice and meeting with children and families to hear about their experiences to improve services.



### Terry Murphy, Director Resolutions Consultancy

Terry Murphy works as a consultant in child welfare internationally, as a director with Resolutions Consultancy and a partner of Munro, Turnell and Murphy Child Protection Consultancy. He was Director General of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in Western Australia from 2007 to 2014.

Terry also has broad experience in health and human services and particularly in the alcohol and drug sector, having led the State's strategy and service delivery as CEO of the Drug and Alcohol Office and the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office at different times since the mid 1990's.

Terry has also led the State's strategy to address Aboriginal health as the director of the Office of Aboriginal Health at the WA Department of Health in the early 1990's. He holds degrees in psychology and economics, as well as an MBA.

## Speakers

### **Mary McAlorum, Manager Inquiries and Systemic Reform Commission for Children and Young People Victoria**

Mary McAlorum is currently the Manager of the Inquiries and System Reform Unit of the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People, and holds tertiary qualifications in social work and criminology. Mary commenced her career working in child protection services in the 1980s, and has been involved in conducting child death inquiries since the 1990s.

In her current role, Mary and her team have analysed 18 years of inquiries data to explore whether changes to legislation, policy frameworks, strategies and initiatives have been translated into the operational reality of daily child protection practice and service delivery, with particular regard to service collaboration, cumulative harm perspectives in youth suicide inquiries, child focus and family participation, and service responses to highly vulnerable children known to both child protection and disability services.

Throughout her career, Mary has witnessed many changes to the service system informed by the learning from child death inquiries, and she remains committed to having a positive impact for children and families through her work.

### **Steve Kinmond Deputy Ombudsman and Community and Disability Services Commissioner, New South Wales**

Steve has legislative responsibility for reviewing and promoting improvements in community and disability services; reviewing disability and child deaths; handling complaints about government and non-government community and disability service providers; and ensuring relevant agencies appropriately respond to allegations of child abuse made against their 'employees'. In addition, Steve has extensive involvement in investigating and reviewing critical service delivery and justice issues affecting Aboriginal communities.

Prior to 2004, Steve was the Assistant Ombudsman (Police) for eight years. He led the Office of the Ombudsman's response to the NSW Royal Commission into Police Corruption. This involved working with senior police and other key stakeholders in overhauling the police complaints system, including developing a new legislative framework and devising a model for distinguishing outcome focussed investigations from those which need to be evidence based.

Steve has close to 30 years of investigative experience, and extensive involvement in the community services field. Steve has also worked as a solicitor and run his own consultancy practice.

### **Natarlie de Cinque, Director Reviews Ombudsman Western Australia**

Natarlie de Cinque graduated as a social worker in 1991, and has since worked in the fields of education, health and child protection. Natarlie completed a Master's degree (by research) in 2007 while working at Princess Margaret Hospital as a team leader. She then moved into policy development with the Department of Health. Natarlie commenced work at the Ombudsman's office in 2009 and is currently the Director of the Reviews team, which investigates both child deaths and family and domestic violence fatalities.

### **Dr Felicity Dumble Chair of the New Zealand Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee**

Dr Felicity Dumble trained in Medicine in Auckland New Zealand. After moving to Hamilton, Dr Dumble was the senior medical staff member in charge of the Waikato Hospital Emergency Department medical team for two years. Frustrated by preventable injuries and admissions, she trained in Public Health Medicine. On completing training at the Public Health Unit of the Waikato DHB, she stayed on as a Public Health Medicine Specialist and was designated as a Medical Officer of Health. She has a particular interest in child health issues and chairs the local Waikato Child and Youth Mortality Review Group, was deputy Chair of the Northern Y Ethics Committee for three terms, and is a member of the Family Violence Death Review Panel for the Midlands Region. She was appointed as Chair of the New Zealand Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee in July 2014.

### **Kim Lazenby, Assistant Ombudsman Administrative Improvement Ombudsman Western Australia**

Kim commenced her role as an Assistant Ombudsman in June 2008. She has more than 20 years' experience in government roles, working at the Commonwealth and State levels, in both line and central agencies, and has a strong background in evaluation.

## Speakers

### **Dr. Sharyn Watts, Executive Officer Child Death & Serious Injury Review Committee**

Sharyn has been the Executive Officer for the South Australian Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee for ten years. She holds both a Masters and a Doctorate in psychology. Her work experience has ranged from providing drug and alcohol counselling services in a socioeconomically disadvantaged area of Los Angeles to working for the Victorian government at a time when services to people with disabilities were being 'de-institutionalised'. After ten years she is still keenly interested in both the limitations of death review and the potential it has to make a difference for children and their families. The Committee's effort to identify intervention and prevention opportunities in the lives of young people who have suicided is one of the most interesting and rewarding death review projects she has worked on.

### **Dr Kairi Kõlves, Senior Research Fellow Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention**

Dr Kairi Kõlves is a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (**AISRAP**). She has been working in suicide research and prevention since 1998. Between 1999 and 2008, she worked at the Estonian-Swedish Mental Health and Suicidology Institute in Estonia and joined AISRAP team in 2008. She has been involved in different Australian, Estonian and international projects and has published over 50 peer papers on suicide research and prevention, she is also lecturer of AISRAP's post-graduate courses. In 2010, she was the winner of the Life Award for Emerging Research in Australia

### **Rachel Smith, Lead Coordinator Family Violence Death Mortality Review Committee New Zealand**

Rachel Smith is the Lead Coordinator for the Family Violence Death Mortality Review Committee in Aotearoa New Zealand.

She is a lead reviewer in the national family violence death reviews process. A wide range of agencies have a role in reducing harm caused by the persistently high rate of family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. This has produced a complex system of service provision. The death review process aims to examine how this system is working. The emphasis of the review process is less on learning lessons from a particular death and more on using a single death event to gain insights into how the multi-agency family violence system is functioning more broadly – to provide a 'window on the system'.

Rachel's prior work in the family violence sector has been across local government, health and the voluntary sector in the UK and New Zealand. She has a Masters of Science in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies and Sociology from the University of Auckland.

### **Dr Nicole Leggett, Manager Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Child Protection and Family Support**

Dr Nicole Leggett is the Manager of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support's Family and Domestic Violence Unit. The Family and Domestic Violence Unit undertakes a wide variety of roles including the development of policy and procedure for child protection workers, across government family and domestic violence strategic planning and liaison with the Commonwealth, States and Territories for the development and implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The focus of state and national planning is to improve victim safety and perpetrator accountability through integrated responses to family and domestic violence.

### **Anna Butler, Manager Domestic Violence Death Review Team, New South Wales**

Anna Butler has been the Manager of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team since the Team first commenced operation in 2011. She has worked in the Department of Justice for over 13 years and has previously held the positions of Executive Officer of the New South Wales DNA Review Panel, Executive Officer of the New South Wales Sentencing Council and judge's associate. She holds a BSc (Hons) from the University of New South Wales and a LLB from the University of Sydney.







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