



**THE COLLEGE
OF LAW**

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTICE (FDRP)

**WORKSHOPS ARE HELD IN OUR SYDNEY,
BRISBANE, MELBOURNE AND PERTH OFFICES.**



Call **1300 506 402**



Email **fdrp@collaw.edu.au**



Visit **www.collaw.edu.au/fdrp**

HOW TO BECOME AN ACCREDITED FDRP

In order to become an accredited FDRP, you will need to satisfy six core units of competency prescribed by the Commonwealth Attorney-General. You will need to successfully complete the coursework component of the course (four core subjects) and the practicum component of the course (50 hours of supervised placement), in order to satisfy the prescribed competencies.

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FOUR SUBJECTS IN THE GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTICE

- ▶ FDRP1 Mediation*
- ▶ FDRP2 Understanding and Working with Families in Conflict
- ▶ FDRP3 Australian Family Law**
- ▶ FDRP4 Advanced Family Dispute Resolution

*Nationally Accredited Mediators are eligible for advanced standing in this subject.
**Graduates of The College of Law Master of Applied Law (Family Law) or Accredited Specialists in Family Law are eligible for advanced standing in this subject.

2

50 HOURS OF SUPERVISED PLACEMENT*

- ▶ Obtain permission from The College of Law first, by filling out a Practicum Approval Form
- ▶ Once practicum is completed, request and return the Practicum Declaration Form

*Please note that you can complete an additional subject - FDRP5 - Clinical Case Management that will cover 30 hours of the 50 hours placement. The remaining 20 hours will have to be completed externally.

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RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF COURSE COMPLETION WITH THE COLLEGE OF LAW

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APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION AS AN FDRP WITH THE COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The information provided was correct at the time of printing – November 2016. Please check our website at www.collaw.edu.au/fdrp for the most up-to-date information.



INTRODUCTION

The College of Law's Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution Practice will train you in the core competencies required by the Attorney-General to become an Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP).

WHAT IS A FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTITIONER (FDRP)?

An FDRP is an independent professional who helps people affected by separation or divorce to resolve their disputes. To become an FDRP, you must meet the requirements under the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008* and apply for accreditation with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

The Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution Practice is designed to meet the educational requirements leading to accreditation by satisfying the six core competencies prescribed under the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008*.

DELIVERY

This course is designed to be intensive enabling you to satisfy the educational requirements necessary to become an FDRP within six months.

You will need to attend a face-to-face workshop for each of the FDRP1, FDRP2 and FDRP4 subjects, plus complete online study. In addition to completing the four subjects to satisfy the educational requirements, you will also need to complete 50 hours of supervised placement before you apply for registration. Completion of the subject FDRP5 - Clinical Case Management, goes to fulfilling 30 out of the minimum requirement of 50 hours of clinical/supervised placement to satisfy the practicum rules.

SHOULD I ENROL?

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners come from a variety of backgrounds. You do not need to practise family law or even be a lawyer to enrol. While family law is covered, the focus is on the practical realities of resolving conflicts which involve families, relationship breakdowns and family violence. It is likely that each class will consist of lawyers, social workers, psychologists and people from other backgrounds, providing an opportunity to learn from diverse experiences.

To enrol, you must meet the entry requirements for the course:

- ▶ An undergraduate degree or higher qualification in Psychology, Social Work, Law, Conflict Management, Dispute Resolution, Family Law Mediation or equivalent; or
- ▶ Accreditation under the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS); or
- ▶ Mediation skill set from the Community Services Training Package (CHC).

Applicants who do not hold an appropriate qualification, may be eligible for admission to the FDRP Program on the basis of previous experience in a dispute resolution environment. Please refer to our Program Manual available on the College website for additional application requirements.



Being a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner has given me enhanced skills and a career that assists people to deal with the difficult times in their lives.

- LINDA KOCHANSKI
PRACTICE LEADER FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS,
THE COLLEGE OF LAW

LEARNING RESOURCES

WHAT LEARNING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Our online program is designed to give you the flexibility to study anywhere via a computer with internet access. We will provide you with:



EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE COURSE IN ONE PLACE

You can find all course resources on the Learning Portal. Your course materials, assessments and readings for each week are delivered from one location.



