

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO CAN HOLD THE ROOM.

FDRP CAREER CAMPAIGN



FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Becoming an accredited FDRP. The career and employer guide.

A practical guide to the specialist role, where FDRPs practise, what employers value and how to turn your experience into a credible accreditation pathway.

BUILT FOR

Future Family Dispute Resolution
Practitioners

FOCUS

Separated families, parenting matters,
safety and family law

PREPARED BY

Family Conflict Institute | RTO 45020

THE WORK AFTER SEPARATION

When a family cannot see a way forward, an FDRP helps create one.

This is specialist work inside Australia's family law system, built around safety, structure and professional judgement.

What is an FDRP?

An accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner helps separated families discuss parenting matters and other family disputes through a structured process. The practitioner does not take sides or decide the outcome.

THE WORK HAS THREE DISTINCT MOMENTS

01

BEFORE FDR

Assess safety and suitability

Screen for family violence, safety concerns, bargaining power, health and any factor affecting a person's ability to negotiate freely.

02

DURING FDR

Hold a fair, child-focused process

Create structure, manage participation, maintain impartiality and help parents focus on practical arrangements for their children.

03

AFTER FDR

Make the next step clearer

Help record outcomes, explain referrals and use professional judgement about section 60I certificates when legal requirements are met.

60I

STATUTORY
RESPONSIBILITY

Only accredited FDRPs can issue section 60I certificates.

The certificate may allow a person to apply to court about parenting orders when FDR has failed or was not appropriate. Trainees and general mediators cannot issue them.

Work that protects the integrity of the process

Conversations centred on children and workable arrangements

Professional decisions about suitability and safety

A recognised specialist role with real responsibility

WHERE THE WORK LIVES

One specialist profession. Five ways to practise.

FDR services are delivered through government-funded organisations, community services and private practice. Regional clients may also access FDR by telephone or online.

1

Family Relationship Centres

Frontline family law services supporting separated parents with parenting arrangements, referrals and family dispute resolution.

FRC

PARENTING

2

Legal Aid Commissions

Structured family dispute resolution connected to legal assistance, conferences and parenting matters within the family law system.

LEGAL AID

CONFERENCE

3

Community-based family law services

Not-for-profit and government-funded services combining FDR with family support, safety planning, referrals and regional access.

COMMUNITY

SAFETY

4

Private FDR practice

Independent practitioners and specialist family law businesses providing accredited FDR services directly to clients and referrers.

PRIVATE

REFERRAL

5

Online, telephone and regional FDR

Remote delivery expands access for regional and remote families and requires confident digital process management, privacy and shuttle practice.

ONLINE

REGIONAL

WHAT SERVICES AND CLIENTS ARE RELYING ON YOU TO BRING

Sound safety screening

Child-focused practice

Calm professional
judgement

Clear records and ethical
process

WHAT FDR PRACTITIONERS EARN

Meaning and earning do not have to compete.

Indicative figures from public salary trackers, not an earnings promise. Pay varies by employer, seniority, caseload and practice model.

\$85k to \$105k

typical salaried range

\$200 to \$500

private, per hour

SEARCH THE SPECIALIST WORK

Do not search for broad mediation. Search for FDR.

The formal title matters in this field. Until accreditation is approved, a person cannot provide FDR services or use the title Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner or FDRP.

SEARCH PHRASE	WHERE IT MAY APPEAR	WHAT THE WORK IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE
Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner	Family Relationship Centres, community providers, family law services	Screening, assessment, parenting FDR, shuttle practice, records and certificates.
FDRP	Specialist family services, private practices, national providers	The accredited role, often across intake, assessment and facilitated sessions.
Senior FDRP or Practice Lead	Larger agencies and multi-site family services	Complex practice, supervision, quality systems, team support and case oversight.
FDR Intake and Assessment Practitioner	Family law services and central intake teams	Suitability screening, risk assessment, referrals, preparation and case coordination.
Family Relationship Centre Practitioner	Government-funded Family Relationship Centres	Parenting support, referrals and FDR work within an integrated service model.
Private Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner	Independent practice and specialist family law businesses	Client intake, accredited FDR, referral relationships, business systems and compliance.

USE THESE TERMS TO BUILD A BETTER SEARCH

"Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner"

"FDRP"

"Family Relationship Centre"

"FDR intake"

"Parenting dispute resolution"

"Section 60I"

Search providers

Map Family Relationship Centres, Legal Aid, community family law services and accredited private practices.

