

our kids

**TO FIND OUT MORE**

**about how our services can assist you please contact us:**

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**SERVICES FOR SEPARATED FAMILIES  
AND THEIR CHILDREN**



**CENTACARE**  
Catholic Family Services



## OUR KIDS – PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM

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Helps families throughout the separation phase to minimise conflict and better manage parenting and contact arrangements for the best interests of their children.

The program is both child focused and child inclusive, which provides opportunities for children to have a voice and for us to respectfully communicate their wishes to their parents/guardians. We seek to recognise and build on families' strengths.

## WHO CAN USE THE SERVICES?

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Children, parents, and family members who have parenting orders from the Family Court or Federal Magistrates Court.

Families whom are in conflict regarding parenting arrangements.

Families in the northern and western regions of the Melbourne metropolitan area.

## THE OUR KIDS PROGRAM OFFERS

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### Groups

The 'Smart Moves' Separated Parenting program is a nine session course that supports and assists separated/divorced parents/guardians to understand their children's needs and enhances their communication, problem solving, conflict management and parenting skills.

**Seasons™** is a peer support group for children who have experienced grief through separation or divorce.

Future groups will be devised to meet service users' needs. Anger management, separated fathering, Indigenous Australian, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, children and guardian school-based and information groups are future possibilities.

### Counselling

Gives families the opportunity to discuss their needs, concerns, and difficulties, and to explore alternatives in order to assist them to make better decisions regarding parenting arrangements. Counselling is provided to adults and children within the program. Information from child counselling may be used in counselling sessions with parents/guardians, however only with the child's consent.

### Dispute Resolution

Can assist separated families to negotiate agreements in the form of Consent Orders. These can entail details about the ongoing care of children, including living arrangements, contact with non residential parents and others, and the sharing of parental responsibilities.

### Referrals/Linkages

To other services that are equipped to assist during the separation phase.