

“An introduction to Child Protection related legislations 2019”

Speaker: Margaret Chen



Dear members

Thanks to those who participated in the 27th August 2019 Cross-Cultural Interest Group seminar. We had full attendance and in fact ran out of chairs with sixty-one (61) colleagues from a wide range of health disciplines participating. **We are again very grateful for the generous sponsoring of the catering by Janssen Pharmaceutical for our evening session.** We really valued everyone who stayed behind to help us rearrange the tables and chairs, thank you.



Margaret Chen, our presenter for the session, practices family law and civil litigation. She appears regularly in the Family Court, District Court and High Court. Margaret is a member of the Family Law Section, and her family law practice includes dissolution of marriage, relationship property, trusts and estate, pre-nuptial agreements, child issues (including paternity, guardianship and custody) and domestic violence. Margaret’s civil practice includes a wide range of instructions, ranging from private individuals to commercial disputes as well as judicial reviews against government organisations. Margaret has also taught Law of Business Obligations at Unitec and currently lectures Company Law at the University of Auckland. Margaret was born in Beijing, China and read and speaks fluent Mandarin. Margaret has given several presentations on a variety of topics, both locally and internationally.

Margaret Chen’s presentation was very informative and provided a substantive overview of the child-related legislation changes in terms of timeline and key changes made to the four legislations: Children’s Act 2014; the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989; the Family Violence Act 2018 and the Care of Children Act 2004. She outlined the list of changes which included: legislation name changes, new or revised sections; new or amended definitions, the reformed family court system; the changes to court process; and the purpose of the revisions to these four legislations. She illustrated the impact of the changes and the need for practitioners to be aware of the new definitions, applications, processes and the utility.



Margaret presented the interplay between the four legislations and highlighted that:

- It is possible to make applications under different Acts: i.e. Application for a Temporary Protection Order, Interim Parenting Order and Temporary Occupation Order and Ancillary Furniture Order, or Application for a Care and Protection Order and Interim Parenting Order.
- It is possible to offer protection for children in New Zealand from all angles (within a family or family group, externally through different ministries, schools and boards, both during the relationship and after separation).
- The best interest of children must always be paramount.

Of importance, from a cultural perspective, Margaret emphasised that the changes to the legislations resulted in:

- A notable increase on child-protection related legislations since 2013.
- The requirement to be more inclusive and accommodating of Māori under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.



- The inclusion of “dowry” under the Family Violence Act 2018.
- The opportunity to provide a cultural report under the Care of Children Act 2004.
- The “catch-all” and general safety under the Children’s Act 2014.

The information presented by Margaret has provided a good reference point and guideline to practitioners working with children and young person in clinical practices.



[Click here to view the Powerpoint Presentation for more details](#)



OR you can view the recording via this [Vimeo link](#)

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What: “The need for ‘Assertive Community Treatment’ for persons with severe mental illness in ethnic minority groups”

Speaker: Leota Dr Lisi Petaia **Facilitator:** Dr Han Chung Lim

When: Tuesday: 24th September 2019 (6pm to 8.30pm)

Where: Conference Room, Independent Living Service, 14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak, Auckland

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Thank you again for your interest and support and we look forward to seeing you at our LAST MEETING OF THE 2019 SERIES.

Patrick Au (Session Facilitator) on behalf of the Cross Cultural Interest Advisory Group

For more information about the advisory group, newsletters, membership application, previous topics, please go to www.ecald.com/cross-cultural-interest-group/.