Read for accreditation

Separate roles requiring current accreditation from support, intake or trainee opportunities.

Match your proof

Show evidence of safety, child focus, case records, supervised practice and calm judgement.

WHY THIS CAREER HAS WEIGHT

This is not broad mediation. It is specialist family law work.

An FDRP works where family conflict, safety, parenting decisions and the legal pathway meet. The role asks for empathy, but it also asks for boundaries, evidence, judgement and the confidence to stop a process when it is no longer appropriate.

01

Assess safety before the mediation component begins

02

Keep children's needs visible without taking sides

03

Hold a structured process when emotions are high

04

Carry responsibilities general mediators do not hold

WHAT GETS YOU SHORTLISTED

Six signals that make an aspiring FDRP credible.

Training matters, but employers and referrers are looking for evidence that you can manage safety, complexity, documentation and people under pressure.



Safety-led judgement

Family violence awareness, power imbalance, suitability assessment and the confidence to pause or end an unsafe process.



Child-focused practice

The ability to keep parenting discussions practical and focused on children's needs without becoming an advocate for either parent.



Accreditation readiness

A clear qualification route, awareness of government requirements and evidence that the accreditation process is being treated seriously.



High-conflict steadiness

Calm boundaries, process discipline, impartial communication and the ability to work with strong emotion without losing structure.



Clear, defensible records

Accurate intake notes, assessments, agreements, referrals and file records that are concise, neutral and professionally accountable.



Digital practice capability

Confident online intake, privacy settings, video FDR, separate rooms, document handling and regional client support.

BUILD HIRE-READY EVIDENCE AS YOU TRAIN

STEP 1

Learn the family law context, ethics, safety and child-focused process.

STEP 2

Practise role plays until structure remains usable under pressure.

STEP 3

Document feedback, supervised work, reflections and practice hours.

STEP 4

Position your background toward a specific FDR service or practice model.

THE CURRENT ACCREDITATION STRUCTURE

Training is essential. Accreditation is a separate government decision.

From 1 April 2025, the Attorney-General's Department recognises three key qualification and competency pathways for FDRP accreditation.

01

FIRST PATHWAY

Complete the full Graduate Diploma

Provide evidence of the complete Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution or an approved higher education equivalent.

02

SECOND PATHWAY

Core FDR units plus a relevant degree

Complete the required core competencies and hold a bachelor degree or higher in a field relevant to FDR.

03

THIRD PATHWAY

Core FDR units plus established AMDAS status

Complete the required core competencies and hold current AMDAS accreditation continuously for at least two years before applying.

CURRENT NATIONAL QUALIFICATION

CHC81115 Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution

Ten units, including six core units and four electives. The qualification reflects highly specialised work with families experiencing high conflict where clients may be involved in the family law system.

50
WORK HOURS

ACCREDITATION ALSO REQUIRES

Complaints mechanism

Access to a mechanism provided by an approved complaints body.

Professional indemnity

Insurance covering the provision of FDR services.

Safety checks

A satisfactory national police check and no prohibition on working with children.

Fit and proper person

Suitability to perform the functions and duties of an FDR practitioner.

Important: completing training does not itself make someone an accredited FDRP. Only an authorised officer of the Attorney-General's Department can grant accreditation. Until an application is successful, a person cannot provide FDR services or use the titles Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner or FDRP.

YOUR NEXT PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

You do not need to have the pathway worked out before you start.

Family Conflict Institute helps future FDRPs understand the qualification, accreditation and practice pathway before they spend time and money moving in the wrong direction.

Your entry route

Understand which current qualification pathway may apply to your background.

Your training plan

See how CHC81115, core competencies and practical experience fit together.

Your accreditation checklist

Know what sits beyond training before you apply to the Attorney-General's Department.

Your practice direction

Connect your experience to government-funded services, community work, online delivery or private practice.

Do not guess your FDRP pathway.

Book a short pathway conversation and leave with a clearer view of your entry route, training and accreditation steps.

BOOK MY FDRP PATHWAY CALL

familyconflictinstitute.com.au/contact

Primary references: Attorney-General's Department, becoming an FDRP | Section 60I guidance | FDR screening and assessment | Family Relationships Online | National Training Register, CHC81115 | Jora and Indeed, published Australian salary data.

General career information only. This guide is not legal advice, accreditation advice or a guarantee of employment or earnings. Requirements can change. Confirm current qualification, accreditation and employer requirements directly with the relevant government department, training provider or employer. Prepared by Family Conflict Institute, August 2026.