



Child Consultation Service

We recognise that parental separation can bring uncertainty and confusion for children. To help navigate this process and ensure all family members can have their voice heard, International Social Service Australia (ISS) offers a Child Consultation Service.

A child consultation involves a trained specialist meeting with your child or children to gain insight and explore the child's experiences, worries, hopes, needs and concerns regarding their parents' separation in a safe and confidential environment.

Our Child Consultation service can help...

families



around



the world

What is the Child Inclusive Practice program?

International Social Service Australia (ISS) offers Child Inclusive Practice (CIP) in situations where a Family Mediator assesses CIP to be suitable in the context of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR). With the consent of parents, a trained Child Consultant meets with the child, in-person or virtually for a child consultation to gain an understanding of their thoughts, feelings and experiences regarding their parents' separation. Following the session, the Child Consultant meets with both parents and their Family Mediator to discuss the child's experiences and needs at that point in time.

Why do we offer child consultations?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) states in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration (Article 3). The CROC outlines that in situations where a child is capable of forming their own views, the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them is to be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. The CROC states that a child should be provided with the opportunity to be heard in any proceeding affecting them (Article 12).

Child consultations offer children and families:

- The right to voice their opinion
- Have their personal experience validated
- Be heard in any decision making process that may impact their lives and wellbeing

What happens in the session?

- A trained Child Consultant meets with your child in a private session for 1-1.5 hours, either face-to-face or via video conference.
- The child/children engage in interactive and developmentally targeted activities that support them to express their experiences, feelings and views around their parents' separation.

Our Child Consultation Service can be used alongside other ISS Australia services. Contact our team to discuss the specifics around your situation.



Our team are experienced in cross cultural and international family dispute resolution. All ISS Mediators are qualified and accredited by the Commonwealth Government. In addition to their Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) qualification, our mediators are also qualified Social Workers.

Supporting children • **connecting** families • across the **world**