

Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution

Extend your professional practice and specialise in family dispute resolution.



Overview

This practice-based qualification, delivered in Adelaide and Perth, is designed for professionals in the law and/or social science sectors who are seeking work within the community-based family law arena.

In this course, you will gain the required skills to work as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) in Australia. Participants who successfully complete the learning and assessment activities will acquire knowledge of the legal principles underpinning mediation and develop the skills to support non-adversarial family dispute resolution.

Practice frameworks for detecting risks during separation, such as family violence, parenting stress, mental health concerns and child harm, are central to the course. Child-focused practice and an introduction to child inclusive mediation are embedded within this qualification.

Graduates of this course will have the relevant professional qualification required for registration with the Federal Attorney General. This entitles graduates to provide Family Dispute Resolution services to clients in Australia.

Entry Requirements

Entry to this qualification is open to individuals who:

Hold an undergraduate degree or higher qualification in Psychology, Social Work, Law, Conflict Management, Dispute Resolution, Family Law Mediation or equivalent

OR

Hold accreditation under the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS)

OR

Hold the Mediation skill set from the Community Services Training Package (CHC)

OR

Can provide documented evidence of previous experience in a dispute resolution environment in a job role involving self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in some areas, exercise of independent judgement and decision-making, and a range of technical and other skills.

All applicants will be required to undertake a suitability interview with the course coordinator.

Study Requirements

This program has 14 face to face classroom days for SA & WA. This program is equivalent to 15 – 20 hours of study per week. Students will be required to undertake self-directed learning outside of classroom delivery.

Prior Recognition of Learning

RPL credit may be granted for relevant prior study.

Work Placement Requirements

Students are required to complete 50 hours of dispute resolution work with clients, under the supervision of an accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP), in a dispute resolution service or simulated environment, reflecting real work requirements.

Eligible students are considered for work placements with Family Relationship Centres in SA and WA through the Relationships Australia partnership network.

Duration & Delivery Mode

12 months. Blended Learning – Online and compulsory classroom sessions in Adelaide and Perth.

Tuition Fee

\$11,000

**This qualification is on the approved list of courses for Vet Student Loans (VSL). To check your eligibility: <https://www.dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans>*

Employment Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this qualification, you may gain employment in the Community Services sector as a:

- Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP)
- Mediator
- Manager of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Service.

Dates	Unit of Study	Units of Competency
10 February to 18 April 2025	Foundations of Family Dispute Resolution	CHCFAM001 Operate in the family law environment CHCFAM002 Work with a child focused approach
28 April to 18 July 2025	Identifying and Responding to Wellbeing and Safety Risks	CHCDFV001 Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence CHCDFV008 Manage responses to domestic and family violence in family work CHCDFV012 Make safety plans with people who have been subjected to domestic and family violence CHCDFV013 Manage domestic and family violence screening and risk assessment processes
28 July to 3 October 2025	Family Agreements and Professional Practice	CHCFAM007 Assist clients to develop parenting arrangements CHCDSP001 Facilitate dispute resolution in the family law context
13 October to 19 December 2025	Family Dispute Resolution Practice	CHCDSP002 Adhere to ethical standards in family dispute resolution CHCDSP003 Support the safety of vulnerable parties in family dispute resolution

Please note you have 12 months to complete your Work Placement from the completion date of your final Unit of Study (please refer to your timetable).

Enquiries

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Enrolments

<https://www.socialrelations.edu.au/>