

## MAPPING THE NMAS AGAINST FDRP REGULATIONS AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS

### Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008

Criteria for accreditation relating to qualifications and competencies:

- Vocational Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution from an RTO
- Certified postgraduate award (reg 7) *\*equivalent content and workplace application requirements to Vocational Grad Dip of FDR*
- Either has award of appropriate qualification (*higher education award in law, psychology or social work, conflict management, mediation or dispute resolution or other higher education award/vocational graduate diploma in discipline relevant to FDR*) **or** NMAS accredited by RMAB  
**and**  
assessed as competent by RTO against 6 compulsory units of Vocational Grad Dip of FDR **or** completed units of postgraduate degree or diploma (reg 8) *\*equivalent content and workplace application requirements to 6 compulsory units of Vocational Grad Dip of FDR*
- Registered until 30 June 2009 on FDR Register  
**and**  
assessed as competent by RTO against 3 specified units (until 30 June 2011) **or** completed units of postgraduate degree or diploma (reg 8)

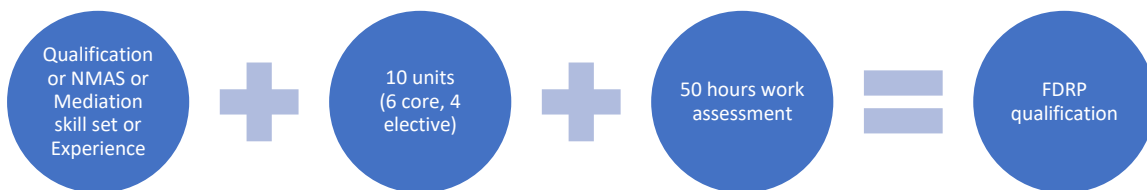
### Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution (CHC81115)

- Average course duration is 46 weeks (~ 1 year) *\*according to My Skills govt training directory*
- 50 hours of work in Assessment Requirements (contained in some core units)
- Entry requirements: award of appropriate qualification **or** NMAS accreditation **or** hold Mediation skill set from Community Services Training Package **or** documented evidence of previous experience in dispute resolution environment
- 10 units – 6 core, 4 elective (electives can be from any relevant endorsed training package or accredited course)
- Level 8 of [AQF](#): *The purpose of the Graduate Diploma qualification type is to qualify individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional or highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning. (1-2 years)*

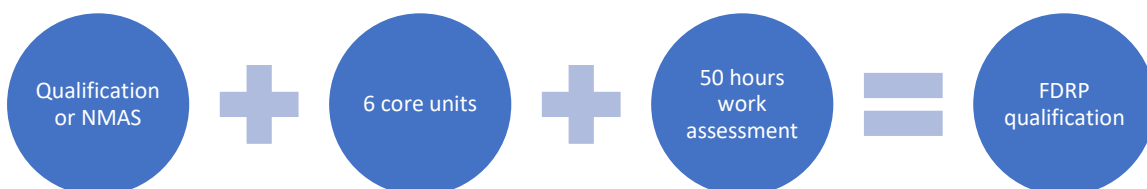
### NMAS equivalence:

- Could be considered equivalent to award of appropriate qualification?
- Possibly equivalent to Mediation skill set (Community Services Training) or prior Experience + 4 elective units?

- It seems like NMAS (or award of appropriate qualification) is a shortcut to FDRP accreditation as only need additional 6 compulsory units of Grad Dip. See charts below.



*Figure 1: Reg 5(1) pathway – Vocational Grad Dip of FDR*



*Figure 2: Reg 5(3) pathway – Appropriate qualification or NMAS and completes postgraduate units*

## Vocational Graduate Diploma of FDR – Duration:

### Australian Institute of Social Relations (RTO)

- 10 units divided into 4 “units of study”, each 10 weeks duration
  - Unit of Study 1: 2 core
  - Unit of Study 2: 1 core, 1 elective, 2 other
  - Unit of Study 3: 1 core, 1 elective
  - Unit of Study 4: 2 core
- Work placement commences after passing all units

### Jigsaw Training Group

- 12 months of study
- Total for 6 core units = 738 hours (average 123 hours per unit)
- Total for 4 elective units = 460 hours (average 115 hours per unit)

## Vocational Graduate Diploma of FDR – Content:

### Core units

CHCDFV008	Manage responses to domestic and family violence in family work
CHCDSP001	Facilitate dispute resolution in the family law context
CHCDSP002	Adhere to ethical standards in family dispute resolution
CHCDSP003	Support the safety of vulnerable parties in dispute resolution
CHCFAM001	Operate in a family law environment
CHCFAM002	Work with a child-focused approach

