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Nonresidential father perception of father-child relationships: An exploratory analysis of family functioning

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Running Head: NONRESIDENTIAL FATHER-CHILD FAMILY
FUNCTIONING

Nonresidential Father Perception of Father-Child Relationships: An
Exploratory Analysis of Family Functioning

by

Wendy J. Nicholls

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for the Award of
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USE OF THESIS

The Use of Thesis statement is not included in this version of the thesis.

Abstract

Nonresidential father experiences of family life with their children lack attention in the literature. Nonresidential fathers often suffer considerably, as they attempt to continue their parenting role with limited access time. Consequently, their relationships with their children may suffer, sometimes resulting in visitation ceasing altogether. Father contact is important to the developmental and psychological well-being of children, yet is often hindered by restricted access, distance, parental conflict and the father's emotional state. Nonresidential father perspectives of family life with their children are explored in this study, to gain insight into nonresidential father experiences. This study replicated a study conducted by S. A. Esposito (1995) and extended it through an exploratory analysis of family functioning. A multimethod approach, recommended for family research, incorporated quantitative and qualitative methodology. A purposive sample included 48 nonresidential fathers, recruited through various means. Five participants were randomly chosen from the main sample for interviewing. The study is in two sections, the replication involving a survey questionnaire, correlational research, cross sectional design and the exploratory analysis, which involved semi-structured face to face interviews. Two hypotheses suggested that cohesion and adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family would be predicted by the quality of parental interactions and the quality of father-child interactions. Cohesion and adaptability are measures of family functioning according to the Circumplex Model for Marital and Family Systems. The exploratory

analysis provided explanations of findings from the study and information regarding the suitability of the model for nonresidential father-child families. The quality of father-child interactions did predict cohesion in the nonresidential father-child family, but not adaptability. Parental interaction quality did not predict cohesion or adaptability. Some components of the model appear suitable for nonresidential father-child families, while others are considered unsuitable. Suggestions for adapting the model to suit nonresidential father-child families are offered. Valuable insights into nonresidential father experiences offer information for professionals working with divorced families. Several recommendations are given for further research and suggestions for intervention strategies that increase parental awareness are presented. The importance of parental cooperation in decisions regarding children of divorced homes is highlighted.

Declaration

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate, without acknowledgment, any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any institution of higher education and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

5/7/97

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**Nonresidential Father Perceptions of Father-Child Relationships: An
Exploratory Analysis of Family Functioning**

The prevalence of divorce in western society has resulted in thousands of children being denied the opportunity of having normal family lives with both parents living in the same home. Consequently, the ability of children to maintain quality relationships with both parents is often problematic. Family life in the residential family and the nonresidential family need to be restructured. However, the nonresidential parent, usually the father, is at a disadvantage, due to the problems associated with access difficulties. This study is an exploration of the restructuring of family life of nonresidential fathers and their children, as perceived by the father. The quality of interactions between the parents and the quality of interactions between the father and his children are considered in association with family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family. The purpose of focusing on the father's perception is to attempt to understand how his relationship with his children is from his perspective.

It is well established in the literature that much of the attention on divorced families has concentrated on the residential parent, usually the mother and the children, with very little attention being given to the father (Arditti, 1995; Arendell, 1995; Esposito, 1995; Hetherington & Hagan, 1986; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993). According to Hetherington and Hagan (1986), the reason is that mothers and children are often seen as

the victims, while fathers are perceived by society as being the perpetrators in divorce and separation. Recent research gives evidence that fathers are just as much victims of family breakdown as mothers and children (Arditti, 1995; Arendell, 1995; Greif & Kristall, 1993; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Wallerstein & Blakeslee, 1989). Research on all aspects of divorced families is valuable, as is evident through the comprehensive work of Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) and Wallerstein and Blakeslee (1989). To neglect the role of fathers in divorcing families can only result in a very limited view of a most complicated and fragmented family infrastructure.

