



FAMILY
RELATIONSHIP CENTRE
HELPING FAMILIES BUILD BETTER RELATIONSHIPS



An Australian Government Initiative

REGIONAL OFFICE

BUNDABERG FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CENTRE
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Email: bundaberg.frc@ucommunity.org.au
Website: www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Outreach Services

Maryborough: C/- UnitingCare Community Cnr Alice & Bazaar Sts Maryborough Q 4650
Hervey Bay: C/- UnitingCare Community 94 Old Maryborough Rd Pialba Q 4655
Kingaroy: C/- UnitingCare Community 1 Victoria St Kingaroy Q 4610

Phone: 1300 885 373

Effects of Separation/Divorce on Children

- Statistics and trends
- New and progressive parenting arrangements

Family Dispute Resolution

- Requirements and how to access

Parenting Plans

- How they differ from Court Orders

Issuing Section 60I Certificates

- Eligibility, practicalities, timeframes

Property Mediation

Family Relationship Centres



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Access –

Family Relationship Centres assist separating or separated parents to focus on their children's needs and to reach agreement on safe workable parenting arrangements, in the best interests of their children, outside of the court system.

Bundaberg – 1300 885 373 (North & South Burnett; Wide Bay; Fraser Coast)

Family Relationships Advice Line – 1800 050 321 (TDRS)

