

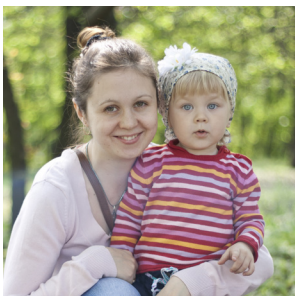


FAMILY

RELATIONSHIP CENTRE

HELPING FAMILIES BUILD BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

BERWICK



An Australian Government Initiative

How our centre can help

Berwick Family Relationship Centre (FRC) supports families who are separating. The centre provides information and referrals, and a family dispute resolution (FDR) service.

Family dispute resolution

FDR is a type of mediation that helps separating families to resolve their family law disputes. Disputes may include conflict about parenting plans and child care arrangements, child support, and/or financial matters or property settlements. FDR can also help to reduce conflict and improve communication.

FDR can help you to:

- identify the issues you want to resolve
- communicate clearly and respectfully
- discuss different ideas and options
- negotiate about these options
- make agreements about some or all of these issues, if appropriate to do so
- focus on children's best interests, where children are involved.

FDR is provided by accredited FDR practitioners who are also known as mediators. FDR practitioners are impartial, independent and don't take sides. They guide discussions and manage the FDR process. They don't control what you discuss or make decisions for you. You decide what to talk about and what decisions are made.

Attending FDR

You can attend FDR in person or online, depending on what your practitioner thinks is best. You and the other person involved can be in the same room/video call (called joint FDR) or in separate rooms/video calls (called shuttle FDR).

In some situations, you may be able to have a legal practitioner with you for extra support.

FDR for parenting matters

Australian family law states that separating parents must try FDR before they can file in court for parenting orders. There are exceptions, such as when a case involves child abuse or family violence.

FDR allows you to talk about co-parenting after separation, while focusing on your children's best interests.

As part of FDR, your practitioner can help you to develop a parenting plan - a voluntary agreement between co-parents. It can detail the day-to-day responsibilities for you and the other parent, practical considerations of your children's daily life, and how you as co-parents consult and agree on important issues about your children.

Child-inclusive FDR

Child-inclusive FDR is designed to help parents to understand their children's best interests.

If both parents agree, your child will meet with a highly skilled child consultant to talk about how things are going for them, including their hopes, worries and needs. The consultant provides this feedback to both parents so that they can consider it when making decisions in FDR.

FDR for property and financial matters

When you separate, you may need to make decisions about property and financial issues. We can help you to resolve disputes about financial and property matters.

Getting started with FDR

Before starting FDR, each person attends a separate group information session where we share information about post-separation parenting and the FDR process.



You can also scan the QR code or visit www.rav.org.au/frc-faqs to learn more about how we provide FDR at our Family Relationship Centres.



Referrals

You don't need a referral to use our services. Anyone can contact us for information and advice related to separation.

Appointments

Appointments need to be booked for assessments, FDR and information sessions. For general information on our services, you are welcome to call or drop into our centre without an appointment.

You may be able to bring a support person with you to an assessment or FDR appointment, if required. Please talk to us to confirm this in advance.

Children cannot attend any appointments. We can provide details of nearby child care facilities, if needed. If you cannot make arrangements for childcare, you must bring a friend or support person with you to care for your children while you are in your appointment.

Cost

This FRC is funded by the Australian Government, however, fees may apply depending on your financial circumstances and how many appointments you attend. We'll talk with you about fees when you contact us.

Parenting After Separation Seminar (PASS) program

Join our online program to learn how separation and related conflict impact children and to gain information and strategies to help your children adjust.

Privacy

Your privacy is important to us and will be protected. We'll only share your personal information if you give us permission or if we're required to by law, for example, to protect someone from harm.

When you contact us to make an appointment, we'll ask you for your contact details and some general information such as your age, gender and country of birth. We collect this for funding reasons, but any identifying details will be removed before being shared with our funders.

Safety

We're committed to providing a safe environment. If safety is a concern, please let us know as soon as possible. We can make extra arrangements to protect you, your children and our staff.

Interpreters

We will arrange an interpreter if needed, at no extra cost to you. Please talk to us before your appointment to discuss your needs. We also welcome calls through the National Relay Service.

Services for all

We're committed to providing safe, inclusive and accessible services for all people. We acknowledge and respect the diverse needs, backgrounds and identities of families in our community.



We acknowledge First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways of Australia. We support their right to self-determination and culturally safe services.

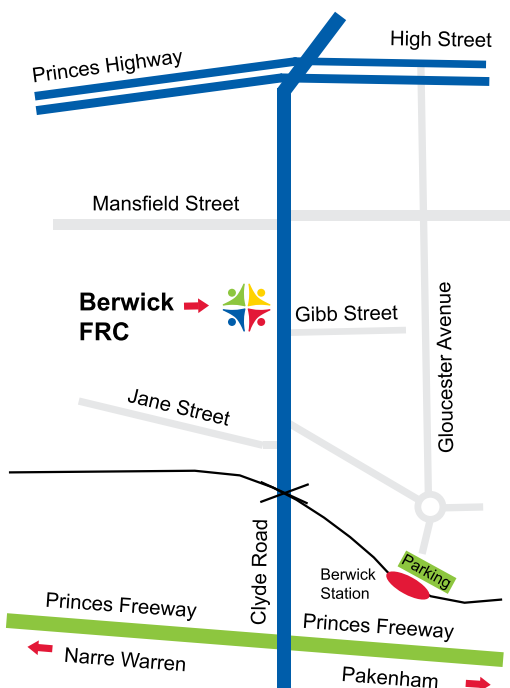
Contact us

Ph: (03) 8768 4111

enquiries@berwickfrc.org.au

www.rav.org.au

Berwick Family Relationship Centre
38 Clyde Road, Berwick VIC 3806



Berwick FRC is provided by Relationships Australia Victoria, a non-profit organisation which has been providing family and relationship services since 1948.

More information

The Family Relationship Advice Line is a national telephone service for families affected by relationship or separation issues. Call 1800 050 321 from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

Family Relationships Online provides information for all families - whether together or separated - about family relationship issues, including services to assist families. Visit www.familyrelationships.gov.au