



# Central Sydney Collaborative Forum

An Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Group



Accountants & Financial Advisors



Family Lawyers



Coaches, Mediators & Mental Health Professionals



# Central Sydney Collaborative Forum (CSCF)

**CSCF** is a Sydney-based practice group of like-minded professionals including **accountants, financial advisors, family lawyers, family mediators and mental health professionals (coaches)**, who share the common desire to assist families resolve separation and divorce matters in a respectful and family-focused manner without the need for litigation and Court involvement.

Each member of CSCF is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

Each practice member:

- has been specifically trained in interdisciplinary collaborative practice;
- regularly attends practice group meetings to share ideas and expertise to best support the separating families with whom they work.

CSCF members regularly update their training together, learning from each other and continually building their expertise for the benefit of their clients.

CSCF members believe that there is a better way for couples to separate and/or divorce and that for many families and couples collaborative practice is just that.



**Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice (“ICP”) is an innovative approach to separation and divorce which protects the dignity, integrity and long term best interests of your family.**

**ICP is a successful and tested dispute resolution method designed to help you to control the decision making process and avoid lengthy and ongoing conflict with your former partner.**





# ICP - A bespoke solution for couples wanting a better way to separate

## Collaboration:

*The action of working with someone to produce something.*

Participants in ICP agree at the outset that they will commit to working together to achieve the best solution for both their family's and their individual needs. In ICP, professionals work together with the separating couple as a team to support the family as a whole through the separation and divorce process.



**Lawyers** who seek mutually agreed solutions, benefiting the family as a whole.



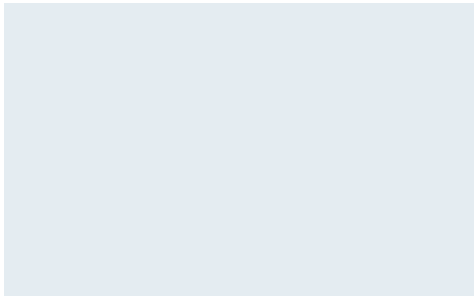
**Coaches** who keep the process on track, maintaining its momentum and providing emotional support to both parties as required. The Coach often acts as a “circuit breaker”.



Neutral **accountants** and/or **financial advisors**, who can sort out complicated financial arrangements, assist with valuation issues and look at the effect of various options for settlement.



**Mental health professionals** who support clients to address issues that may arise during the collaboration process.



# How ICP works

Instead of a separation/divorce process being driven by often aggressive and litigious correspondence between lawyers or dictated by the Court's timetable and procedures, the collaborative team at all times works together towards a mutually agreed settlement.

Participants attend, with the professional team members, a series of meetings to make good-faith attempts to resolve conflict and work together to respectfully reach an agreement. Some of the meetings involve the whole team, others involve the couple separately meeting with their coach or financial neutral.

Participants remain independently advised by their lawyers and all legal advice is provided within the context of the meetings.

Agreements that result from these meetings can form the basis of formal settlement documents in relation to parenting and/or finances.

The Collaborative process is more time-efficient and cost-efficient than the Family Court process. Typically, between three and five meetings are required to reach a mutually agreed outcome.

Because it is a bespoke process, settlement options can be tailored to the couple's needs and innovative solutions, that are not readily available to a Court, can be explored.

## It's up to you

ICP is a voluntary process which means both you and your former partner are committed to the process. It encourages good faith, respect and a shared approach to determining a resolution. A key benefit to ICP is the opportunity it provides to the participants to immerse themselves in the decision-making process. All outcomes are agreed outcomes, negotiated between the separating couple with the assistance of the support team. A negotiated outcome provides certainty and finality to separating and divorcing couples.





**Solutions for couples wanting  
a better way to divorce or separate.**



## **Next steps**

For a full list of Central Sydney Collaborative Forum members as well as additional information about the process please go to

**[www.sydneycollablaw.com.au](http://www.sydneycollablaw.com.au)**