



## Clark & Associates Mediation Services

*Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice*

*Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims*

### **Child-Focussed Family Dispute Resolution Service**

Clark & Associates Mediation Services offer child-focussed family dispute resolution services in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

Our process has been designed to allow parents to hear, and meaningfully consider, their child/children's experiences of separation and relationship in a highly supportive, resolution focused environment.

Our highly trained Child Expert Consultants works with our skilled and Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners to deliver valuable and transformative support to families experiencing separation.

### **Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners**

**Kate** is the Legal Director of Clark & Associates and holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology), Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. Prior to holding accreditation as a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Kate practised as a solicitor in family and criminal law.

**Linda** holds a Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and a Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher). She is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

**Lily** is a barrister-at-law and is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

### **Child Expert Consultants**

**Sophie** is a Clinical Psychologist, Family Report Writer, Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and Triple P provider. She holds a Master of Psychology (Clinical) and Postgraduate Diploma of Professional Psychology. She has a lengthy background in family separation work.

**Hollie** is a Registered Psychologist, Family Report Writer and Registered Teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology Honours), Bachelor of Communications and Graduate Diploma of Education. She has a lengthy background in child-focused settings.

**Laura** is a Family Consultant, Report Writer and Social Worker. She holds a Master of Social Work and has over 16 years' experience working as a Social Scientist with children, young people and families.



## Clark & Associates Mediation Services

*Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice*

*Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims*

### **The process explained**

- Step 1: Referral of matter to Clark & Associates Mediation Services.
- Step 2: Each parent participates in individual, confidential intake sessions with the Mediator.
- Step 3: Information package and child expert forms provided to each parent.
- Step 4: Each parent participates in a further intake session with the Child Expert.
- Step 5: It may be possible for play-therapy-style observations of each child to be made with each parent by the Child Expert.
- Step 6: The Mediator, Child Expert and both parents attend mediation. Children do not attend the mediation itself.
- Step 7: The Mediator facilitates the mediation and consistently invites the parents to consider and focus on the best interests of their child/ren having regard to the views of the child/ren and their developmental needs.

The Child Expert provides information about developmental theory and the needs of children based on their developmental age.

### **In summary the process:**

- Facilitates the involvement of children in dispute resolution via assessment of their experiences;
- Allows core themes from assessment to be incorporated into negotiations;
- Introduces current and intimate material into the dispute resolution process;
- Considers the developmental needs of children in any agreement reached.

### **Our Fees**

For current up to date information in relation to our fees, please visit our website.

Our fees for child-focussed mediations cover the services provided by both the Mediator and Child Expert.

As at January 2024 they are as follows:

- Full-Day (8 hour) child-focused mediation: \$7,260 (inclusive of GST);
- If further time is required on the day: \$484 per hour (inclusive of GST);
- Room hire (at cost), Buderim Rooms are without cost.



## Clark & Associates Mediation Services

*Family Dispute Resolution | Property Settlement | Restorative Justice*

*Care Complaints | Commercial | Workplace | Neighbour | Small Claims*

### **Why would parents consider these options?**

Research has shown that child-focussed interventions in Family Dispute Resolution Mediation can result in the following immediate effects:

- Children report positive outcomes for the family;
- Children's emotional responses improve;
- Reduction in conflict;
- Parents report improvement in dispute management;
- Parents are more satisfied with the arrangements agreed on;
- Agreements were more durable and workable.