Vignette 1

Jenny and Kristy were together for 10 years. Five years ago they had a child together via an anonymous donor. Jenny gave birth to their son Simon. Simon calls Jenny Mummy, and calls Kristy - "Mummy K".

The two women have separated and Jenny has moved in with a new partner, Andrew. They have been seeing each other for 6months and Jenny is pregnant with their child.

Simon, who is 5, is currently spending 1 week at Jenny's and 1 week at Kristy's. Kristy is finding this difficult and wants a weekly roster – Sunday/Monday/Tuesday at Kristy's, Thursday/Friday/Saturday at Jenny's, and they each take in turns to have the Wednesday. Jenny does not like this idea and wants Kristy to just have Simon every second weekend and that's all. Jenny feels that Simon is too young and needs to be with his biological mother for the majority of the time. Jenny also believes that Simon has bonded with Andrew and that Simon sees Andrew as his Dad and needs a strong male role model in his life fulltime. She tells you that when he goes to Kristy's house he misses Andrew a lot and phones him several times from his mobile which she gave him.

Jenny and Andrew have a 4 bedroom home while Kristy has a 1 bedroom flat, and Jenny feels that this is because Kristy does not take parenting seriously.

When the women are at Mediation with you, Kristy informs you that Simon has told her that Jenny told him to not call her Mummy K anymore. Similarly, Jenny informs you that Kristy has told Simon that he cannot call Andrew Dad.

On the butchers paper:

- *Draw the family tree*
- *Write down the key issues*
- *Plan what you would do from opening the door to end of session*
    - *(remember – the information about their family is not known to you yet – how will you find it out? Do you need to know?)*
- *I encourage you to role play your answer!*

Vignette 2

Peter and Koji were together for 15 years. They have a daughter Judy. Judy was born in California via a commercial surrogacy program. The surrogate (Sophia) used a donor egg from an anonymous donor of Japanese ethnicity to reflect Koji's background. The egg was fertilised using sperm from Peter. However, the men generally do not tell people the biological origins and have never told Judy which one of them is her biological-father. They are quite nervous about telling people that they had a child through commercial surrogacy as they live in Perth and are conscious of the baby gammy case stigmatising overseas surrogacy. Judy's Californian Birth Certificate ONLY has Koji and Peter's names down as parents. Kojio is known as Otosan (Dad in Japanese) and Peter as Dad.

The men are currently still living in the same house with Judy. They have separate bedrooms and bathrooms within a large house. They separated 6 months ago. Neither of them want to move out of the house, or for the other to move out either. They believe it is best for Judy to have them both living there.

They are having some difficulties. The men had a sexually open relationship prior to separating. Peter had a regular sexual partner Huang – and since his separation from Koji, Peter and Huang have formed a relationship. Peter would like Huang to move in with him but Koji is not very happy with this idea at the moment.

There are a lot of possibilities for this family and they need help working it all out. They do not want to see a Gay provider as it is a smallish town (at least in gay circles) and they know all the gay people in town!

On the butchers paper:

- *Draw the family tree*
- *Write down the key issues*
- *Plan what you would do from opening the door to end of session*
  - *(remember – the information about their family is not known to you yet – how will you find it out? Do you need to know?)*
- *I encourage you to role play your answer!*

<u>Vignette 3</u>

Jodie and Kylie were together for 7 years. 3 Years ago they had children with Bruce and Stephen. The 4 parents formed a group family over their two homes. Jodie and Kylie each wanted to give birth and due to their ages they both wanted to try at the same time. Jodie gave birth to Thomas whom she conceived with Bruce. Around the same time, Kylie gave birth to Robyn whom she conceived with Stephen. (By conceived – they did not have intercourse, rather the men provided sperm and the women self-inseminated).

The children were living with the woman Sunday to Wednesday, and the men Thursday to Saturday from 3months of age. From birth the two men lived in the house with the women and when the babies were 3 months old they began the co-parenting over the two homes. The men lived about a 30min drive from the women.

6 months ago the Women separated. Jodie and Kylie did not have an amicable separation. When they first separated Jodie took the now 4 year old Thomas and moved into her Parent's home. Kylie was not happy about this and asked the men to help her get Thomas back. The men became involved and things got pretty tumultuous – Jodie believes that the men have ganged up on her with Kylie.

It is beginning to take a toll on Bruce and Stephen's relationship. In particular, Bruce feels really anxious as he is seeing Thomas, his biological son, less and less. When he tells Stephen how he feels, Stephen reacted angrily as he did not think that Bruce recognized the anxiety and grief that he was feeling as a Dad not seeing a child. While Bruce says he does understand that Stephen is feeling some grief, he believes it is not as deep as his given he is the biological father.

At one of their sessions with you, Jodie suggests that her and Bruce move in together and co-parent Thomas and tells Kylie and Stephen they should do the same with Robyn. This increases the divide between Bruce and Stephen – Bruce does not know what to do and feels it may be his only way of keeping contact with his son. Stephen is shocked, ask is Kylie.

On the butchers paper:

- ***Draw the family tree***
- ***Write down the key issues***
- ***Plan what you would do from opening the door to end of session***
    - ***(remember – the information about their family is not known to you yet – how will you find it out? Do you need to know?)***
- ***I encourage you to role play your answer!***