

Research Workshop Series

Abstract

Monday 17 August 2009

**Presentation by: Professor Belinda Fehlberg,
Christine Millward and Monica Campo**

***Post-separation Parenting, Financial Settlements and
Children's Best Interests***

Shared post-separation parenting is now a key family law goal in Australia. As a result, financial settlements (ie child support, property and spousal maintenance arrangements) are likely to be based on shared parenting and its associated costs. However, empirical evidence suggests shared care often reverts to sole (usually mother) care over time. This raises the risk that financial settlements based on shared care will not meet children's and carers' needs, with adverse outcomes for them and our social security system. Yet the long-term financial implications of shared care have not been studied. This paper will present findings from the first wave of data collection of a three year empirical project which aims to identify and explore the long-term financial impacts of shared parenting by examining the interaction between shared care arrangements and financial settlements over time.