<https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

Process – Facilitative/CIP

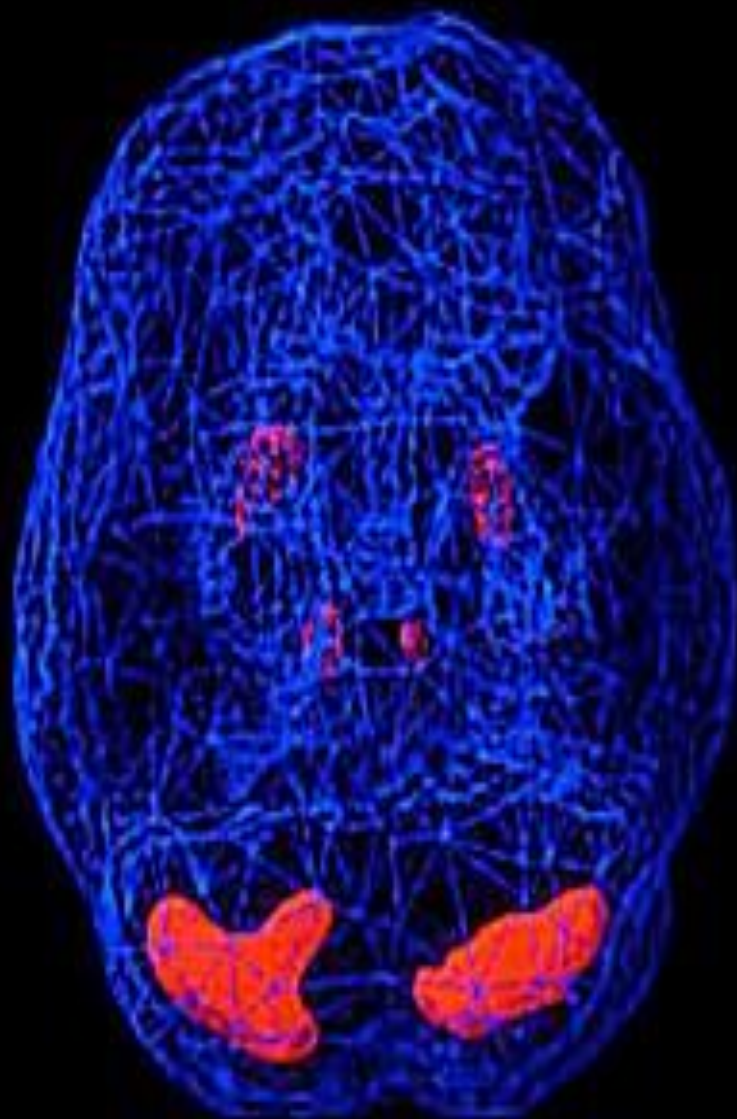
SOME STATISTICS 2017-2018



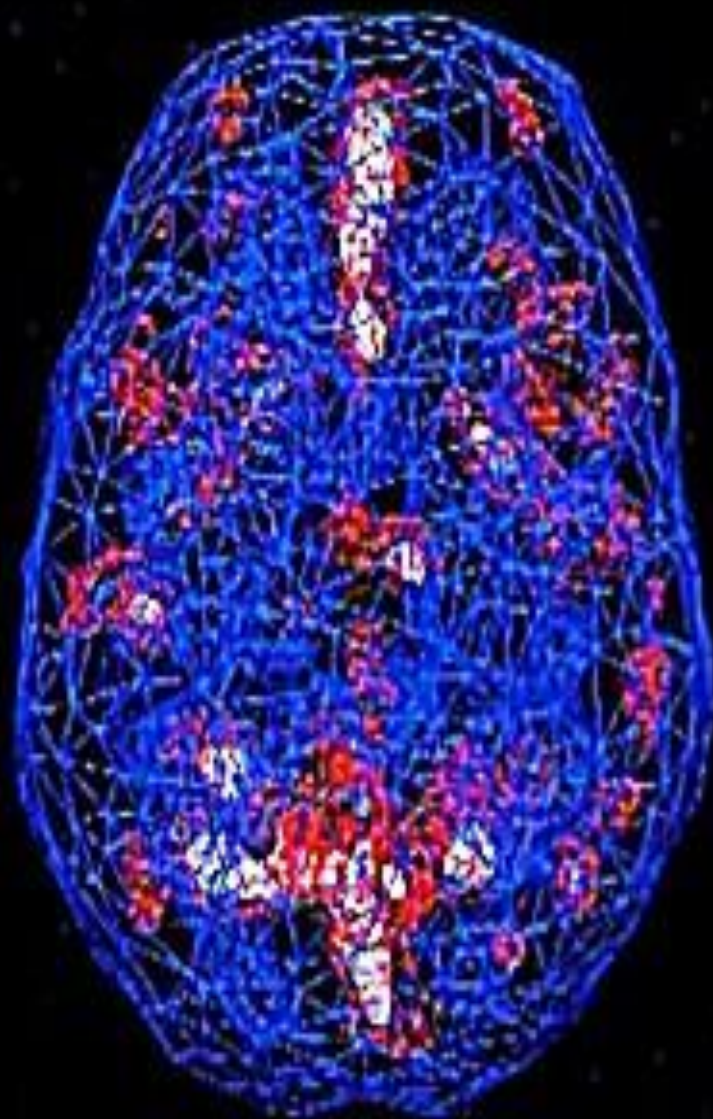
- 85745 applications were filed
- 17241 (approx 20%) applications received final orders
- 62% of applications filed were finalised within twelve months
- Bundaberg/Hervey Bay circuit there are currently 162 matters on the docket requiring determination
- Parenting matters make up about 18000 matters which were filed in the last year
- 21 % of children of separated parents develop significant mental health symptoms, increasing to 40% of children with families involved in the Family Court of Australia intervention.
- **Most satisfied of all are those who work things out for themselves (89%).
Court often = win/lose**

Are you feeling lucky?