SUPPORT, FEEDBACK & GUIDANCE FROM YOUR LECTURER

Throughout the course your lecturers, will be on hand to help guide you through the material, provide you with feedback on how you are tracking and support you through the course.



PRACTICAL MATERIAL

All materials, exercises and assessments are written with a practical rather than purely theoretical focus. They are designed to help you build on and improve your skills in addressing problems in practice – not just to test your understanding of legal concepts.



TUTORIALS HELD VIA WEBINAR

Your lecturer may hold regular tutorials via webinar, which you can participate in from your desk or mobile device. This offers students a great opportunity to discuss subject content with your peers and expert lecturers and to check on your progress in the subject.



ACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

To help ensure your learning is as efficient and engaging as possible, there are regular opportunities in every subject to participate and engage in active learning activities: automated online exercises; tutorial discussions; webinars with your lecturer and the other members of your class; and through attending the compulsory face-to-face workshops.



ACCESS TO OUR EXTENSIVE ONLINE LIBRARY

As a student, you will have access to online resources, including legal databases, such as LexisNexis, Westlaw and CCH.

I first became an FDRP to complement my family law practice. I found it so rewarding that I transitioned out of legal practice to grow my own mediation practice. Being the impartial third party facilitating discussion, rather than acting for one side or another, is a very satisfying job.

- DANIELLE JAKU-GREENFIELD
MEDIATOR, LECTURER AND WRITER, SYDNEY MEDIATION PARTNERSHIP, NMAS, LEADR



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PRACTICUM, OR CLINICAL PLACEMENT?

After you complete the required coursework, you must also complete a practicum placement. The practicum must be 50 hours in total and must be supervised by a person who is an accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner under the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulation 2008*. Your practicum must occur in a workplace involved in the delivery of mediation services which should:

- ▶ Manage responses to domestic and family violence in family work
- ▶ Adhere to ethical standards in family dispute resolution
- ▶ Support the safety of vulnerable parties in dispute resolution
- ▶ Work with a child-focused approach
- ▶ Operate in a family law environment
- ▶ Facilitate dispute resolution in the family law context

You can complete FDRP5 - Clinical Case Management which will cover 30 hours of the required practicum.

HOW DO I ORGANISE IT?

The College of Law does not organise the placement; therefore, we suggest that you start looking for a placement as soon as you enrol in the course. However, be mindful that you cannot start your placement until all of the coursework requirements are completed. You may want to approach local Family Relationship Centres seeking the 50 hours placement or 20 hours placement if you will be completing FDRP5 - Clinical Case Management subject. You can also check the Attorney-General's website (www.ag.gov.au) for a list of registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners and Family Relationship Centres.

Your placement supervisor will need to ensure that they supervise your delivery of the mediation services in accordance with the six compulsory units of competency.

WHAT FORMS DO I NEED?

You will need the following forms (located on the Learning Portal) in order to complete your practicum, apply for graduation and apply to become an accredited FDRP:

- Practicum Approval Form obtained and approved by the College
- Suggested form of compact
- Practicum Declaration Form
- Application to graduate
- Application for Accreditation as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department

SUBJECTS

FDRP1 MEDIATION

The first subject focuses on the foundational skills of a mediator. The three-day workshop is practical and applied, giving you the opportunity to practise mediation skills through role play. This subject satisfies the requirements for a mediation course under the National Mediator Accreditation System. Additional assessment is required to become a Nationally Accredited Mediator.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ The dispute resolution spectrum
- ▶ Conciliation and arbitration
- ▶ Mediation
- ▶ Communication skills
- ▶ Conducting a mediation

Assessment: Research paper on FDR models, role plays, reflective journal.

Nationally Accredited Mediators are eligible for advanced standing in this subject.

