

Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel Practice Standards

A practitioner appointed to the Family Dispute Resolution Chairperson Panel must—

- (1) be familiar with the Legal Services Commission criteria under which legal assistance may be granted;
- (2) be familiar with the Best Practice Guidelines for lawyers doing family law work prepared by the Family Law Council and Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia;
- (3) at least once in each year undertake a session of training aimed specifically at the practice of chairing family dispute resolution conferences;
- (4) regularly attend meetings of chairpersons held by the Legal Services Commission;
- (5) be familiar with the National Guidelines for Independent Children’s Lawyers and understand the role of an Independent Children’s Lawyer in a family law matter;
- (6) report to the Legal Services Commission in a timely manner whenever a specific report is requested;
- (7) inform the Legal Services Commission of any issues, developments or practice matters arising from a conference which may have significance for the Commission’s family dispute resolution conferencing program;
- (8) on receiving a case—
 - a) read all the materials provided by the Commission and ensure that all relevant copies of documents and court orders have been provided by the parties to enable the conference to proceed;
 - b) consider whether there are any factors that would render it inappropriate to convene the conference; and

- c) ensure that the parties and solicitors are aware of all Commission facilities especially in relation to security and emergency procedures;
- (9) on concluding a conference ensure that the appropriate report is forwarded to the Legal Services Commission in a timely manner.