

## *Property & Financial Matters Family Dispute Resolution*

### Information Sheet 2 - Contributions to the Acquisition, Maintenance & Improvement of Property

During the process of property and financial matters FDR, parties are requested to consider whether there have been any significant contributions made to the relationship initially or during the course of the relationship. Such contributions are generally categorised as either: Direct Financial; Indirect Financial; Direct Non-Financial or Indirect Non-Financial.

Examples of contributions are:

- Salary or wages
- Windfall gains, e.g. lottery, gambling wins
- Inheritances
- Gifts, either monetary or articles of value
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance
- Gardening
- Renovation
- Child Care
- Support of a family business, e.g. bookkeeping
- Loans from family members
- Redundancy or compensation (damages) payments.

Applying the categories mentioned above, consideration is given to the contribution of both parents. For example, if one parent worked full-time for an employer and the other parent occupied the role as “homemaker”, the contribution to the relationship of both parents will be taken into consideration.

In relatively short relationships, it may be relevant to consider the assets and debts of each party at the commencement of the relationship. On the other hand, the importance or significance of individual contributions to a relationship can be seen to “erode” over time, meaning that such contributions become part of the overall pool of property of both parents, and are no longer contributions identifiable to one parent alone.

The information contained in this handout is general information only. It is supplied on the understanding that the Family Relationship Centre is not providing legal advice on a particular matter, or at all. The handout contains information that is intended to assist those attending Property & Financial Matters Family Dispute Resolution.

Errors and omissions can occur in the preparation of material.

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**We strongly recommend the obtaining of specific independent legal advice.**