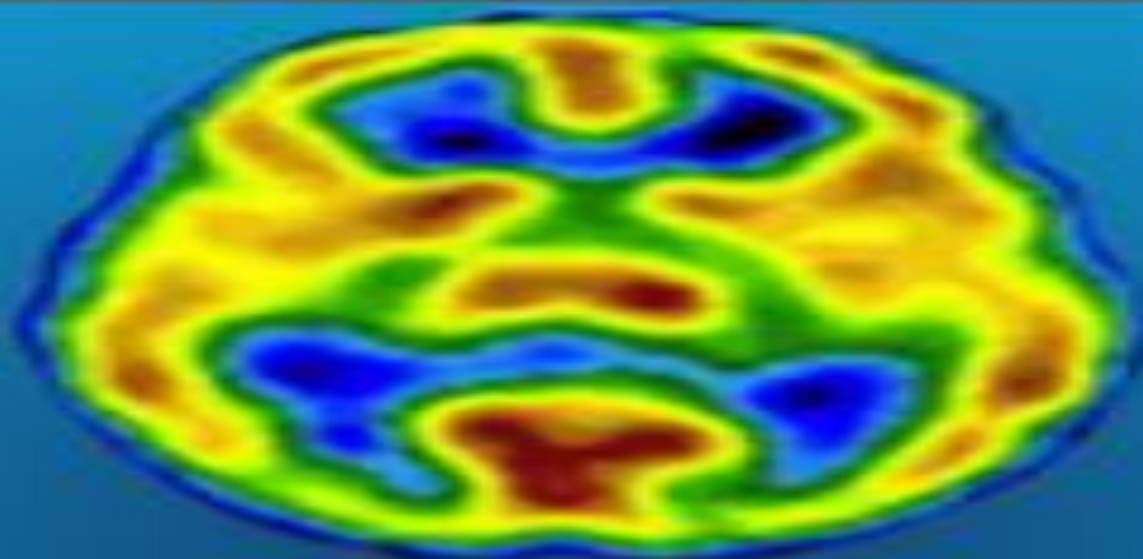


Healthy Brain

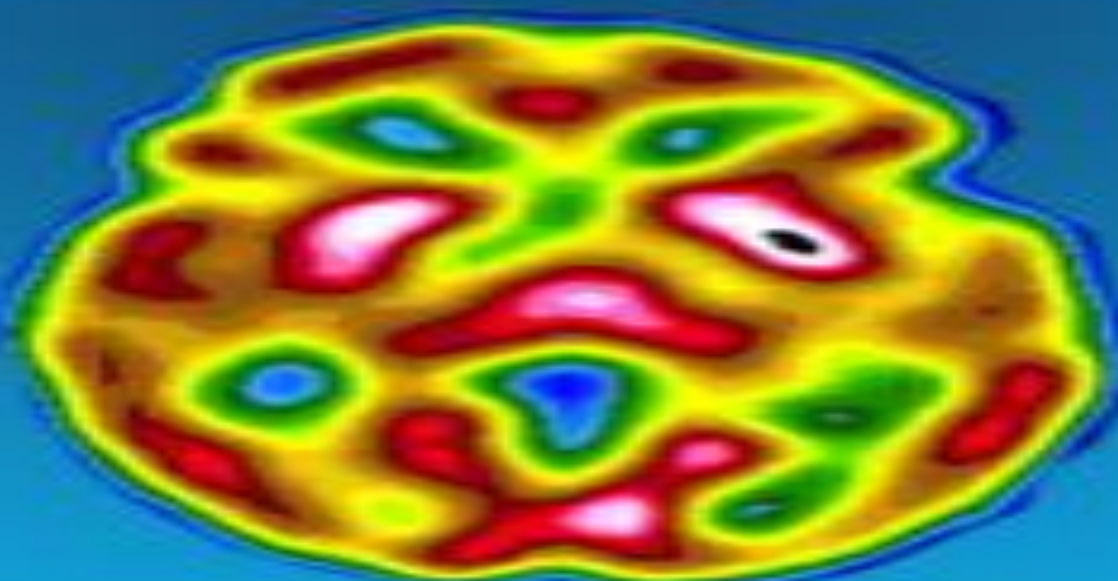


PTSD

NORMAL BRAIN



ANXIETY DISORDER



There is no vaccine against persistent parental conflict.

Co-operative / Parallel / Conflicted

*Interparental Hatred, Hate driven conflict being reactive instead of entrenched –
Bruce Smythe*



Prevention is better than cure

Main Principles of the Family Law Act

Shared Parental Responsibility

- To communicate and make decisions for the future wellbeing and welfare of children
- To ensure that children can exercise their rights.

Rights of children

- To safety – including not being exposed to parental conflict
- To have a meaningful relationship with both parents.



WHAT IS SHARED CARE

- **Shared Parental Responsibility**
- **Equal Time vs Significant and Substantial time**
- **Establishment of 65 FRCs across Australia (2006).** (includes TDRS; FRAL; Sunshine Coast)

TIME ARRANGEMENTS FOR KIDS

Making TIME arrangements for kids through Family Dispute Resolution can be a delicate balance and very emotional.....



Illustration by Alexandra Bowen © Family Transitions 2006

....so what does time mean to kids?

Time Spent Arrangements

- **Workable and tailored to the needs of the family**
- **Practicable**
- **In principle or in detail.**

The A to E of Certificates

- **A – Failure or Refusal to attend**
- **B – Not appropriate**
- **C – Genuine Effort**
- **D – Non-genuine effort**
- **E – Not appropriate – discontinued.**

Property Mediation

4 STEPS

- **Identifying and valuing the property (also known as the property pool).**
- **Who contributed what?**
- **Considering the future needs of each person.**
- **Is it just and fair?**

Parenting Plans vs Court Orders

Parenting Plans:

- In writing; signed and dated by parties and made free from threat, duress and coercion.
- Recognised by the court and given weight.

Consent Orders:

- Lodged with the court
- Enforceable

THANK YOU



ANY QUESTIONS