

Additional Information

- Children must be between the **ages of 5 and 15**.
- Child-informed interview fees are charged at **\$65 per hour**.
- The process is **voluntary** and does not impact on the suitability for parents to participate in mediation.
- The CIW may provide appropriate referral for further support if needed.
- Child-Informed Mediation is an unbiased process.
- The children will **not** be asked where they wish to live.
- Feedback will only be given with the **child's permission** and if it's in their best interest.
- This is not a counselling or therapeutic service - if you are seeking these services for your children we can provide a referral.
- If you have more than one child, sessions are held in groups - unless there are significant differences in the ages / needs of the children.

Contact Us

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Child-Informed Family Dispute Resolution



An Australian Government Initiative

Child-Informed Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)

The process of family separation can be a difficult time for children.

Child-Informed FDR provides an opportunity for children to talk independently with a trained **Child-Informed Worker (CIW)** in a safe, supportive and comfortable environment.

The session allows children to express their feelings about the separation, and other related concerns, with an impartial consultant. The consultant then provides feedback and recommendations to parents if the children give consent, and if sharing the information is in the best interests of the children.



The Process

Child-Informed FDR is an **optional and non-legal service**. Sessions are not mandatory and session details are not admissible in court.

Child-Informed Mediation is only undertaken in **suitable circumstances**, for example when it is safe to do so, the child is at least five years of age, all parties (including the child) agree, and the FDR Practitioner considers it will assist the process.

The CIW facilitates a conversation with the child and encourages them to talk about the separation, domestic arrangements and other related topics.

The CIW **does not** ask children where they want to live or about decisions that are the parents' role to decide.

How This Service Will Help

Feedback from the session is discussed with parents to show how/if the separation is impacting each child's developmental stage. The feedback is then used as a guide and reference throughout the **Family Dispute Resolution**.

The CIW can help you understand how your children are feeling and coping throughout the separation or divorce. The process is designed to enhance collaboration between parents, helping to make decisions that are in the **best interests of your children**.

A child's development is significantly impacted by conflict. Child-Informed Mediation combined with FDR can help parents make the right choices to help restore their child's growth. Outcomes also indicate that parents who undertake this process are **happier with the agreements** they have made for their children.