FDRP1 IMPORTANT DATES:

Intake 1 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 16 January 2017
- Census Date: 27 January 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 1-3 February 2017
- End Date: 18 February 2017

Intake 1 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 23 January 2017
- Census Date: 2 February 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 8-10 February 2017
- End Date: 25 February 2017

Intake 2 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 10 July 2017
- Census Date: 20 July 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 26-28 July 2017
- End Date: 12 August 2017

Intake 2 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 17 July 2017
- Census Date: 27 July 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 2-4 August 2017
- End Date: 19 August 2017

FDRP3 AUSTRALIAN FAMILY LAW

This subject offers a thorough understanding of the family law framework. It is an important first stage subject to give context to the introduction of mediation within the family law environment. You will learn about the family law framework, relevant legislation and case studies for both property and parenting, and some drafting techniques. This is especially important for non-lawyer students and any students who have not practised already in family law.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Overview of Australian family law system
- ▶ Legal definitions
- ▶ What is “the best interests of the child”?
- ▶ Understanding risk and child protection
- ▶ Parenting plans and parenting orders
- ▶ Introduction to property matters
- ▶ The 4 step process in property matters
- ▶ Introduction to child support

Assessment: Drafting a parental plan and enforceable orders, prepare information for property mediation, case studies applying the legislative framework and advising on process.

Graduates of The College of Law Master of Applied Law (Family Law) or Accredited Specialists in Family Law are eligible for advanced standing in this subject.

FDRP3 IMPORTANT DATES:

Intake 1 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 27 March 2017
- Census Date: 6 April 2017
- Note there is no face-to-face workshop for this subject
- End Date: 29 April 2017

Intake 1 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 3 April 2017
- Census Date: 13 April 2017
- Note there is no face-to-face workshop for this subject
- End Date: 6 May 2017

Intake 2 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 18 September 2017
- Census Date: 28 September 2017
- Note there is no face-to-face workshop for this subject
- End Date: 21 October 2017

Intake 2 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 25 September 2017
- Census Date: 5 October 2017
- Note there is no face-to-face workshop for this subject
- End Date: 28 October 2017

FDRP2 UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITH FAMILIES IN CONFLICT

An understanding of families involves an introduction to the meaning and purpose of the family system, and how the family is impacted through separation.

This unit introduces you to the nuances of working with conflicted families. We will focus on understanding how family groups function and how they are affected by conflict. In particular, we will explore how children exposed to parental conflict can be impacted.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Understanding families
- ▶ Impacts of separation on family members
- ▶ Family structures post-separation
- ▶ Individual conflict modes
- ▶ Children’s needs
- ▶ Social science research: best interests of the child and post-separation parenting arrangements

Assessment: Analysis of a case study, role plays, reflective journals, conducting a family mediation.

FDRP2 IMPORTANT DATES:

Intake 1 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 20 February 2017
- Census Date: 2 March 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 8-10 March 2017
- End Date: 25 March 2017

Intake 1 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 27 February 2017
- Census Date: 9 March 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 15-17 March 2017
- End Date: 1 April 2017

Intake 2 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 14 August 2017
- Census Date: 24 August 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 30 August – 1 September 2017
- End Date: 16 September 2017

Intake 2 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 21 August 2017
- Census Date: 31 August 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 6-8 September 2017
- End Date: 23 September 2017

FDRP4 ADVANCED FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This unit introduces you to the challenges of working with conflicted families where high complexity is present, such as drug and alcohol issues, mental health issues, or family and domestic violence.

The focus of this unit is on understanding the complexities of vulnerability, with particular focus on the management of domestic and family violence in family dispute resolution processes. Understanding the nuances of power and control, followed by strategies for the management of such cases will be outlined and practised through role play.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Ethical practice in FDR
- ▶ Dimensions of family violence
- ▶ Beliefs and theories of family violence
- ▶ Issues of power and culture
- ▶ Determining risk of violence
- ▶ Communicating with vulnerable parties and users of violence
- ▶ Child inclusive mediation
- ▶ Conducting conciliation conferences and private mediations

Assessment: Power imbalances, screening, risk assessment and safety plan, conducting a family law mediation, completion reflective journal.

FDRP4 IMPORTANT DATES:

Intake 1 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 1 May 2017
- Census Date: 11 May 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 17-19 May 2017
- End Date: 3 June 2017

Intake 1 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 8 May 2017
- Census Date: 18 May 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 24-26 May 2017
- End Date: 10 June 2017

Intake 2 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 23 October 2017
- Census Date: 2 November 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 8-10 November 2017
- End Date: 25 November 2017

Intake 2 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 30 October 2017
- Census Date: 9 November 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 15-17 November 2017
- End Date: 2 December 2017

PRACTICUM

You may complete the 50 hours of the FDRP practicum component by:

- (i) completion of the full 50 hours of approved practicum; or
- (ii) completion of the FDRP5 – Clinical Case Management subject plus 20 hours of approved practicum.

