

Additional Information

- Children must be between the **ages of 5 and 18**.
- The process is **voluntary** and does not impact on the suitability for parents to participate in Family Dispute Resolution.
- Each parent attends an individual parent intake with the Child-Centered Practitioner prior to the interview with the children. (Intake session is cost free.)
- Children attend at least 2 sessions with the Child-Centered Practitioner.
- If you have more than one child, one session can be in a group. Children have to attend at least one individual session with the Child-Centered Practitioner.
- It is preferred that parents take turns to accompany the children to the Family Relationship Centre.
- The Child-Centered Practitioner may provide appropriate referral for further support for the children.
- Child-Centered Family Dispute Resolution 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 is in the best interests of the children.
- This is **not** a counselling or therapeutic service – if you are seeking these services for your children, we can provide the appropriate referral.

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Child-Centered Family Dispute Resolution



An Australian Government Initiative

Child-Centred Practice

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

Child-Centered Family Dispute Resolution provides an opportunity for children to talk independently with a **trained Child-Centered Practitioner (CCP)** 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 practitioner. The practitioner 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-Centered Practice is an **optional and non-legal service**. Sessions are not mandatory and session details are not admissible in court.

Child-Centered Family Dispute Resolution 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 Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner considers it will assist the process.

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

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

How This Process Will Help you

At Family Dispute Resolution, the feedback from the children's sessions is provided to both parents to show how 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 Child-Centered Practitioner can help you understand how your children are feeling and coping when there is conflict after the separation or divorce. The process is designed to enhance collaboration between parents to help make decisions that are in the **best interests of your children**.

A child's development is significantly impacted by parental conflict and Child-Centered Family Dispute Resolution can help parents make the right choices to help restore their child's ongoing wellbeing. Outcomes also indicate that parents who undertake this process are happier with the agreements they have made for their children.