

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

As at 3 July 2026

*HGC denotes Hotel Grand Chancellor

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026	
1745-1900	Registration Open (MAC02)
1800-2100	Welcome Reception (MAC02) - Sponsored by Kennedy Partners Lawyers
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026	
0800-1815	Registration Open (Ground Floor, HGC)
0800-1815	Exhibition Open (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
0845-1100	<p>Welcome to Country, Opening Remarks and Plenary 1 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>Welcome to Country</p> <p>Dwayne Everett-Smith, <i>Tas</i></p> <hr/> <p>State of the Nation</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP, <i>Attorney-General of Australia</i> The Hon. Justice Alstergren AO, <i>Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)</i> The Hon. Justice Sutherland, <i>Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, WA</i> Commissioner Micaela Cronin, <i>Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission</i> Nicky Davies, <i>National Legal Aid, Qld</i> Jason Walker, <i>Chair of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Forté Family Lawyers, Vic</i> <p>Session Chair: Jason Walker, <i>Chair of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Forté Family Lawyers, Vic</i></p> <p><i>Session sponsored by Australian Government Attorney-General's Department</i></p>
1100-1130	Morning Tea and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)

1130-1230	Concurrent 1A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 1B (Grand Ballroom 1&2, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 1C (Grand Ballroom 3, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	Counting the Cost: The Economics of Family and Domestic Violence Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Cummings SC, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Waratah Chambers, NSW</i> Conrad Liveris, <i>Economist, WA</i> Session Chair and Presenter: Hayley Dodson, <i>John Toohey Chambers, WA</i>	SMSF Splitting: Orders, Implementation and Hidden Risks Presented by: Stephen Bourke, <i>SuperSplitting.com.au, NSW</i> Session Chair: Jane Miller, <i>Elizabeth Evatt Chambers, SA</i>	Enforcement Made Easy: Master the Process and Succeed in the Application A registrar led session presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Judicial Registrar Malinowsky, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, NSW</i> Judicial Registrar Mooney, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, NSW</i> Session Chair: Judicial Registrar Gelston, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Tas</i>
1230-1330	Lunch and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)		
1230-1330	Career Bites: Building Reputation, Skills and Impact (Harbour View Room 1, Mezzanine Level, HGC) - Powered by Patrons of the Early Career Lawyers' Program		
1330-1430	Concurrent 2A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 2B (Grand Ballroom 1&2, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 2C (Grand Ballroom 3, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	Presented by IAFL: Global Assets, Local Problems: Cross-Border Disputes Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suzanne Todd, <i>President of IAFL and Partner at Withers, London, UK</i> Isaac Hikaka, <i>Mills Lane Chambers, New Zealand</i> Derek Ho, <i>Tonys Lawyers, Hong Kong</i> Rachael Kelsey, <i>SKO Family Lawyers, Scotland, UK</i> Steven Yoda, <i>Walzer Melcher & Yoda LLP, California, USA</i> Session Chair and Presenter: Justice Campton, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)</i>	No Time, Flipping Residence and Moratoriums in Parenting Cases Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleanor Mallet KC, <i>Svenson Barristers, Vic</i> Lauren Phelan, <i>Phelan Family Consulting, Vic</i> Session Chair: Sir Andrew McFarlane, <i>Immediate past President of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice, London, UK</i>	Presented by AIFLAM: Family Law Mediation: Where the Challenges Lie and What Needs to Change Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emma Swart, <i>Chair of AIFLAM, Foley's List - Victorian Bar, Vic</i> Fiona Besir, <i>Family Law Mediations South Australia, SA</i> Dr Darren Moroney, <i>University of Western Australia Mediation Clinic, WA</i> Session Chair: Debra Parker, <i>Parker Coles Curtis, ACT</i>
1430-1445	Session changeover		

