

VOCATIONAL GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

What is Family Dispute Resolution?

In 2006 the Family Law Act was changed to encourage separating parents to attempt to reach agreements about the children and parenting decisions and styles, without having to go to Court. This change was based on a philosophy of avoiding adversarial clashes and seeking to assist separating parents to work collaboratively in the best interests of their children. It deliberately attempts to reach agreements that are focused on the underlying needs of the whole family, particularly the children.

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners

A Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner is a person who assists separating parents to resolve their disputed issues. A FDRP must meet qualification requirements and be registered by the Commonwealth Attorney General. The qualification framework includes entry requirements, and completion of the Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution training.

Who can be a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner?

The Vocational Graduate Diploma is suitable for those who wish to obtain Family Law Act Registration as Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and who want to be ready to practice at the conclusion of the course. While the Federal Government has determined that alternate pathways exist to achieve registration as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, AIRS has decided that it will offer only one pathway to Registration being the Full Qualification of Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution.

Pathways to Registration

The pathway for registration is the completion of 10 units of competency and the achievement of the Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution.

Entry Requirements for Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners

Applicants must satisfy one of the following entry requirements:

1. An undergraduate degree or higher qualification in psychology, social work, law, conflict management, dispute resolution, family law mediation or equivalent,
OR
2. An accredited qualification in conflict management or dispute resolution at Diploma or Advanced Diploma level
OR
3. Certificate IV in Community Mediation together with significant relevant vocational practice,
OR
4. Participants undertaking this qualification need to have previous experience in a dispute resolution environment. The job role would have involved the self directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in some areas, the exercise of independent judgement and decision making and a range of technical and other skills.
and

Participants will be required to complete the AIRS Application form for the Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution.

Pathways to Final Accreditation

1. Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution

The Vocational Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution has been designed by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council in association with the Attorney Generals Department and other stakeholders. This qualification will meet the final accreditation requirements under the Family Law Act (1975) for Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners.

This training package has been endorsed by the National Quality Council (NQC), and have VETAB (Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board) qualifications from the training package added to its scope of registration.

2. Existing Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners

In order to comply with the Attorney Generals training directive, existing Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners must have completed the Family Law module and the Domestic Violence (2 day's course) and Vulnerable Parties Module (3 day's course). The DV and Vulnerable Parties module cannot be split – students must do all or nothing.

Mediators should log onto the AG's website – fdrtraining.edu.au for further information.

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FDR01 Foundations of Family Dispute Resolution.

(5 days)

This subject introduces students to the concepts of Family Law disputes and models for resolution using a mediation intervention within a range of cultural environments. It assumes no knowledge of dispute resolution processes, or any previous experience in working in the Family Law environment.

The course covers the diamond model for mediation in detail, and the place and importance of pre mediation assessment. Key communication skills of the FDR practitioner will be introduced and practiced; reflective and active listening, reframing, summarising and questioning. Throughout the course key ethical issues will be discussed and modelled.

Six role play exercises will be offered during the course.

FDR02 Micro skills in Family Dispute Resolution.

(3 days)

This subject builds from the introductory course, and looks at the skills and attitudes of the dispute resolution practitioner. The course will focus on the application of communication and facilitation skills to key elements of the FDR process; the pre mediation assessment phase, the use of the exploration phase to resolve underlying conflict, negotiation and power balancing.

Three role play exercises will be offered during the course.

FDR03 Advanced Family Dispute Resolution.

(3 days)

This subject builds on the model of mediation outlined in FDR01, and focuses on more advanced issues, such as an introduction to non face to face mediation (shuttle mediation, telephone and web-based negotiation), the management of extreme emotions within the mediation room, and processes for child inclusive practice.

Three role play exercises will be offered during the course.

FDR 04 Family Dispute Resolution Special Topics.

(2 by 2 day seminars)

This subject will be offered in groupings of two day workshops. Students can select two workshops, as part of their Vocational Graduate Diploma. Students are welcome to attend further workshops as part of their own training and development.

Family Law for FDR Practitioners is a compulsory unit for students who do not have the knowledge of the Family Law. The subject covers the nature, and place of the Family Law, particularly focusing on the law with respect to Children, and the law with respect to Property. The subject will also consider the law for de facto and same sex relationships.

Family and Domestic Violence is a compulsory unit for students who do not have existing training and experience in the field of FDV. The subject introduces the concepts of FDV, and explores its impact on the whole family. It considers strategies for working with those affected by FDV and those who are perpetrators. Finally the subject will consider non court based models for resolution of issues between separated couples where the relationship is characterised by FDV.

Child Inclusive Practice is a non compulsory unit and considers models for child inclusive FDR. The key focus will be on the definition of Child Inclusive Practice, Models for practice, indicators and contra indicators for use of these practices.

FDR05 Family Dispute Resolution Intensive Practice.

(2 full days 2 half days)

This subject provides students with the opportunity to undertake a Family Dispute Resolution practice intensive exercise. The course will be held over two Saturdays, and will involve mediating disputes with unknown role players, and more challenging role play scenarios. As part of the subject students will also participate in briefing and debriefing and a clinical supervision process.

FDR06 Family Dispute Resolution Clinical Practice.

This subject provides students with access to the FDR and Mediation services of Relationships Australia in NSW. Students will be allocated to Clinical Supervisors who will work with the students with separating couples seeking FDR. Students will undertake over 60 hours of FDR work, attend individual and group supervision, review the work of the other mediation services within Relationships Australia, including the Telephone Dispute Resolution Service, and undertake a research project.

VETAB Units of Competency

Vocational Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution (CHC80207)

These Units of Competency are Nationally Endorsed and Accredited with VETAB.

Code	Title	
CHCDFV811A	Respond to Family Domestic Violence in Family Work	Core
CHCFAM505A	Operate in a Family Law Environment	Core
CHCDISP801A	Facilitate Dispute Resolution in the Family Law Context	Core
CHCDISP802A	Implement Family Dispute Resolution Strategies	Core
CHCDISP803A	Facilitate Family Dispute Resolution in an Impartial Manner and adhere to Ethical Standards	Core
CHCDISP804A	Create an Environment that Supports the Safety of Vulnerable Parties in Dispute Resolution	Core
CHCFAM503A	Work with a child focussed approach	Elective
CHCFAM806A	Assist clients to develop parenting arrangements	Elective
CHCFIN2A	Determine client needs in respect to financial issues	Elective
HLTHIR403B	Work effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers	Elective



NSW Vocational
Education & Training
Accreditation Board



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING

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For more information please contact us on (02) 8874 8090 or visit our website www.relationships.com.au