Recent years have seen the growing need for research on the experiences of nonresidential fathers (Arditti, 1992; Arditti, 1995; Arendell, 1995; Esposito, 1995; Fox & Blanton, 1995; Frieman, 1994; Hoffman, 1995; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Minton & Pasley, 1996; Seltzer, 1991). Some researchers have included nonresidential parents in their studies, but have not focused on family relationships between the father and his children. Instead, much of the focus has been on discrepancies in attitudes between mothers and fathers (Braver, Wolchik, Sandler, Fogas & Zvetina, 1991; Gray & Silver, 1990), child support issues (Braver, Wolchik, Sandler, Sheets, Fogas & Bay, 1993; Seltzer, Schaeffer & Charng, 1989), or the impact of father separation on the children (Buehler, & Trotter, 1990; Furstenberg, Nord, Peterson & Zill, 1983; Jacobson, 1978). It is not always feasible that all family members be included in one study. Therefore, the need for a body of research that collectively considers the

perspectives and experiences of all who are affected by the divorce process is necessary.

Coping with Divorce

Post parental separation situations usually involve the children living with one parent, either the father or the mother in a sole custody arrangement. In fewer cases, a joint custody arrangement where the children spend equal time at both homes is preferred. The most common situation is for the children to live with the mother and arrangements are made for them to see their father at appointed times. Theoretically, this results in the children having two homes. However, the literature suggests that this does not happen in many instances and that a large proportion of fathers give up contact with their children all together (Furstenberg et al., 1983; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Munsch, Woodward & Darling, 1995).

A recent West Australian study revealed that only 27% of separated fathers had weekly contact with their children, 35% had monthly contact and 38% had less than monthly contact with their children, including some who had restrictions imposed on them by uncooperative ex-partners (McMurray & Blackmore, 1993). Although these figures may seem alarming, they are consistent with other studies on father contact after separation (Furstenberg et al., 1983; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980).

Father's limited contact with their children following parental separation occurs for various reasons. As mentioned previously, fathers are as much victims of divorce as mothers and children. According to

McMurray and Blackmore (1993), fathers often suffer with various forms of depression after separation, with some being unable to resolve the grief resulting from losing their family and some give up seeing their children because they are unable to cope with having to see them for brief periods, only to be separated again. Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) found that some men find visiting the family home they have lost painful, after building it and nurturing it during the marital time. Arendell (1995) found that more than three quarters of his participants felt discriminated against in the legal system, as they were expected to continue financial support while their rights to fatherhood were dismissed.

Frieman (1994) states that nonresidential fathers are faced with financial problems, dealing with ex-wives, attending to their own emotional state and being inadequately equipped to deal with child care. He considered nonresidential fathers to be largely misunderstood by their family members, as he took a more global perspective. Greif and Kristall (1993) suggest that nonresidential fathers struggle to maintain relationships with their children while feeling ostracised, anxious, without roots and suffering with low self-esteem, depression, poor work performance and disturbed sleep.

According to Wallerstein and Kelly (1980), much of the suffering experienced by nonresidential parents can be attributed to the drastic change from being a full-time parent to a part-time parent. They are often left with a sense of bewilderment as they attempt to work out the new relationship with their children. Further, they often see the practical issues

such as parenting and how to spend time with their children during contact time as insurmountable problems they are unsure of how to handle. Those who seek counselling are mostly concerned with the fear of losing relationships with their children and feelings of powerlessness in having some influence in their children's lives (Fox & Blanton, 1995), which are both consequences of reduced father-child contact. However, Maccoby, Buchanan, Mnookin and Dornbusch (1993) found that close relationships between nonresidential parents and their children could still be maintained by even a small amount of contact.

Apart from the problems associated with limited time with the children, nonresidential fathers are also often left to contend with distance between them and their children. Research suggests that parent-child contact is facilitated by closer living arrangements between fathers and their children (Furstenberg et al., 1983; Seltzer, 1991). Therefore, those who have more distance between them, generally have less contact. Seltzer (1991) suggests that such problems can be overcome if the nonresidential parent becomes more involved in the childrearing issues. However, this is not a decision made solely by the nonresidential father. The mother's cooperation is paramount to a situation involving father participation in childrearing (Arendell, 1995).

