

Mensline Australia – 1300 789 978

Mensline is a national, 24-hour, seven-days a week telephone support service available at the cost of a local call. Services tailored for men and their families include family counselling, information and referral. Additional support is available through the Mensline Call-back service and via the website at www.menslineaus.org.au.

Specialised Family Violence Services

These services offer a range of specialist interventions which provide whole-of-family services to men, women and children affected by family violence. You and your family will receive tailored services to meet individual needs and receive referrals to complementary services as needed.

Family Dispute Resolution Services

These services help separating parents to agree on parenting arrangements, finances and property, while ensuring the safety of all family members and maintaining the best interests of children. These services can be an alternative to going to court. If you live in a rural or regional community, you can access Regional Family Dispute Resolution Services.

Children's Contact Services

These services help children from separated families establish or maintain a relationship with the parent they do not live with. They provide a neutral venue for safe changeovers when the transfer of children from one parent to another is difficult. These services can provide supervised care for children and their parent or other family members when there are allegations of violence or a child is being reintroduced to a parent or family member with whom they have spent little or no time.

Parenting Orders Program

These services can help you deal with and resolve disputes about arrangements for seeing your children. These services can also help if separated parents cannot make parenting orders work. A Parenting Orders Program may include seminars, education groups, counselling, dispute resolution and access to Children's Contact Services to help parents better understand and focus on their children's needs.

Post Separation Cooperative Parenting

These services are provided in regional areas to help separated parents in high conflict to understand the effect of conflict on their children, and why they need to be supportive of their children's relationship with the other parent. Service providers will offer short, intensive educational activities, counselling and other assistance. Services start in October 2008.

Supporting Children After Separation

These services help children from separating families deal with issues arising from the breakdown in their parent's relationship and to participate in decisions that impact on them. These services support children within the context of their family to manage and enhance their relationships during and after separation. Services start in November 2008.

How to find a Family Relationship Service

To find services near you, visit **Family Relationships Online** at www.familyrelationships.gov.au or call the **Family Relationship Advice Line** on **1800 050 321** 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 4pm Saturdays (except national public holidays).

More information

For more service information, pick up one of the individual family relationship service brochures outlined in this brochure from Family Relationship Centres or service outlets or download from the website www.familyrelationships.gov.au. To order the brochures please call **1800 114 393**.



Australian Government

Family Relationship Services

Building stronger, healthier family relationships



Strong family relationships can be hard to maintain and there can be times when we need help to strengthen our relationships.

There are a range of services available that help individuals, couples and families improve their relationship skills and help prevent family breakdown. Services are also available to help people during and after separation to resolve disagreements about parenting issues.

Family Relationship Services are available across Australia and include programs to assist grandparents, children, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous people, sole parents, people living in remote areas, carers, and extended or separated family members. Specialised services are also available for individuals and families in crisis.

The services briefly described in this brochure are delivered in more than 600 community outlets. Individual brochures about each service are also available.

Family Relationship Centres

The Centres are a first port of call when families want information about relationship and separation issues. If your family is experiencing separation, your local Centre can provide you with information, advice and dispute resolution to help you reach agreement on parenting arrangements without going to court. The Centres can also refer you to a range of services that can help you improve your family relationships.

Family Relationship Advice Line - 1800 050 321

The Family Relationship Advice Line is a free national telephone service that can assist if you are experiencing relationship or separation issues. The Advice Line also provides advice on parenting arrangements after separation and information about, and referral to, national and local services that can help. The service operates from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday (local time). The service is closed on national public holidays.



Family Relationships Online - www.familyrelationships.gov.au

The website provides information about family relationship issues ranging from building better relationships to dispute resolution. The site lists a range of services that can help you manage relationship issues, including agreeing on appropriate arrangements for children after parents separate. You can also search for a range of services that are available in your area.

Family Counselling

These services help couples and families to manage relationship issues arising from relationship changes, separation or divorce. You can access these services as an individual or with anyone you consider family - whether you are in an intact, separated or extended family, or if you are a carer.

Adolescent Mediation and Family Therapy

These services work with adolescents, and their families or caregivers, who are experiencing conflict or difficulties that could lead to family breakdown and/or youth homelessness. Services available to you include family counselling, family therapy, mediation services, information and referral to other services, and family support.



Family Relationship Services for Families in Special Circumstances - Family Support Drought Response Teams

These services are designed specifically for individuals and families, including small business owners, who live in drought-affected areas. Services available include crisis support, counselling, relationship education and skills training, information and referral to other services. If you live in a remote area, outreach services may also be available.

Family Relationship Education and Skills Training

These services help couples and families, including those with children, develop skills that foster positive, stable relationships with their partner or family. Educational groups or skills training courses may be broad or tailored to individual needs, such as if you are a retiree or step-parent.

Family Relationship Services for Carers

These services are available to people who care for a family member with disability and help carers and their families reach agreement on future care arrangements for their family member. Services available to you include mediation and counselling. Services are tailored to family circumstances and may be delivered in individual, couple or family settings.

Family Relationship Services for Humanitarian Entrants

These services are designed specifically for families who have entered Australia under the Humanitarian Entry Program. Services include relationship education and skills training, counselling (including family therapy), support, information and referral. The services provide you with information about Australian customs, laws and the role expectations of males and females, to help you to adjust to life in Australia.

Men and Family Relationship Services

These services provide a broad range of assistance to men and their families. The services can help you to develop and maintain strong family relationships or deal with conflict or separation. Any member of a family can use these services.