### Elective units

CHCCCS003	Increase the safety of individuals at risk of suicide
CHCDFV002	Provide support to children affected by domestic and family violence
CHCDFV004	Provide domestic and family violence support in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
CHCDFV005	Provide domestic and family violence support in non-English speaking background communities
CHCDFV007	Work with users of violence to effect change
CHCDFV013	Manage domestic and family violence screening and risk assessment processes
CHCDIV002	Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety
CHCFAM007	Assist clients to develop parenting arrangements
CHCFAM008	Work within a child inclusive framework
CHCMGT005	Facilitate workplace debriefing and support processes
CHCPRP006	Lead own professional development
CHCYTH011	Work effectively with young people and their families
HLTAHW049	Work effectively in social and emotional wellbeing
HLTAHW050	Develop a healing framework for social and emotional wellbeing work
HLTAHW051	Respond to loss, grief and trauma
BSBLDR801	Lead personal and strategic transformation
BSBLED806	Plan and implement a coaching strategy
BSBMGT605	Provide leadership across the organisation
BSBRES801	Initiate and lead applied research

Last 4 elective units do not appear relevant to family dispute resolution, which may explain why one pathway to FDRP only requires 6 core units. I think electives are there to “fill up” content to meet Grad Dip level.

### Bond University – FDRP Training

Either:

1. Completion of 4 DRC Short Courses (*Reg 5(3) pathway*) + supervised practice
  - i. NMAS Mediation Course (5 days)
  - ii. NMAS Mediator Assessment Course (2 days)
  - iii. FDR Practitioner Training Course (5 days)
  - iv. FDR Practitioner Clinical Supervision Course (30 hours) + additional 20 hours of supervised FDR practice
  - v. *FDR Preparation Course (online, self-paced) \*for participants who have not completed Mediation training and assessment through Bond DRC, this allows entry to FDR Practitioner Training Course*

This means FDR Practitioner Training Course (5 days) = 6 compulsory units of CHC8115.

Prerequisite to FDR Practitioner Training Course is NMAS accreditation.

*\*Unsure if Bond’s NMAS Course contains FDR specific content?*

OR

2. [Graduate Certificate in Family Dispute Resolution](#)
  - i. Comprises 4 subjects (40 credit points); part-time.
  - ii. First 2 subjects meet NMAS requirements.
  - iii. 3 subjects delivered intensively; 2-5 days each (12 days total); completion of online modules in advance.
  - iv. 1 subject is clinical requirement of 50 hours work assessment.

40 credit points is full-time load for one semester.

Entry requirements: completion of Australian Bachelor degree or equivalent in an approved discipline.

Note: Description of Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma are almost identical in AQF (level 8) except volume of learning is half in Graduate Certificate.

To apply for accreditation, students will need either:

- Award of appropriate qualification

OR

- NMAS accreditation

Note: RPL is not awarded for Bond DRC courses.

#### College of Law – FDRP Training

Either:

1. Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution Practice – completion of 5 core subjects:
  - i. Family Law and Mediation *\*meets requirements of NMAS training*
  - ii. Children’s Matters, Family Law and Family Dispute Resolution
  - iii. Advanced Family Dispute Resolution
  - iv. Case Management in Family Dispute Resolution Capstone (30 hours practicum)
  - v. Virtual Simulated Practice (20 hours practicum)

Each of first 4 subjects is 6 weeks long.

Last subject is 9 weeks long.

Entry requirements: completion of appropriate qualification or NMAS accreditation.

Equivalent of 6 core units must be made up in 2 subjects, since accredited mediators are eligible for advanced standing in Family Law and Mediation subject.

OR

2. Master of Laws (Applied Law) majoring in Family Dispute Resolution Practice – completion of 5 core subjects and 3 additional elective subjects.

Entry requirements: law degree or valid practising certificate.

## HYPOTHESIS

- A person can obtain NMAS accreditation with no prior formal education or qualifications.
- NMAS accreditation is sufficient for someone to gain entry to complete 6 core units of Grad Dip/Cert of FDR.
- Arguably, Grad Dip/Cert requirements (level 8 of AQF) are only met once 10 units are completed.
- However, 4 additional electives (which could all be non-related to FDR) probably doesn't suffice to distinguish the level of knowledge/skills between completing 6 core units versus Grad Dip/Cert.
- Therefore, NMAS accreditation could be considered fairly close in weight to a higher education award (i.e. degree of at least bachelor level / level 7 of AQF):
  - “Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have a **broad and coherent body of knowledge**, with **depth in the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines** as a basis for independent lifelong learning.”
  - “Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have:
    - cognitive skills to review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge
    - cognitive and technical skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge with depth in some areas
    - cognitive and creative skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement in identifying and solving problems with intellectual independence
    - communication skills to present a clear, coherent and independent exposition of knowledge and ideas.”
  - Volume of learning of a bachelor degree is 3-4 years.
- Existing NMAS Approval Standards do not appear to meet the criteria for level 7 of AQF. This is also supported by NMAS training and assessment requirements being met in 2 subjects of the Grad Cert at Bond University.
- The MSB should be aware of the implications flowing from the NMAS Approval Standards when mapped against FDRP regulations.