The problems associated with nonresidential parenting appear to be many, with very few solutions available. Some fathers, in their distress or defiance, attempt to find their own solution. Over the past few years, the incidences of child abduction have been alarming brought to society's

attention. Fathers who have wanted to punish their former wives or felt unjustly treated have taken their children and either hidden out in protest or taken their children to another state. More tragic circumstances have resulted in incidences of family murder suicide. This is a clear indication that some nonresidential fathers perceive that their needs and rights as a father are being ignored. Arendell (1995) reported that approximately twelve percent of his sample had abducted their children at some point of time, in protest of being disregarded in divorce settlement issues. Thus, the need for considering father perspectives is vital, as to do otherwise not only affects the father, but puts the entire family at potential risk.

Although many fathers appear to be disregarded and misunderstood (Arendell, 1995; Frieman, 1994), the father's role in the lives of his children is an important one (Seltzer, 1991). However, where parental conflict exists in custody disputes, role identity is obviously somewhat obscured. An interesting observation made by several researchers is the noticeable lack of clear rules, guidelines and structure for nonresidential parenting (Arditti, 1995; Arendell, 1995; Depner & Bray, 1990; Fox & Blanton, 1995; Seltzer, 1991; Wallerstein & Blakeslee, 1989; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Consequently, the rules tend to differ according to the willingness and cooperation of both parents in each situation. Though some parents seek mediation or counselling to help resolve problems and come to agreements in parenting issues (Emery, 1995), the majority have to decide for themselves how they will organise

their lives in regard to their children. This often results in the father being somewhat confused and unclear about his role as a parent.

Father-Child Relationships

Relationships between fathers and their children following marital separation often become somewhat strained and disorientated. Children often consider the family to be the foundations of their structure and feel it has been shattered, leaving them feeling lonely and vulnerable (Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Sometimes parents who were once seen by their children as being close and loving have become hostile and aggressive toward each other. However, regardless of the apparent problems and differences between their parents, children are dependent on a continuing relationship with both parents (Wallerstein & Blakeslee, 1989), which remains stable over time (Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). In fact, despite claims by mothers that children do not miss their fathers, Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) found that often children yearned for their fathers after their parents separated.

Limited father contact has considerable impact on the well-being of children. Research suggests that various aspects of children's lives are affected such as self esteem, scholastic achievement, emotional stability and psychological well-being (Cockett & Tripp, 1994; Curtner-Smith, 1995; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Recent amendments to the Australian "Family Law Reform Act" (1995) reflect acknowledgment of the problems associated with limited father-child contact in separated and divorced families. Though some divorce cases may be described as being in

continuous parental conflict, Funder (1995) states that contact with both parents is still in the best interests of the children.

Fathers have diverse reactions to being separated from their children. Often fathers who were close to their children prior to separation do not maintain close contact after and those who were not close become more available after separation (Kruk, 1991; Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980). Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) also found that immediately following separation, father-child relationships were rather flexible and were able to be readily moulded into the new situation. Unfortunately, visitation disputes often make the transition to a restructured father-child relationship most difficult (Johnston, Kline & Tschann, 1989; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Other related hindrances to the well-being of the relationship include the mother's undermining and doubting of the father's ability to be a good parent (Curtner-Smith, 1995; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Wolchik, Fenaughty & Braver, 1996) or the mother discouraging the relationship between the father and his children (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986). It is common for fathers to complain that their children's mother is trying to divorce the children from them too.

