

Dad and Mum together apart

Centacare is approved by the Australian Government under the Family Law Act 1975, to offer Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) services.

The family law system has undergone significant changes. There is now a much greater emphasis being placed on separating adults to use dispute resolution to clarify and work through issues, to seek resolution and agreement on the matters that are causing conflict for families.

To separate or not to separate

Centacare offers family relationship counselling which can enhance communication, explore options and enable you to make informed decisions about your relationship and your family.

At Centacare we acknowledge that your role as a parent is both the best and hardest job in the world. We can support you through difficulties, times of change and other family transitions.

How we work

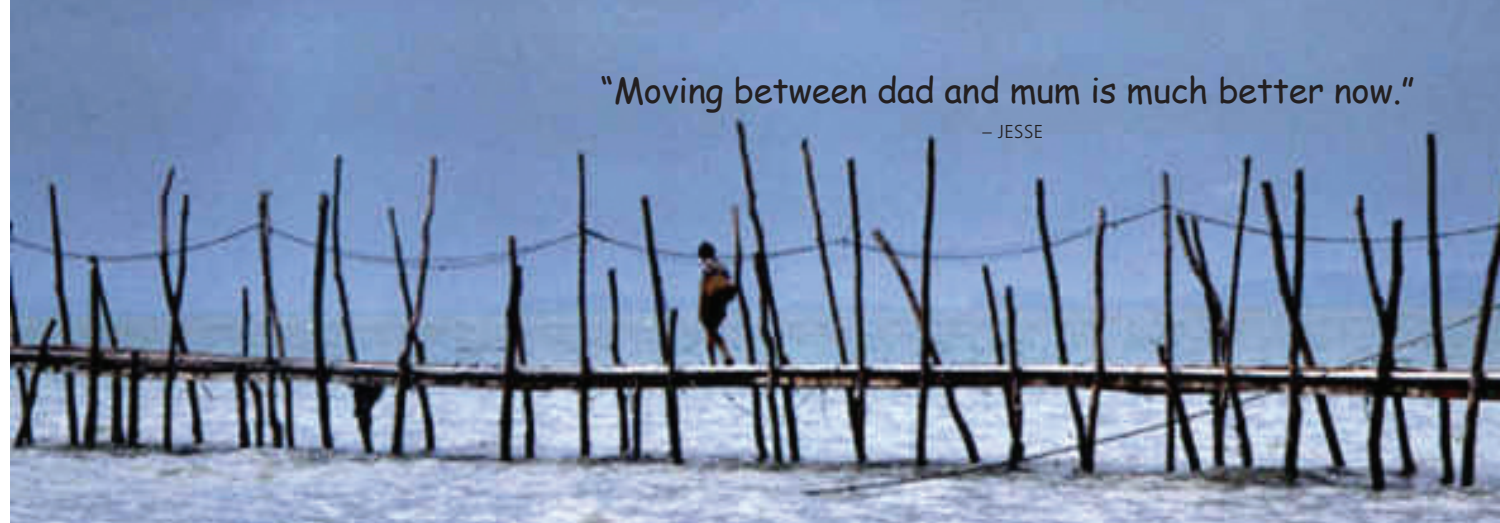
Family dispute resolution practitioners strive to facilitate respectful conversations to assist parents make parenting arrangements that provide children with the opportunity to have positive relationships with both of them and with other family members.

FDR practitioners do not provide people with legal advice. People using family dispute resolution have the right to seek legal advice at any time during the process and are encouraged to do so.

Family dispute resolution recognises that even though the adult relationship may be over, you are parents for life.

"Moving between dad and mum is much better now."

– JESSE



Each FDR practitioner has complied with all training and supervision requirements under the Family Law Act.

In keeping with the vision and mission of Centacare, FDR practitioners aim to provide good-practice services that are accessible, culturally sensitive and responsive.

We provide assistance to people, particularly parents, to resolve conflicts: make decisions and deal with Family Law issues arising from separation or divorce (including parenting arrangements, property and financial settlements). Practitioners facilitate communications to enable the management of issues that arise as a result of family transitions.

We will assist you to:

- Improve communications – particularly as parents
- Make your own child-focused decisions
- Resolve property and financial disputes
- Feel supported throughout the process.

What is family dispute resolution?

The FDR practitioner acts as a facilitator to assist parties to:

- Clarify important issues
- Explore each person's needs and concerns – especially those of dependent children
- Create and consider options
- Find the best, workable alternatives
- Use a variety of models and interventions (including child inclusive dispute resolution) to achieve workable and sustainable outcomes.

How much does it cost?

The Australian Government provides some financial support for family dispute resolution services, but clients are required to pay a fee based on income. In order not to disadvantage clients, fees are negotiated at the first session and adjusted if necessary.

Child-focused services

At Centacare, our principal focus is to achieve child-sensitive outcomes, as families reconstruct after separation or divorce. We aim to create an environment that supports disputing parents to concentrate on what their children need them to achieve as part of the dispute resolution process.

Research shows that children survive parental separation much better if the conflict they experience is minimised.

Child-sensitive outcomes are those where arrangements enable each child to get the best from each of their parents and protect each child from conflict. Children are supported to get on with their important developmental work – being kids.

Sessions are confidential and are privileged under the Family Law Act 1975. Exceptions to confidentiality apply if there are concerns about child abuse or if there are threats made to any person or property.



Contacts for family dispute resolution

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Family dispute resolution services are also available at Centacare Ballarat and Centacare Bendigo

General enquiries to:

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Centacare seeks to serve the community in all its diversity. See our web site at www.centacaremelbourne.org to read our Mission Statement and learn more about our wide range of professionally delivered programs/services and locations in metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong.

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Family Dispute Resolution

Listen
Be heard
Resolve
Respect
Communicate

