

AMIRCI Motherhood Conference

The [AMIRCI Motherhood Conference](#) on 10-12 July 2019 at the University of Sydney was a resounding success with key notes by Dr Renate Klein, Dr Petra Bueskens, Prof Andrea O'Reilly and Prof Eva Cox well received. The conference theme was "Beyond Mothering Myths? Motherhood in an Age of Neoliberalism and Individualisation".



Dr Renate Klein, Prof Andrea O'Reilly & Dr Petra Bueskens

Several of our management committee presented at the conference. Anna presented a paper entitled [Motherhood for Sale?](#) and Dr Catherine Lynch also addressed the conference on the topic of surrogacy with her paper on "The Infant Gaze: How surrogacy develops the former goal of closed records adoption to destroy mothers through the destruction of the maternal-neonatal relationship".



Dr Catherine Lynch

Catherine also spoke on a Panel chaired by Anna on [The need to recognise maternal rights in International Human Rights Law](#) with fellow panelists Charmaine Weldon and Darelle Duncan.



Vee Malnar performing

However, no doubt the most lively contribution was from committee member Vee Malnar who performed a selection of her songs while audience members danced in front of the giant knitted placenta which was on display throughout the conference. The AMIRCI conference was a fantastic celebration of matricentric feminism, scholarship and creativity.



Vee Malnar reclining in giant knitted placenta

Women Defendants Project

Thanks to the University of Sydney for hosting this conference and the continuing work on the Women Defendants Project. More details on this can be found [here](#). If you are a service provider please consider distributing this [flyer](#) to women who may be interested in participating in this research.

Sanctuary at The Women's Library



SOS Choir led by Sharon

“Sanctuary”, the third and final event of a series addressing women’s safety and well-being organised in collaboration with the Older Women’s Network and The Women’s Library was also held in July. This event featured performance poetry by Louise Steer, singing by Sharon and the SOS Choir, reflections by lawyer and artist Amani Haydar and an art therapy session led by Vee Malnar. The panellists explored how they have used creative work to find sanctuary and to work through their experiences of male violence.



Art Therapy session in progress at TWL

UNSW Feminist Provocations

Several of FLC’s management committee also attended UNSW for Feminist Provocations on 23-24 August 2019 and have a fair claim to being the most provocative of the presenters at this event. Helen Pringle spoke on Evidence and the Law of Prostitution, Catherine Lynch presented on Maternal and neonatal rights in relation to adoption and surrogacy and Anna presented on [The Universal Income as a Means of Alleviating the Gender Pay Gap](#).

Articles & Submissions

In this last quarter we have also researched and written two articles as part of a four-piece conversation between Anna Kerr and Andrew Dyer on the need for affirmative consent in sexual assault laws. [Cups of Tea, Joyriding and Shaking Hands – the Vexed Issue of Consent](#) and [Reply to Andrew Dyer’s Response](#) were published in the Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity, [Vol 7 No 1, September 2019](#).

In August we also made a brief submission to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute in response to its Issues Paper on Legal Recognition of Sex and Gender, 20 August 2019.

Saving the Women’s Family Law Court Support Service (WFLCSS)

With the support of the Sydney Family Court we have now trained and organised a roster of volunteers to continue to operate the women’s support service after funding was cut by the NSW Government at the end of June. This is not a legal advice service, but provides women with much needed support when they are going through distressing court proceedings, often unrepresented. We still have gaps in our roster so if you have suitable experience or qualifications and are interested in helping, please [contact us](#).



Please Join!

If you support the work we are doing and have not already joined, the link to do so is [here](#).

We are all volunteers and your membership payments and donations will go to cover operating costs such as insurance, internet, telephone and office expenses so that we are not left out of pocket. Unfortunately, we have currently had to suspend our appointment and advice service due to difficulty securing affordable professional indemnity insurance.



Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.
Benledi House
186 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, NSW 2037
PO Box 273 Summer Hill NSW 2130
0402 467 476
www.feministlegal.org/contact-us
office@feministlegal.org