Children's perceptions of their relationships with their nonresidential fathers have been shown to be more highly valued than those of children with residential fathers (Munsch et al., 1995). Although it could be argued that such attachments are a natural response to the father's absence, there still remains substantial evidence that children see their fathers as attachment figures, identification figures (Curtner-Smith,

1995), functional role models (Curtner-Smith, 1995; Munsch et al., 1995), teachers, supporters and challengers (Munsch et al., 1995). Further, other research has shown that children report very little difference between residential fathers and nonresidential fathers in frequent tasks and activities shared (Furstenberg, Morgan and Allison, 1987). Thus, it is apparent that children welcome and value the role of their father, regardless of residency, which appears to impact on various aspects of their lives.

The literature regarding the actual interactions between fathers and their children is scarce. However, a recent report suggests that the quality of interactions between divorced parents and their children partially depends on whether a relationship with the other parent is being promoted or damaged (Arbuthnot and Gordon, 1996). As divorced parents often replace the missing parent with the children, sharing feelings of suffering openly with them (Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), they are vulnerable to discussing problems associated with the other parent. Though this may be comforting to the adult, Arbuthnot and Gordon (1996) report that such parent-child interactions are detrimental to the relationship. They suggest interactions that blame, belittle and devalue the other parent are detrimental to the relationship, while more positive interactions focused on how to handle stress or emotional pain are likely to enhance it.

Visitation quantity verses quality is an important consideration regarding nonresidential father-child relationships. According to Johnston et al. (1989), the length of time spent at both parent's homes does not

indicate psychologically healthier children. What does make a difference is duration of time combined with the amount of hostility between the parents. They found that where parents were in conflict, children in joint custody were more disturbed and displayed greater behavioural problems than those in sole custody. They also discovered that children are more likely to be clinically disturbed when they make frequent switches between homes in which parental conflict exists. However, Arendell (1995) found that more regular visits between fathers and their children were less awkward, where a degree of routine could be established and the children could get to know their fathers, regardless of the bad portrayal expressed by their mothers. Differences in reports could be attributed to the nature and extent of parental conflict being present. For instance, when parents do not relate well to each other, the children may not be as affected as when overt conflict exists, such as violent behaviour and verbal abuse.

The notion that father-child relationships are greatly influenced by parental relationships is largely substantiated in the literature (Hoffman, 1995; Johnston et al., 1989; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Research also indicates that the more conflict existing between parents, the more likely the children are to be involved in their disputes (Johnston et al., 1989; Kurkowski, Gordon & Arbuthnot, 1993). Such situations result in the children enduring substantial stress which they ought not have to contend with. Further, children spending more time in an environment where parental hostility is present are likely to be more depressed and withdrawn, have more somatic problems, find difficulty in communicating and show

more aggression than others less exposed to parental conflict (Johnston et al., 1989).

From the opposite perspective, Hoffman (1995) found an association between ex-wives who are supportive and cooperative regarding the father's parenting role and relationships between fathers and their children. Thus, the psychological well-being of children is greatly enhanced when they have cooperative parents, who both value the importance of the paternal role in the restructuring of family relationships after marital separation. From the children's perspective, Hoffman (1995) also found that children who are more psychologically adjusted are more likely to encourage a greater paternal role in the various aspects of their lives.

Parental Relationships

Problems associated with parental relationships are widespread in divorced and separated families. According to Emery (1995), the parental relationship is essential to the establishment of stability in parent-child relationships. However, parental communication is often wrought with pain and anger, resulting in the inability to resolve troublesome issues on a most basic level (Frieman, 1994). Residential and visitation disputes are common and often fuel the already existing anger as parents argue over who the children will live with and how much time they can spend at the other parent's house. Child support issues create intense conflict (Arditti, 1992; Emery, 1995), as parents feud over either wanting more money, thinking they are paying too much or not wanting to pay at all. Parental

conflict arising from residential and visitation disputes is detrimental to the behavioural and social adjustment of the children (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986; Johnston et al., 1989).

