

Step Family Separation

How many people here live within a stepfamily unit?



Of those in stepfamilies, in what ways do you worry about possible separation?

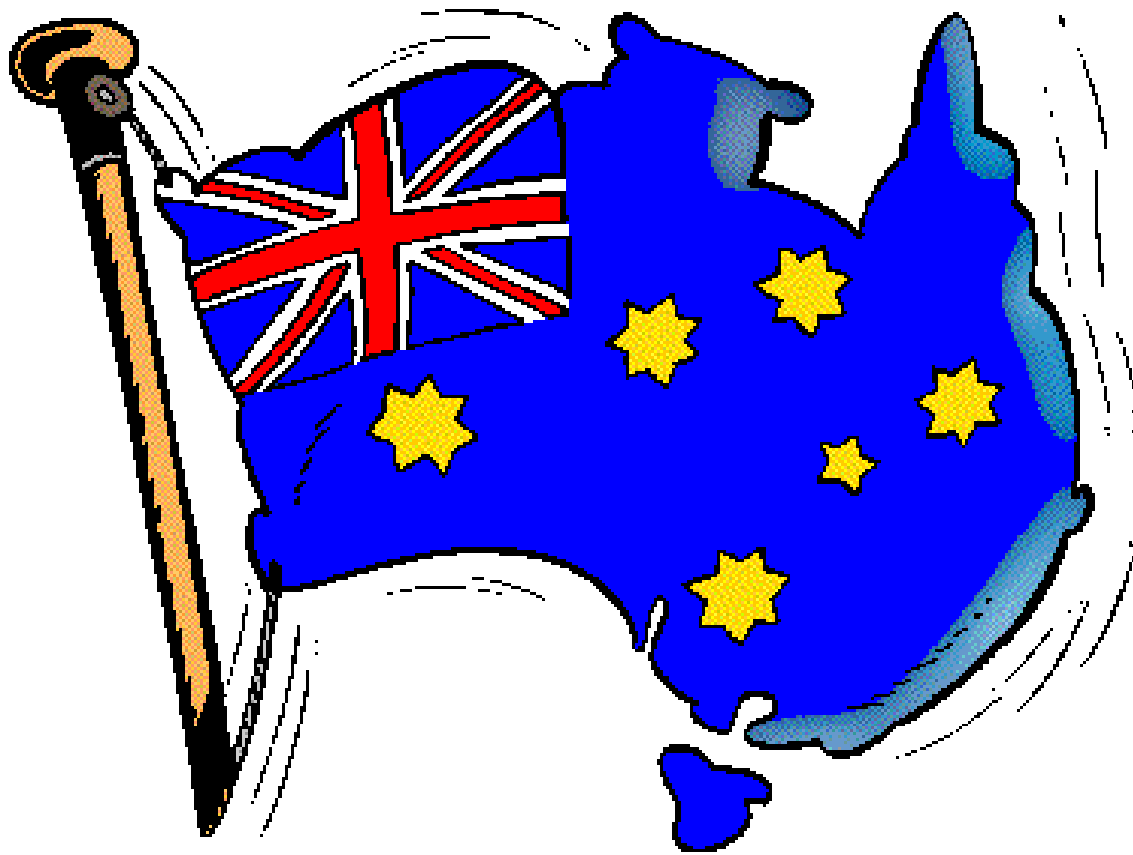
Step Family Separation



- **A single framework of practise doesn't fit the human dynamics**
- **Dispute Resolution overwhelmingly brings out the worst in human behaviours**
- **Stepparents are discounted in the Dispute Resolution Process between 'natural' parents**
- **Despite the bond, the stepchild/parent dyad is not valued in Family Law post separation with the biological parent**

Cassandra Dowling - Centacare Tasmania





- 1 in 5 families are stepfamilies
- 60% of stepfamilies will separate
- Resources are plentiful for forming stepfamilies
- Resources are plentiful for separating natural families
- Resources are virtually non-existent for separating stepfamilies

Stepfamily Separation

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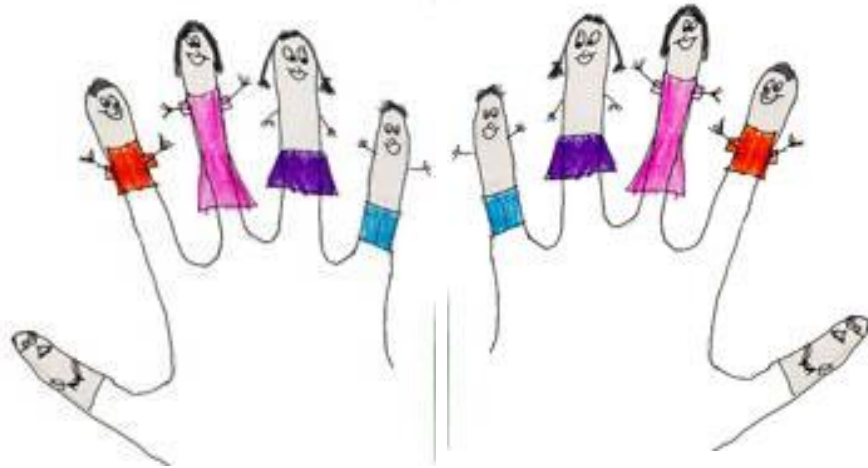
A big step behind the bio-parent; 'The REAL agenda of the stepparent'

Step parent Separation

W
H
I
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D



The impact on children



CASE STUDY



DRAWING FROM WHAT WE KNOW
Personal → Professional

STEP-FAMILY SEPARATION

“I’m the one who encourages him to be respectful toward the kid’s mum”



“I want them to spend more time with their dad, it’s important, I reckon, for their sense of identity’