FACILITATING THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY LAW PROCESSES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Legal Aid NSW is an independent statutory body established to provide legal assistance, with a particular focus on the needs of people who are economically or socially disadvantaged. Lawyers from their Family Law Division represent children in family law and care and protection proceedings. The Family Law Division takes a leadership role in this area, also through the provision of training and resources.

To assist this work, Legal Aid NSW is seeking to develop a good practice model for child representatives working or meeting with children. Hence, the Family Law Division is collaborating with the Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP) on a project that will identify practices and approaches to child representation that potentially enhance children’s experience of participating in family law and care and protection matters.

The research involves a review of existing evidence about children and young people’s involvement with a child representative during legal processes to identify elements of good practice; an online survey seeking children’s and parents’ views about ‘good practice’ concerning children’s representation; and development of a ‘good practice’ guide for child representatives when meeting with children.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

July 2014 –March 2015

PROJECT PARTNER

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RESEARCH TEAM

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