Parental disputes often begin with the decision to end the marriage. Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) found that couples rarely agreed on the decision to separate and while one partner pursued it, the other often bitterly opposed it. Since approximately three quarters of divorces are initiated at least partially if not wholly by the mother (Funder, 1992; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), the likelihood of fathers continuing with unresolved emotional issues is quite high. Funder (1992) found that fathers showed more hurt and had the tendency to continue blaming their ex-wives many years after the divorce. Further, Gray and Silver (1990) reported that those who attribute control over the separation to their ex-spouse were more likely to experience low psychosocial adjustment through the divorce process.

Research indicates that separated spouses often feel attachments for their ex-partner, which lingers on for some time after the separation, along with feelings of ambivalence, anger and hostility (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986; Spanier & Thompson, 1984). Thus, the emotional state of divorced spouses, particularly immediately following the separation, is often in a state of turmoil which may remain for some time. Research suggests that feelings often changed for ex-partners over time and when they did, they became less emotionally charged and moved toward either friendliness or indifference (Aydintug, 1995; Spanier and Thompson,

1984). However, Wolchik et al. (1996), revealed that patterns set early in the separation were consistent with the types of interactions experienced between ex-spouses and children later in the divorce. Therefore, it is important to resolve problematic issues early in the process of marital separation so that ongoing conflict is minimised.

Parental conflict is a serious issue, as it has the potential to limit the father's involvement with the children and minimise his influence in the various aspects of the children's lives (Seltzer, 1991). Conflict is partially predicted by parental distress over perceived lack of control of divorce settlement decisions, as parents who feel they have no control over their situation are more distressed (Bay & Braver, 1990). Arditti (1995) states that many mothers closely monitor the father's involvement with the children and are controlling of fathers' visits. Similarly, Kruk (1991) found that fathers were restricted by limitations mothers put on visits. Consequently, fathers often feel they have no control over the situation, which could be considered another deterrent to continued visitation.

Fathers commonly complain that mothers argue about visitation, are unwilling to change visitation at the father's request, change visitation themselves at short notice (Wolchik et al. 1996) and have the upper hand in the divorce process (Arditti, 1995; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). Mothers often complain that children are spoiled by their fathers, they are difficult to manage after access visits and that fathers provide a bad role model for the children (Wolchik et al. 1996). According to Bay and Braver (1990), mothers perceive more conflict with

the ex-spouse than do fathers. However, the same study found that father's reports of conflict are predicted by their distress from having no control within the divorce arrangements.

The father's involvement and sense of some control in the decisions involving his children's upbringing is potentially more important than it seems. Braver et al. (1993) found that perceived control in nonresidential parents was related to high involvement in various aspects of their children's lives and also to child support payment. Their study, based on a social exchange model, found strong evidence that nonresidential parents calculate benefits and costs of continued involvement and child support. This finding, also supported by Seltzer et al. (1989), is a sensitive issue among those who work with divorce families, as it tends to portray father-child relationships as though they are merchandise that can be purchased. However, it should be considered that fathers may not consider they are paying to have a relationship with their children, but are generally more contented when they do see their children regularly and are consequently more compliant with child support requests.

Cooperative and favourable relationships between parents after marital separation are sometimes very difficult, yet most important. Hobart (1990) comments that often ex-spouses have to deal with relationships in which mutual bitterness and hostility exist, while simultaneously continuing with obligations to their children, which involves conversing with the other parent. Therefore, it is expected that the quality of parental interactions would be somewhat strained at times, depending on the attitudes and

expectations of those involved. Opinions and attitudes toward ex-spouses vary in both men and women (Spanier & Thompson, 1984), and as Hobart (1990) comments, there are no patterns or norms that can explain ex-spousal relationships.

However, Spanier and Thompson (1984) studied relationships between former spouses which resulted in some interesting findings regarding parental interactions. Firstly, they reported varied attitudes ranging from ex-spouses not speaking to one another at all to being very close to one another. The main conversations in order of reported frequency were the children, daily happenings and practical problems, and to a lesser degree personal problems, spousal relationships and child support. Although responses varied and some were not desirable, it is encouraging that others indicated that parents were able to maintain a civil line of conversation relevant to their situation. The avoidance of certain topics was also discussed and was related to an increase of tension, another indication of the strain involved in the communication of ex-spouses.

