

Time with Grandparents

Grandparents play an important role in helping parents balance the demands of work and family by providing various forms of care for their grandchildren.



The changes to the family law system recognizes and acknowledges the need for children to spend time with their grandparents and other relatives, provided this does not put children at risk of harm. They can be there for family emergencies, can assist in taking grandchildren out for the day, give parents time out by staying overnight, or just spend periodic time with them. Grandparents can teach children about who they are within the family system and are a vital link to family history. The Ipswich Family Relationship Centre can provide support and referrals to grandparents concerned about separation in the family.



Resource Library

Ipswich families can access information on local and regional community services just by dropping into the centre. No appointments are necessary. The reception area has internet access, a range of fact sheets and booklets, as well as phone access to local services such as; Centrelink, the Child Support Agency, Legal Aid, and the Family Relationships Adviceline.



For further information on our services, please call us.

Phone: (07) 3810 4800

Address: 41 East Street
Ipswich Q 4305

Fax: (07) 3810 4899

E-mail: info@ipswichfrc.org.au



Ipswich Family Relationship Centre

- **Strengthening family relationships**
- **Helping families stay together**
- **Assisting families through separation**



Parent Education Programs

Living Apart Parenting Program

This program gives parents an opportunity to explore strategies which enhance co-parenting arrangements. In these sessions parents share their own experiences regarding the care of their children after separation and are given valuable tips and suggestions. Resources will include: CD with useful tips for parenting after separation; various booklets and brochures.

Information sessions are held

every **third Wednesday** of each month
from : 10.00am —12.00pm

Bookings are essential

Pre-Mediation Information Sessions

These sessions are designed to provide informative expectations of the mediation process. Participants will view a mediation in progress as well as further information to help prepare for the session itself.

We offer both **day and evening** sessions.

Children's Space

Here at the Family Relationship Centre we provide a specially designed therapy room that provides an opportunity for children to be supported when their parents have been through separation. The children's room has an arrangement of therapy toys, dolls houses, symbols for play therapy, and an interactive wall graphic.



Community Referral

Our Centre aims to provide you with the best service we can which may mean that you are referred to an appropriate service within the community. Please feel free to tell us your concerns and we will endeavor to lead you to the service that suits you best.

We have very good links within the community and will be able to advise you accordingly.

Family Dispute Resolution

Starting 1st July 2007, there were changes to the family law system. There is now a requirement for separated parents to attend a family dispute resolution session and make a genuine effort to resolve the issues in dispute, before taking a parenting matter to court. This requirement does not apply where there are orders in place, where there is family violence or child abuse.

The new changes promote three important principles:

- **Children have a right to know both parents and be protected from harm;**
- **Parenting is a responsibility that should be shared, provided this does not put the children at risk of harm;**
- **Parents and children benefit when parenting arrangements after separation are resolved outside the court system.**

If deemed suitable for mediation, separated parents with children are given the opportunity of a 3 hour **free** mediation session. All interviews leading up to mediation are also free.

Referrals for Legal Advice

The Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners at the Family Relationship Centre do not give legal advice, however separated parents can be referred to appropriate legal services if required.