

## Other services available

CatholicCare offers a range of other services to support and nurture families.

- **Family and Relationship Counselling** for children, adults and families to work on healthy relationships.
- **Parenting Orders Program** for separated parents to manage parenting and contact arrangements.

For more information on these services, please visit our website [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au)

*“Things are so much easier now the fighting is over.”*

## About us

CatholicCare are experts in family-focused care and provide a range of family and relationship services, education and school supports, refugee and settlement programs, and pastoral services.

We are the social service agency of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Diocese of Sale. We support all people regardless of their religious belief or background.

## Contact us

To access FDR, please contact your nearest office below:

### Dandenong

T. 03 8710 9600

### Epping

T. 03 8468 1305

### Footscray

T. 03 9689 3888

### Geelong

T. 03 5221 7055



## Family Dispute Resolution

*Resolving issues after separation*



ABN 42 795 179 778

*CatholicCare acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Victoria, and pays respect to Elders past and present.*

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*Strengthening families and communities*

[www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au)

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## Family Dispute Resolution

Divorce, separation or family breakdown can be difficult and stressful for everyone involved.

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) is a mediation process that helps couples to sort out problems and disagreements caused by their separation or divorce.

Many couples who access FDR are able to come to agreement on issues such as property, money and most importantly, the children, without the need to go to court.

## The benefits

By resolving your differences, you can save time, money and stress.

We can help you to:

- Focus on the needs of your children - they don't possess the coping mechanisms that adults have
- Build a positive parenting alliance - you are parents for life!
- Clarify the important issues and resolve them together.
- Listen to each other and find outcomes that are fair and sustainable.

We can't provide legal advice, but our staff are qualified under the Family Law Act 1975 to provide family dispute resolution services; and to issue a Section 60I certificate (when appropriate).

## FDR is available for everyone

Anyone who is having difficulty coming to agreement on parenting and financial arrangements after separation can access our FDR Service.

The service is available in a number of offices throughout Greater Melbourne and Geelong.

## FDR is affordable

FDR services are subsidised by the Commonwealth Government. A means-tested co-contribution is payable.

## FDR is confidential

Your privacy is important to us and we will not disclose your personal information without your express permission.

Evidence of what is said during FDR is not admissible in court.

There can be exceptions to this, but these are discussed with clients if and when needed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Is it legal advice?*

No, we encourage our clients to seek independent legal advice. While we work in the context of the Family Law Act, our practitioners are not working as lawyers.

*Is it counselling?*

No, however we can refer you to one of our counsellors to address issues such as coping with stress and anxiety caused by the separation. We also offer counselling for children to help them adjust to changes within the family structure.

*Is it court?*

No, we do not impose legal outcomes on people. Our aim is to help you negotiate agreements together, minimise conflict and look after the needs of the children. FDR is designed to help you avoid having to ask a court to make decisions about your children and your money.

*Is it one size fits all?*

No, every family is different and our service is tailored to the needs of each individual family. Sometimes the FDR practitioner will be the only person involved in the matter. Sometimes two FDR practitioners will work together and in some cases, a counsellor might become involved to offer emotional support.