



CHILD INCLUSIVE SESSIONS

Separation can be a difficult time. Often there is ongoing conflict and arguments, which is of course exhausting and frustrating, and also may make it a very difficult experience to co – parent. The purpose of Child Inclusive sessions is to explore the current situation and the impact on the children, with a particular view of supporting the mediation process to enable you as parents to be able to reach workable and positive agreements which will ultimately benefit you and your children.

This process involves 3 stages, and is recommended in situations where there is continuing animosity, arguments or conflict between parents:

Stage 1: A meeting between the Child Consultant and each parent individually. This meeting takes approximately an hour and a half and is designed to start exploring the current situation (what is working and what is not working), and also to prepare the Child Consultant for the meeting with your child/ children by discussing how you think they are going with all the changes.

Stage 2: Child Consultant meets with the child/ children for approximately an hour each. This session will consist of various activities including drawing, playing, storytelling etc. It is done in a fun, creative and supportive manner where children feel at ease to share some of their experiences of the separation and their current situation.

Stage 3: Feedback from the Child Consultant to the parents. This is usually provided to parents immediately prior to the mediation session, preferably with the mediator present. The purpose of this feedback is to let you know what your children have said about how things are for them, and the Child Consultant will be able to talk about what the children's needs may be now and in the future.

Feedback from children who have participated in this process have been overwhelmingly positive. They have enjoyed their time with the Child Consultant (at times to their own surprise), and have clearly felt valued and appreciative of the fact that their parents have deemed it important to hear what they had to say.

A young teenager who wasn't sure about the process initially left her session saying "*I did not realise how much I needed to talk to someone*" – That in a snapshot is why I do this work, and love doing it.

COST:

The Child Inclusive Package costs \$350 per parent (\$700 in total). This package involves the Child Consultant interviewing one child. An additional \$50 per parent (\$100 in total) will be charged for every additional child.

In the event that you would like the Child Consultant to remain present for the entire mediation session, there will be an additional fee of \$25 per parent (\$50 in total) for each additional hour. (After the first 2 hours of feedback)

Payment is due prior to your individual meeting with the Child Consultant.

HOW TO BOOK:

- Both parents need to be willing to participate in the Child Inclusive Sessions.
- Mediator can refer to Child Consultant or parents may contact Elmarie directly on 0423 430 873 or at elmarie@mytwoworlds.org.

LOCATION: The West Perth Office, 8/9 Clive Street, West Perth

WHO IS THE CHILD CONSULTANT?

Elmarie Richardson - a qualified Social Worker since 1993.

I have over 20 years' experience working with children and their families, often in very challenging and complex situations. I have had the privilege of adding to my life experience by living and working in different countries (South Africa, the United Kingdom and now Australia). Since arriving in Australia in 2012 I have completed my training as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, and have been working in this field since then. I have also had the honour of being exposed to two leading experts in the area of Child Consultancy, namely Bill Hewlett and Professor Jenn McIntosh. I have been acting in the role as Child Consultant since 2014.

Thank you for considering inviting me into your and your child/ children's experience.