



FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
CARER SUPPORT, DISABILITY, AND AGED CARE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS  
EDUCATION, TRAINING, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Family Dispute Resolution

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Confidentiality and privacy are of the utmost importance in FDR services. All FDRPs and Child Consultants must work within the Family Law Act (FLA) 1975 – Section 10J, where communications made in FDR are not able to be disclosed and are inadmissible in court unless required or authorised under the FLA. Practitioners are required to disclose information to appropriate authorities where suspicions of safety to a person or property are revealed. Under section 67za, information disclosed indicating reasonable grounds of suspicion that a child/ren has been or is at risk of being abused must also be reported.



A Child Safe Organisation  
Centacare has an ongoing commitment to building and maintaining a Child Safe Organisation.



Centacare welcomes people who are intersex, gender diverse and of all sexualities.



### Statement regarding the traditional owners of the land

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have walked on this land, in their country. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the Aboriginal people and their stewardship and spiritual connection with their lands.



Centacare is nationally accredited against the Quality Improvement Council (QIC), Australian Health and Community Services Standards.



## Child Inclusive Family Dispute Resolution

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



## Why consider Child Inclusive Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)?

- Parents will find impartial information from their children useful for assisting them in deciding future parenting arrangements
- Children feel it would be beneficial to share their views in a safe environment
- Parents are open to hearing their children's views and are willing for children to speak freely and without influence
- Children can articulate their feelings and needs in a safe environment to an impartial professional
- Parents believe it will assist them in forming or improving their parenting alliance

## Child Consultants

All our child consultants are experienced in working with children and young people, are accredited FDR practitioners or child consultants and are skilled with an in-depth knowledge of attachment theory, interviewing children, FDR and counselling.

## What are the possible benefits for the children/young people involved?

- Having a sense of being heard and understood and contributing to the plans for their ongoing care
- Having a feeling of being accommodated or unburdened
- Possibly creating links that help the children to process their experiences
- Discussing and possibly developing new coping skills

## What are the benefits to the parents of involving a Child Consultant?

- Assists parents to attend to what their children are saying
- Enables parents to make more informed parenting plans and decisions on behalf of their children
- Allows parents to communicate more effectively about joint parenting decisions and focus on their children's needs
- Empowers children to share information to an impartial third party without fear of upsetting one or both parents

## What is the process?

During the FDR intake or joint sessions, the parents and/or the FDR practitioner identify the opportunity and make a referral to the Child Consultant.

- Both parents attend a separate confidential interview with the child consultant
- The children attend a session with the child consultant individually
- Both parents attend a feedback session with the FDR practitioner and the child consultant
- The FDR process continues, which includes the information shared at the feedback session with the goal of providing positive outcomes for the whole family

The FDR practitioner may deem that Child Inclusive FDR is not suitable for your family, and they will explain the reasons during the FDR appointments.