1445-1545	Concurrent 3A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 3B (Grand Ballroom 1&2, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 3C (Grand Ballroom 3, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	<p>Binding the Deal: Financial Agreements Built to Last and Withstand Challenge</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Horsley, <i>Inns of Court, Qld</i> • The Hon. Justice Williams, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), Vic</i> • Greg Howe, <i>Howe Jenkin Family Lawyers, SA</i> <p>Session Chair: Lilli Rand, <i>Carew Counsel Solicitors, Vic</i></p>	<p>Safe & Together Workshop</p> <p>Presented by: David Mandel, <i>Safe & Together Institute, USA</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Magistrate Hartnett, <i>Magistrates Court of Tasmania</i></p>	<p>Early Career Lawyers Workshop: Interim Hearings Workshop - From Preparation to Persuasion</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Peter Tree KC • Patrons of the Early Career Lawyers <p>Session Chair: Jaquie Palavra, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, NT</i></p>
1545-1610	Afternoon Tea and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)		
1610-1615	The Michael Taussig QC Family Law Essay Award Presentation (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)		
1615-1715	Plenary 2 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)		
	<p>Wellbeing: A Pillar of Practice</p> <p>Presented by: Barbara Mills KC, <i>Chair of the Bar Council, London, UK</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Jason Walker, <i>Chair of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Forté Family Lawyers, Vic</i></p>		
1715-1815	Happy Hour (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC) - Sponsored by Farrar Gesini Dunn		
1830-2130	Early Career Lawyers' Function (Telegraph Hotel) - Sponsored by Forensic Solutions Litigation Support		

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026				
0800-1830	Registration Open (Ground Floor, HGC)			
0800-1830	Exhibition Open (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)			
0830-0930	Plenary 3 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)			
	Kennon and Family Violence in Property Settlements: A Post-Reform Analysis			
	Presented by:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheridan Emerson, <i>Pearson Emerson Family Law, NSW</i> Prof Lisa Young, <i>Murdoch University, WA</i> 			
	Session Chair: Judge Turnbull, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), Tas</i>			
0930-0945	Session changeover			
0945-1045	Concurrent 4A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 4B (Grand Ballroom 1&2, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 4C (Grand Ballroom 3, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 4D (Harbour View Room 1, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	Post Amendment Financial Relief: What's Changed, What's Unclear and What to Do	Following the Law Is Not Optional: Child Support in Practice	7 Steps to Flipping a Parenting Expert in the Witness Box!	Neurodiversity Matters: Transforming How Family Law Practitioners See, Hear and Respond
	Presented by:	Presented by:	Presented by:	Presented by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon. Garry Watts AM, <i>NSW</i> Paul Doolan, <i>Barkus Doolan Winning, NSW</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Bishop, <i>Win Paten Chambers, Qld</i> Briana Kotzapavlidis, <i>Arkadia Family Law, Vic</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hon. Justice Brasch, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), Qld</i> Melissa Gillies SC, <i>Culwulla Chambers, NSW</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Judicial Registrar Sudholz, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Vic</i> Stephanie Lau, <i>Educational & Developmental Psychologist, Vic</i> Amanda Pearson, <i>Owen Dixon Chambers, Vic</i> Kathryn Schuck, <i>Inclusive Family Law and Mediation, Vic</i>
	Session Chair: Minal Vohra SC, <i>Holmes List - Victorian Bar, Vic</i>	Session Chair: Judge Burt, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), Vic</i>	Session Chair: Mary Anne Ryan, <i>President of the Tasmanian Bar, Derwent & Tamar Chambers, Tas</i>	Session Chair and Presenter: Viv Morkos, <i>Owen Dixon Chambers, Vic</i>
1045-1115	Morning Tea and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)			

1115-1215	<p>Plenary 4 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>The Road Ahead: The Journey So Far - An International Perspective</p> <p>Presented by: Sir Andrew McFarlane, <i>President of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice, London, UK</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Nicola Watts, <i>Treasurer of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, O'Sullivan Davies, WA</i></p>
1215-1345	<p>Lunch and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p>
1215-1345	<p>The Chair's Lunch (Grand Ballroom, Mezzanine Level, HGC) - Sponsored by Nexia Edwards Marshall</p> <p>Beyond the Courtroom: From the Family Court to the United Nations and the Communities We Shape - Why the role of Lawyers in Communities Matters More Than Ever</p> <p>Presented by: Emma Mason, <i>Mother, Lawyer and Social Media Reform Advocate, NSW</i></p>
1345-1445	<p>Plenary 5 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>Children's Cases and Legislative Change: Are the Old Cases New Again?</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Justice Gill, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), ACT</i> • Judge Taglieri, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), Tas</i> • A/Prof Dr Zoe Rathus AM, <i>Griffith University, Qld</i> <p>Session Chair: Matthew Verney KC, <i>St Elmo Chambers & Foley's List - Victorian Bar, Tas</i></p>
1445-1515	<p>Afternoon Tea and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p>