McMurray (1995) suggests that separated couples become preoccupied with protecting themselves against each other and they know each other so well, that they prey on each others weaknesses. Thus, communication becomes a difficult task, in which focus on redefining a new ex-spousal parental relationship is unlikely, as energy is diverted into negative thought patterns and game playing. Nonresidential parents and residential parents both have their own issues to contend with. Due to the

lack of social guidelines in co-parenting after marital separation (Arditti, 1995; Depner & Bray, 1990; Fox & Blanton, 1995; Seltzer, 1991; Wallerstein & Blakeslee, 1989; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), parents live by their own rules and expectations. Therefore, nonresidential parents approach single parenting totally unprepared, which often makes the restructuring of the relationships with their children tense and difficult. As the rules and expectations of mothers often oppose those of fathers, the frequent warring that occurs between separated parents becomes quite understandable. Arbuthnot and Gordon (1996) claim that such problems can be minimised through education programs for divorced parents.

Family Functioning in the Nonresidential Father-Child Family

In view of the previous literature regarding the many obstacles faced by nonresidential fathers and their children (Arendell, 1995; Furstenberg et al., 1983; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Munsch et al., 1995; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), it is evident that when the new relationship begins, many fathers are unsure of what to expect and how they will handle the situation. Becoming a part-time parent has changed the dynamics of the family substantially and the experience is often overwhelming. When fathers have time with their children, they are generally unsure of what they should do, often exerting their time and energy into recreational activities (Arendell, 1995). This sometimes becomes very difficult as finances are often limited due to poor income or excessive maintenance payments (McMurray & Blackmore, 1993).

Another very realistic problem associated with family functioning in divorced families refers to the concept of gender roles in families. Fox and Blanton (1995) suggest that the association between autonomy and connectedness has been severed and while connectedness is assigned to mothers, autonomy is assigned to fathers and is misinterpreted as detachment. The implications from this comment give further concern to the concept of parenting under new circumstances. For instance, the already ambiguous parental roles after marital separation (Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), may be further exacerbated by previous assumptions of family members that it is normal for children to be close to mothers and remain distant to fathers. Fox & Blanton (1995) stress that men need to be empowered so they can become aware of their own personal value to their children and know they can form close bonds with them.

Other practical difficulties include the father being inexperienced as a caregiver, not being able to provide a suitable environment to facilitate family living and not being adequately equipped to meet the needs of all children when there is more than one child (Fox & Blanton, 1995).

However, the main challenge is that the father is now on his own and he can not depend on the mother to be a translator of the children's needs (Arendell, 1995). The things he was accustomed to that the mother once did, become challenges for him to tackle alone.

Thus, the new family situation for the nonresidential father and his children is an extremely difficult and challenging one. Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) comment that while courts and hostile partners have done

their best to impose severe restrictions and conditions on visitation rights, it has been detrimental to a relationship that is fragile and in need of encouragement. Hetherington and Hagan (1986) state that while divorce ends the marital relationship, parental roles should not be terminated. Parenthood is a joint venture whether the parents are together or apart. As parenthood involves family living, fathers and their children need to be able to function as a family just as mothers do with their children.

Studies on the family functioning of nonresidential fathers and their children is practically nonexistent (Esposito, 1995). Therefore, it is necessary to explore the dynamics of family functioning between nonresidential fathers and their children, including relationships between parents (Kitzmann & Emery, 1994). Restructuring parental relationships are important as they offer stability to the children (Kitzmann and Emery, 1994). Further, a structure for individual roles within a maritally disrupted family facilitates harmonious relationships (Johnston, 1990). By investigating the internal dynamics of nonresidential father-child families after divorce, an understanding can be gained of how fathers and their children restructure their relationships.

Intact families, whether functional or dysfunctional have their own style of family functioning. Separated families, while not complete, have a restructured family with the residential parent and another restructured family with the nonresidential parent. As both parents are key persons in the children's family (Munsch et al., 1995; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), each needs to have a special relationship that has emotional closeness, loyalty,

relationship roles, discipline and all the other characteristics of a family.

