

# Conferring on Genograms

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How would you prefer families to be depicted in genograms in the *ANZJFT*?

Following the publication of the article ‘Genograms: Is it Time for a Change?’ (*ANZJFT*, 22, 4: 207–213) by Anne Macvean, Monica McGoldrick, Jan Evans and Jenny Brown, Anne Macvean offered a workshop at the Australian Family Therapy Conference in Hobart in 2002. Eight survey sheets were completed and returned to Anne. The comments and

votes of those who filled in the survey in Hobart are included on the form below. To remind you of the questions Anne and her co-authors raised, we print the results of Anne’s mini-survey. The editors would welcome any comments in the form of letters to the editor, or survey forms copied, filled in and returned to the editorial office.

You can read this table in conjunction with the paper in *ANZJFT*, 22, 4.

**TABLE 1**  
Genograms

Keep Things the Way They Are [see the <i>ANZJFT</i> 's inside back cover]	Proposed Changes
Maintain current lines of relationship between parents and children  (0 vote) <input type="checkbox"/>	Redesign lines of relationship between parents and children so that children’s relationship to each parent is separate from that of parents to each other (8 votes); <i>‘Yes, kids I work with would like this. They are not divorced from either parent’</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
Both separation and divorce lines should appear so as to cut off that parent with whom children do not live  (1 vote) <input type="checkbox"/>	Show children spending regular times in different households, by dotted lines around the relevant family members. (7 votes; one of the voters for this change wrote ‘No’ in the cell to the left, and circled the words ‘cut off’ and ‘parent’) <input type="checkbox"/>
There is a distinction in lines between married and de facto couples, with no symbol for cohabiting couples  (0 votes) <i>‘Should note not cohabiting’</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	Relabel relationship lines to distinguish between cohabiting and noncohabiting couples  (6 votes) <input type="checkbox"/>
A cross-out denotes death <i>‘Or family chooses [how death is shown]’</i>  (2 votes) <input type="checkbox"/>	Write ‘died’ under the symbol (3 votes) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>‘Good idea!’</i> OR Draw that person’s symbol with a dotted line (1 vote) <input type="checkbox"/> OR Shade in deceased person’s symbol (3 votes) <input type="checkbox"/> (One person ticked two options on this side, so that the votes for these two cells equal nine.)
No mention of adoption (1 vote) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>‘Adoption is broken lines’</i> <i>‘No, it’s not the sperm or the ovary that makes me a parent. It’s driving them to soccer and being there at 2.00 a.m. when they throw up. No sperm signs!’</i>	Denote adoption with an ‘A’ at the top of the line linking a child to the parents, with smaller symbols denoting the biological parents or sperm/egg/womb donors  (6 votes) <input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Comments written in by participants are shown in italics.  
N = 8