Child Informed Mediation

Helen M Hunt: Children’s Counsellor
Our Practice

Our house of services is a supportive place for individuals, couples, families and children.

FMC Mediation and Counselling Victoria

FMC Mediation and Counselling is partially funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit www.dss.gov.au for more information.
FMC established in 1983

Receives majority of funding from Commonwealth Government

Provides services across 18 locations in Victoria

6,200 clients per annum

Services provided:

- Relationship Counselling
- Individual, Children and Young People’s Counselling
- Family Dispute Resolution
- Legally assisted FDR
- Family Mental Health Support
- Bulk billed psychological services
- Financial Counselling & Financial Capability development
- Parenting after Separation groups
- Training services
Less Waiting…. Better Outcomes

For direct or warm referrals
or for a secondary consultation
call 1800 639 523
The aim and focus of CIM

AIM – for parents to hear their children

FOCUS – creating a safe space for their child to say what they need from their parents
The Parents
Getting the parent on board
The easiest way to wound a parent terminally is to be critical of their parenting

Face to face or phone intakes – building rapport

Checking what they want

Safety
FOCUS

Ensuring the voice of the child is heard in mediation
The voices of children…
The voices of children…
The voices of children…
The voices of children…
The voices of children…
The voices of children...
The voices of children…
Introducing the star of the show
Children are the stars

- Decisions are made by the parents
- Finding out what it is like to be them at the moment
- Be genuine
- Be curious
What to watch for

Challenge

- Power imbalance too great
- Parent only interested in financial gain
- Long term Litigants

* There is no goodwill
The role of the mediators
The Process
Bringing it all together

The referral

Parent Intake

Child Consult

Parent Intake

CHILD FEEDBACK
The Tool Box
4 young children, dad left for another relationship

8 yr old daughter – to mum
“I don’t like it when you shout at dad. Could you be quieter please?”
Death in family led finally to separation:

14 yr old son – feedback to both
“Thankyou for giving me more opportunities and allowing me to continue being who I am and letting my normal life go on. However, I want you both to understand that this has changed everything”
A few child messages

“Alcoholic dad in remission, mum re-married

17 yr old son – to dad

“I want you to get your life back on track and I don’t want to disrupt my stable life for you. It will take time”.
Case Study

Divorced 10 yrs

Marcia (mum) remarried to David

Dan (dad) divorced 3 times – recovering alcoholic

Sienna – 12 yrs

Alex - 17 yrs
This is powerful work that creates long-lasting change in families

and you can do this
Smile
Happy
Goodbye