

Family Law

Thursday 15 August 2024

Session 2 – 11:00am - 12:00pm

Delving deeper into the 2023 parenting reforms

This presentation will undertake an analysis of key changes to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) by the *Family Law Amendment Act 2023* (Cth), which came into force on 6 May 2023. The session will cover the concept of joint or sole parental decision making, the changes to the legislative pathway, the meaning and application of the term 'safety', and the test of 'unacceptable risk'. It will touch upon the possible impact on the changes referable to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and on the role of Independent Children's Lawyers. Analysis of these changes will focus on the ability to rely on past authorities, and on what can be gleaned from early decisions after 6 May 2023 and from overseas jurisdictions.

Meet the speaker

Martha Barnett SC, Barrister, Culwulla Chambers

Martha Barnett SC was called to the New South Wales Bar in 2010. She practises mainly in family law, but also conducts adoption matters and coronial inquests. Martha took Silk in October 2022. For the past 11 years she has been a member of Culwulla Chambers, Sydney. Martha was awarded a PhD in law from the University of Sydney in 2014, for a thesis titled 'Evolution: Procedural Innovation in Abduction Convention Determinations in Australia'. Originally from Canada, Martha completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Alberta before migrating to Australia. She undertook an LLB at the University of Sydney and graduated with First Class Honours.