



*An interdisciplinary approach to  
family breakdown*

What can you tell your patients and clients about how they can help themselves when it comes to legal matters?

What should they expect from the family law system and their family lawyers?

The CGW family law workgroup has six specialist lawyers representing clients in relation to the full spectrum of issues surrounding family breakdown. These include children's living arrangements, property settlement, tax and superannuation issues and financial support for children and spouses.

Relationship breakdown is a well known risk factor for mental health problems. We see that almost all of our clients at some point experience some or all of the following:

- depression, anxiety, anger and shame about the relationship breakdown
- guilt about the impact of the separation on their children
- deep mistrust of their ex-spouse
- uncertainty about the future and worry about their ability to cope on their own
- frustration about perceived delays on the part of their ex-spouse, their lawyer or the Court.

We consistently find that the involvement of experienced medical and allied health professionals in our clients' support team improves their wellbeing and expedites a positive outcome, including for children caught in the middle.

### ***You are invited***

Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers' twilight series will bring together professionals in the health, education, social services and legal industries in three informal, interactive sessions to discuss the best ways to deal with the problems and questions presented by family breakdown.

We would be delighted if you could join us for one or more of the following seminars on the first Thursday of each month in August, September and October 2008.

7 August - 5:30pm

### **Joining the team**

How can a multidisciplinary support team work together to assist clients in crisis?

A legal perspective on marriage breakdown, separation and divorce

What resources are available to help?

4 September - 5:30pm

### **What about the children?**

Post-separation parenting

How to decide children's living arrangements and time spent with each parent

Court processes for children's matters

2 October - 5:30pm

### **Money Matters**

How does the property settlement process work?

How is financial support payable for children and spouses determined?

Court processes for property and financial matters