These families also have their own style of family functioning.

Theoretical Concepts

Theoretical explanations for the study of family functioning in nonresidential father-child families are lacking in the literature. However, Esposito (1995) considered that no family should be studied without regard to cohesion and adaptability, which are components of family functioning according to the Circumplex Model for Marital and Family Systems (Olson, Sprenkle & Russell, 1979). Esposito (1995) investigated cohesion and adaptability in father-child relationships, in association with parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality. He was interested in how nonresidential father-child families are restructured following divorce, and considered the Circumplex Model to be suitable as a basis for addressing family functioning of nonresidential fathers and their children. The model has also been used for other research on divorced families. Mathis and Yingling (1990) assessed differences of family cohesion and adaptability between divorcing and intact families, as perceived by partners with children.

The Circumplex Model was developed by Olson et al. (1979), to assess family functioning from a systems perspective, through the conceptual clustering of more than fifty concepts as a means by which marital and family dynamics can be assessed. It is internationally recognised and has been used for both clinical and research purposes, forming the theoretical basis for more than 600 studies (Olson, Russell &

Sprenkle, 1989). It comprises of three central dimensions, cohesion, adaptability and communication. Cohesion refers to the emotional bonding experienced by families. Adaptability refers to the family's ability to change roles and power structures and adapt to situational and developmental stress. Communication is believed to facilitate movement on the other two dimensions and is incorporated within them (Olson, 1989).

Cohesion and adaptability both have four family types each, which range from extreme types of family functioning at either end to balanced types toward the centre (see figure 1). Cohesion ranges from *disengaged*, to *separated*, to *connected*, to *enmeshed* while adaptability ranges from *chaotic*, to *flexible*, to *structured*, to *rigid*. *Disengaged* and *enmeshed* are considered to be extremes on cohesion, while *separated* and *connected* reflect more balanced family types. *Chaotic* and *rigid* are considered the extreme adaptability types, while *flexible* and *structured* are the more balanced types (Olson, 1989).

To illustrate family types of cohesion, *disengaged* families suffer from extreme emotional separateness, are highly independent and members do not share interests. *Enmeshed* families demonstrate strong dependency, extreme closeness and loyalty, with little or no autonomy. *Separated* families experience some degree of emotional separateness, with an emphasis on being apart rather than together and *connected* relationships indicate some closeness and loyalty, with the emphasis on being together rather than apart. *Separated* and *connected* families are

