

This survey is intended for practitioners of Commonwealth-funded post separation services. The results of this survey will inform FRSA's submission to the Family Law Council's current focus of inquiry looking at opportunities for enhancing collaboration and information sharing within the family law system, as well as with related service delivery networks outside it. Your feedback is therefore important. Please note that the information you provide will be summarised in a non-identifiable way. The Family Law Council's terms of reference are accessible at:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/FamilyLawCouncil/Pages/FamilyLawCounciltermsofreference.aspx>.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes. It would be appreciated if you could submit your response by Wednesday 16 September 2015. If you wish to discuss any aspect, please call Rose Beynon on 02 6162 1811.

* 1. Please identify the main service type that you deliver

- Family Dispute Resolution
- Children's Contact Services
- Family & Relationship Counselling
- Post separation parenting programs
- Legal advice
- Other

* 2. Please indicate your main location of service

- Metropolitan
- Regional
- Rural
- Remote

* 3. Please identify your main role within your organisation

- Registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner
- Family and Relationship Counsellor
- Child therapist
- Child workers/Children's contact service
- Lawyer
- Educator
- CEO

If CEO, please outline the staffing profile of your organisation

4. Thinking of your annual caseload and separating families assisted in that time, please indicate the main court involved

- Family Court
- Family Court of WA
- Federal Circuit Court
- Magistrates' Court
- Children's Court
- Not applicable

* 5. What information do you need, from the courts and child protection, to help you do a good job when assisting separating parents?

- Information from child protection
- Court orders
- Expert reports
- Reports by Independent Children's Lawyer
- Reports by the court's Family Consultant
- Outcome of referrals to other agencies (mental health, drug&alcohol etc)

Other (please specify)

* 6. What information do you need, from other agencies, to help you do a good job when assisting separating parents?

- Drug & Alcohol Services
- Mental Health Services
- Family & Domestic Violence Services
- Schools/school Counsellors
- Community Health Centre Services
- Other

If Other (please specify)

* 7. What information do you hold that you think would assist the courts with their decision-making processes?

* 8. For families with complex needs, what could be done to improve the information exchange between the courts and service providers in a way that maintains the integrity of therapeutic service provision?

* 9. Please identify the barriers that impede information exchange between the courts, families and children's services and child protection agencies. What do you think could be done to address these barriers?

* 10. in your view, what aspects of the assistance you provide (such as intake/assessment, case file notes) need to be treated as confidential? Why?

* 11. Do you think the confidentiality and admissibility provisions in the Family Law Act should be repealed?

Yes

No

Please explain why and include information on the likely impact on your work

* 12. Do you think the confidentiality and admissibility provisions in the Family Law Act could be amended to improve information sharing across the family law system?

Yes

No

Please explain why and include information on the likely impact on your work

13. Thinking of your annual caseload, how often are you required to provide information about your clients to the courts on a family law or related matter?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Not applicable

If more than never, please describe the information provided

* 14. Thinking of your annual caseload where you have provided information to the courts, please rank (1-5) the sources of request for this information (where 1 is the most common source)

<input type="text"/>	Legal system (private and publicly funded legal services)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="text"/>	Court appointed experts (requests from external expert report writer, ICL)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="text"/>	Court-ordered requests for information from your service	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="text"/>	Self represented litigant	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

* 15. Thinking of your annual caseload, how much involvement do you have with Independent Children's Lawyers

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Not applicable

If more than never, please describe your working relationship and what changes, if any, you would like to see.

16. Thinking of your annual caseload, how much involvement do you have with the courts' family consultants?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Not applicable

If more than never, please describe your working relationship and what changes, if any, you would like to see.

* 17. Thinking of your annual caseload, how often have you or your organisation been subpoenaed

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Not Applicable

If more than never, please describe the resources involved and outcome

18. Thinking about your annual caseload, please indicate the frequency of referral pathways to your agency during that time:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	N/A
Referrals from courts (family consultants, court order etc)	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals from child protection	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals from Cw/with-funded legal services (legal aid, CLCs)	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals from private lawyers	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals from other community-based services (drug&alcohol, mental health)	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals from family & domestic violence services	<input type="radio"/>					
Self referrals	<input type="radio"/>					

Other (please specify)

19. Thinking about your annual caseload, please indicate the frequency of the following referral pathways from your agency during that time:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	N/A
Referrals to courts (family consultants, court order etc)	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to child protection	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to legal aid	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to community legal centres	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to private lawyers	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to other community-based services (drug&alcohol, mental health)	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to family & domestic violence services	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to health professionals	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to other in-house services	<input type="radio"/>					
Referrals to other family relationship services	<input type="radio"/>					

Other (please specify)

* 20. Thinking about your annual caseload and parenting plans you may have drafted, please rate frequency of the following outcomes

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know	N/A
Plans formalised as consent orders	<input type="radio"/>						
Plans referred to as evidence in interim or final orders	<input type="radio"/>						
Plans taken into account in contravention proceedings	<input type="radio"/>						
Plans used to override earlier interim or final parenting orders	<input type="radio"/>						

Please indicate if you think parenting plans should be used in other ways

* 21. Do you think s60I certificates should provide more information on the outcome of the FDR process?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If yes, please outline what sort of information should be included. If no, please outline why.

* 22. Do you provide expert reports to the courts?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If yes, please describe what you think is needed to do a good job

* 23. What risk assessment tool/s do you use when assisting clients?

* 24. Do you think a common risk assessment tool should be used across both the family law system and wider community and court sectors

Yes

No

Please outline your reasons why

* 25. Please outline what services are needed to support families and children who use the family law system where child safety concerns are identified? In responding, please indicate what additional resources, if any, are required.

26. Do you think there is a need to improve the co-ordination of cases across the family law system?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate where you think case-coordinators should be based and why

* 27. Please outline examples of where an integrated service response for addressing complex cases is working well.

Thank you for your time.