

Who are the CIP Child Consultants?

CRS engages the professional services of Marymead to provide CIP to its clients.

Marymead has a panel of appropriately qualified, trained and experienced CIP Child Consultants to work with you and your child.

All CRS and Marymead Child Consultants have undergone Police Checks which are required under the Family Law Act.

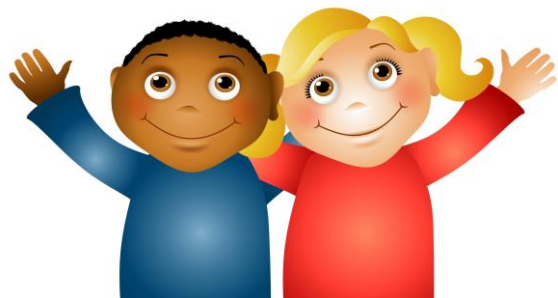
What does it cost?

CIP Component

Marymead charges a fee for CIP. Please contact Marymead for further information about CIP fees. Marymead can be contacted by phone on (02) 6162 5829 or email arck@marymead.org.au

Mediation Component

CRS charges fees for mediation based on a sliding scale income level, based on individual income. Low income earners may be charged nothing! If there is a fee included, you will only pay for the time spent in the actual joint session part of the mediation. Any time you spend with CRS before (ie interviews, conflict coaching etc) is free of charge.



About the Conflict Resolution Service

The Conflict Resolution Service is a not-for-profit community organisation, which provides services to the ACT community to prevent, manage and resolve disputes. CRS is the largest diverse provider of dispute resolution services to the ACT community, since 1988

This Service receives funding through the ACT Government Community Services Program.

About Marymead

Marymead is a well-respected, community based not-for-profit organisation that has been providing a range of high quality, innovative support services to Canberra's children, young people and their families since 1967 and is now delivering a range of programs throughout the ACT and regional NSW.

Contact Details

Conflict Resolution Service
Level 2 & 3, Griffin Centre
20 Genge Street, Canberra City ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6162 4050

Email: mediation@crs.org.au



Child Inclusive Practice

Helping you build a secure parenting base for your children after your separation!



Partnering to Build Stronger Families



marymead
children • families • community

Ph: 6162 4050 or www.crs.org.au

What is Child Inclusive Practice (CIP)?

Child Inclusive Practice (CIP) is a way for you as parents to learn more about how your child is experiencing your separation. CIP is available to parents with children aged 5 years and older.

CIP allows your child a safe space to be able to express what they would like their family (post-separation) to 'feel' like in future.

Children can sometimes feel that when their parents separate it is the end of their family.

CIP gives a voice to your child's concerns so that you can make decisions to ensure their sense of family still exists...it might just look a little different.

What happens during the session between the Child Consultant and your child?

The Child Consultant will ensure that your child's welfare and wellbeing is the primary concern during all interactions.

The Child Consultant will use a variety of techniques to encourage your child to open up about how they are feeling about themselves, their parents, their family and the future.

These age appropriate techniques might include toys, pictures, emotion cards, word association, games etc...all of which are used age appropriately according to what works best for your child.

Your child will not be asked questions like 'where do you want to live?' or 'which parent do you like better?'

Do you learn what your child has expressed during their sessions?

Yes. During your child's interview, the Child Consultant will negotiate with your child what they feel comfortable being taken back to you as parents. This may simply be about agreeing how something could be expressed or perhaps that the child would only like one parent to know something specific to their parent/child relationship.

It is critically important that your child does not feel pressured during this process. Sometimes children feel that they don't want their parents to 'get into trouble' or 'hurt their feelings' by something which the child has expressed; so CRS and Marymead places a priority on ensuring that your child is part of the decision-making process of what their parents are told.

What the CIP process is NOT about...

Children can feel like they are to blame when their parents separate, perhaps thinking 'Mum and Dad wouldn't be arguing if it wasn't for me!'

CIP is not about asking your child where they want to live or the practical aspects of the parenting, which can add additional burden to the child.

Children are loyal to both parents and so CRS and Marymead will not do anything which undermines or questions their loyalty and love of both parents.

CIP is not suitable for all families. CRS will work in consultation with both parents and Marymead to ensure that families who would gain the most out of CIP have access to the program.

What steps are involved?

- 1. Starting the Process:** Once both parents have agreed that they would like to utilise CRS's CIP program (after interview at CRS), CRS will pass some general information about your child/ren and the current situation to Marymead. CRS will arrange for a Marymead Child Consultant to get in contact with each parent to start the process.
- 2. Initial Contact:** Marymead's Child Consultant will make contact with each parent to talk more about the content and process of CIP, negotiate suitable times to meet with each of the children and also make a time to give each parent feedback after the child/ren's individual sessions.
- 3. Sessions with your children:** The Child Consultant will meet with each child at Marymead to obtain insight into how your child is experiencing the current situation and what they would like for the future.
- 4. Feedback session for parents:** Once the Child Consultant has met with your child/ren they will meet with the parents, either together or individually, at Marymead. The Child Consultant will talk through the child's feedback and assist the parents to understand the significance of what their child has expressed.
- 5. Feedback to Mediators:** The Child Consultant will make contact with the mediators prior to your mediation to discuss relevant information that will be useful for your mediation.
- 6. Mediation:** Ideally the mediation between the parents should then occur within 1 – 2 weeks of the feedback to ensure that what your child has expressed remains fresh in everyone's mind. The mediation will occur at CRS's offices.