1515-1615	Concurrent 5A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 5B (Grand Ballroom 1&2, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 5C (Grand Ballroom 3, Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Concurrent 5D (Harbour View Room 1, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	<p>“Doing Good Work Isn’t Enough” – The Human Side of Business Development and What It Really Takes to Build & Maintain a Referral Practice</p> <p>Presented by: Michael Schiffner, <i>Collective Intelligence, Vic</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Mark Parker, <i>Lander & Rogers, Vic</i></p>	<p>From Client Advice to Cross Examination: Challenging Real Property and Enterprise Valuations</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denby Kerr, <i>Kerr Fels Divorce & Family Lawyers, WA</i> • Kate Mooney KC, <i>Michael Kirby Chambers, Tas</i> <p>Session Chair: The Hon. Justice O'Brien, <i>Family Court of Western Australia</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and the Court</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter, <i>National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People</i> • Kirsty Maylin, Director - Indigenous Operations, Policy & Support, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia</i> <p>Session Chair: Tyne McConnon, <i>Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service, Tas</i></p>	<p>Practical Technology for Court: Not AI</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Justice Altobelli, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1), NSW</i> • Philip Looney KC, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, French Quarter Chambers, Qld</i> <p>Session Chair and Presenter: Trevor McKenna, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Derwent & Tamar Chambers, Tas</i></p>
1615-1630	Session changeover			
1630-1730	Plenary 6 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)			
	<p>AI in Family Law: Friend or Foe?</p> <p>Presented by: Prof Edward Santow, <i>Industry Professor and Director, Policy and Governance, University of Technology Sydney, NSW</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Alison James, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Mitchell Chambers, SA</i></p>			
1730-1830	Happy Hour (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)			
1830-2130	Out of Towners' Function (MR2 - departing from Brooke Street Pier) - Sponsored by Delbridge Forensic Accounting			
1830-2130	LGBTQIA+ Function (Altar Bar - upstairs) - Sponsored by Svenson Barristers			

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026	
0830-1555	Registration Open (Ground Floor, HGC)
0830-1330	Exhibition Open (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
0900-1000	<p>Plenary 7 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>Neuroscience, Children’s Brains and Decision Making</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Sallie Baxendale, <i>Consultant Neuropsychologist, London, UK</i> • Belle Lane, <i>Aickin Chambers, Vic</i> <p>Session Chair: The Hon. Robert Benjamin AM KC</p>
1000-1100	<p>Plenary 8 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>Peter Nygh Memorial Lecture</p> <p>Presented by: The Hon. Justice Robert Beech-Jones, <i>High Court of Australia, Tas</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Philip Looney KC, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, French Quarter Chambers, Qld</i></p>
1100-1130	Morning Tea and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
1130-1230	<p>Plenary 9 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)</p> <p>Intergenerational Trusts: Are They Property, Have We Got Spry Right?</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Burreket, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Broun Abrahams Burreket, NSW</i> • Michael Kearney SC, <i>Waratah Chambers, NSW</i> <p>Session Chair: Georgia Hargreaves, <i>Hargreaves Family Law, Vic</i></p>
1230-1330	Lunch and Exhibition (Foyer Marketplace and Federation Ballroom Marketplace, Mezzanine Level, HGC)

1330-1430	Parallel Session A (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	Parallel Session B (Grand Ballroom, Mezzanine Level, HGC)
	Professional Responsibilities in Family Law: Ethics Hypotheticals Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Justice Cuthbertson, <i>Supreme Court of Tasmania, Tas</i> • Prof Gino Dal Pont, <i>University of Tasmania Dean and Head of School of Law, Tas</i> • Brett McGrath, <i>Marsdens Law Group, NSW</i> Session Chair: Kate Alroe, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Lander & Rogers, Qld</i>	When Technology Enables Harm: Family Violence in the Digital Age Presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Justice Riethmuller, <i>Federal Circuit & Family Court Australia (Division 1), NSW</i> • Richard Flemming, <i>General Counsel, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, ACT</i> • Emma Mason, <i>Mason Mia & Associates, NSW</i> Session Chair: Jessica Cruise, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Legal Aid, ACT</i>
1430-1445	Session changeover	
1445-1455	22nd National Family Law Conference Presentation (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	
1455-1555	Plenary 10 (Federation Concert Hall, Ground and Mezzanine Level, HGC)	
	Competing Claims, Crypto and Chaos: Just Another Day in the Major Complex Financial Proceedings List Presented by: Dr Robin Colesmith, <i>Family Law Section Executive Member, Holmes List - Victorian Bar, Vic</i> and Justice Parker, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)</i> together with special guests	
1830-late	Gala Dinner (Princes Wharf 1) - <i>Sponsored by Nicholls Anzani</i>	