FDRP5 CLINICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

In this subject, you will have the opportunity to manage family dispute resolution cases within a simulated workplace experience.

You will have carriage of four matters of varying levels of complexity that you will manage from intake through assessment, education and referral, culminating in you conducting a mediation.

You will be introduced to reflective practice and supervision through a series of webinars.

Assessment is practical and includes developing the skills FDRPs will require when working with parties.

In the three day workshop, you will act as mediators conducting mediations dealing with complex issues in a variety of structures. The cases dealt with, will be the matters that the you have managed over the course's 12 weeks.

Upon successful completion of this subject, you will have completed 30 hours of the clinical placement component of the FDRP practicum requirements.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Intake of parties: structure and process
- ▶ Assessment of matter
- ▶ Information and referral for the parties
- ▶ Preparing for mediation: structure and process
- ▶ Conducting the mediation
- ▶ Reflective practice as a mediator

Assessment: Preparing intake and pre mediation material, conducting mediation simulations and reflecting on workshop experience.

FDRP5 IMPORTANT DATES:

Intake 1 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 3 April 2017
- Census Date: 20 April 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 21-23 June 2017
- End Date: 24 June 2017

Intake 1 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 10 April 2017
- Census Date: 27 April 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 28-30 June 2017
- End Date: 1 July 2017

Intake 2 (Queensland and Western Australia)

- Start Date: 25 September 2017
- Census Date: 12 October 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 6-8 December 2017
- End Date: 9 December 2017

Intake 2 (Victoria and New South Wales)

- Start Date: 2 October 2017
- Census Date: 19 October 2017
- Face-to-face workshop date: 13-15 December 2017
- End Date: 16 December 2017

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

ENROLMENT DATE

Applications must be received by the Monday before the intake starts. Late applications can be accepted but there may be a short delay providing access to the Learning Portal.

APPLICATIONS AND ENROLMENTS

Enrol online today at www.collaw.edu.au/fdrp. You will need to upload coloured, certified copies of the following:

- ▶ An undergraduate degree or higher qualification in Psychology, Social Work, Law, Conflict Management, Dispute Resolution, Family Law Mediation or equivalent; or
 - Accreditation under the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS); or
 - Mediation skill set from the Community Services Training Package (CHC)
- ▶ Proof of name change (if applicable).

SUBJECT FEES

The 2017 subject fee is: \$3,090 (GST exempt). The College's fees are reviewed annually and may be varied during your period of study.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Fees must be paid in full before the start of each subject. Payment may be made by cheque, EFT or credit card.

Australian citizens and holders of permanent humanitarian visas may elect to defer their tuition fee payment through the Commonwealth Government's FEE-HELP scheme.

If you elect to pay with FEE-HELP, you must complete FEE-HELP Assistance Form at the time of enrolment.

The FEE-HELP information booklet is available from the Client Services Team on [1300 506 402](tel:1300506402) or email: fdrp@collaw.edu.au

WITHDRAWALS

If you enrol and become aware of a circumstance which will prevent you from completing the semester, you may withdraw before the Census Date. Please see census dates for each subject in the subject information under 'Important Dates', above.

Notice of withdrawal in writing must be received by the College on or prior to the Census Date. Refunds will not be made after the Census Date, other than in exceptional circumstances and at the College's discretion. Where a refund is made, a \$200 administration charge will apply.

If you have applied for FEE-HELP assistance, you may withdraw from the Program on or prior to the Census Date without incurring a Commonwealth debt. The College will charge an administration fee of \$200. After the Census Date, you become liable to repay the tuition fee via the tax system. (See the FEE-HELP information booklet or visit www.studyassist.gov.au).

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please contact the Client Services Team on [1300 506 402](tel:1300506402) or email: fdrp@collaw.edu.au

For assistance enrolling, contact Renata on [02 9965 7191](tel:0299657191).