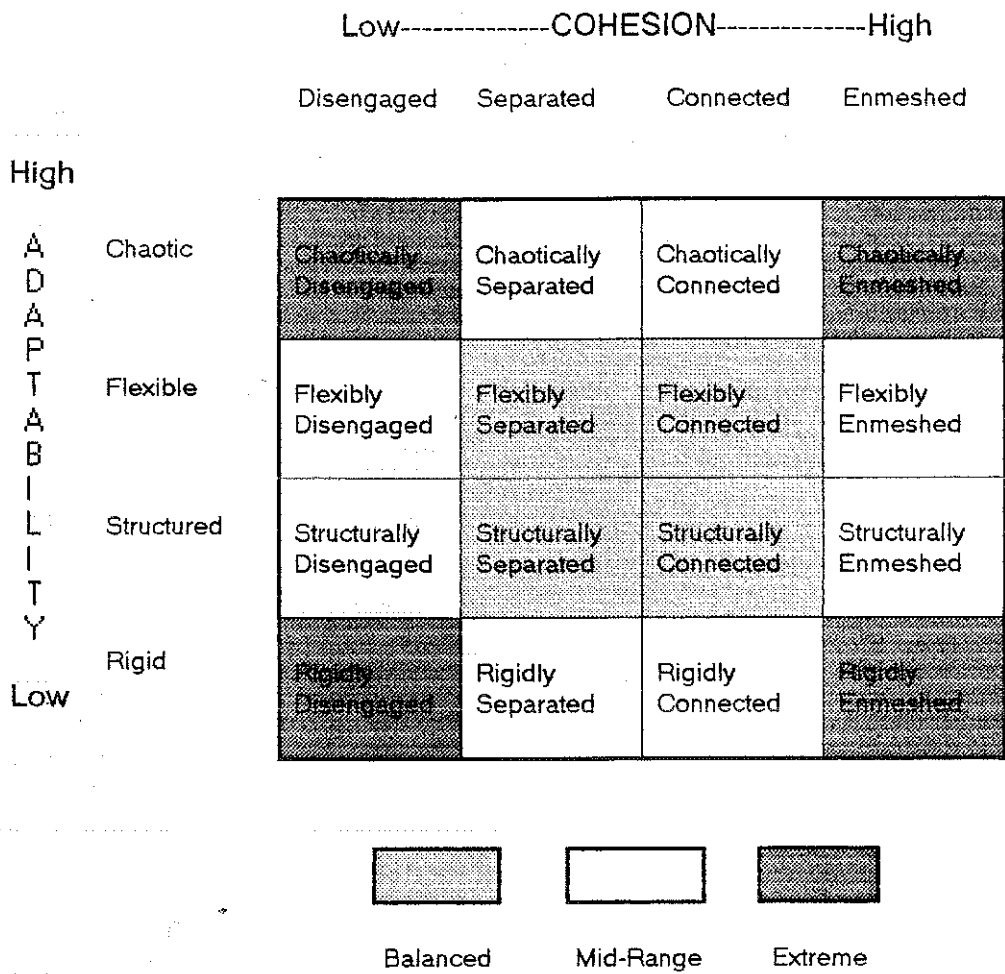


Figure 1. Circumplex Model: Sixteen Types of Marital & Family Systems.

able to blend autonomy with connectedness into their family structure, demonstrating higher levels of family functioning. The extreme types, *enmeshed* and *disengaged*, are considered to portray dysfunctional families.

For adaptability, *chaotic* families are those with very limited structure and guidelines, with little or no leadership and unclear roles for family members. *Rigid* families, the extreme opposite, usually have an authoritarian leader and experience a rigid family structure characterised by strict rules and guidelines. *Flexible* families see roles shared more equally, with rules that are changeable and *structured* families are able to adapt to various situations while maintaining some form of structure. *Chaotic* and *rigid* are considered to be dysfunctional family types, while *flexible* and *structured* families demonstrate higher levels of family functioning.

Cohesion and adaptability are demonstrated on a map cross sectioned with each other and comprise of sixteen family types altogether (see figure 1). For example, a family could be *flexibly connected* or *rigidly separated* or any of the other combinations. Olson (1991) has also developed a three dimensional version of the Circumplex Model, which assesses family functioning in a linear manner from extreme types at the lower end to mid-range types at the centre, to balanced types at the top of the scale. This allows the model to be used for identifying relationships between balanced family functioning and other variables (see Appendix H for details of linear model).

The model is versatile and able to be used in various family situations. It has been accurate in identifying dysfunctional families at extreme levels of the scales and normally functioning families toward the centre. From a systems approach, mean and discrepancy scores between family members can be obtained. Perceived and Ideal scores can be obtained to measure individual satisfaction with family functioning. It is used for planning intervention and assessing family types before and after therapy, to identify changes within family structures. It is also considered useful in providing a clear framework from which similarities and differences can be understood, both in family therapy and research processes (Olson, 1989).

Nonresidential fathers and their children have limited time in which they can be a family. Therefore, it is to be expected that those who have limited time together would possibly be vulnerable to falling into the extreme family types, especially immediately after the separation. For example, being apart for most of the time may encourage a more *enmeshed* relationships when they are together. Alternatively, they could be quite distant from each other and have a *disengaged* relationship. This is especially likely in the first year as children are adjusting to the new situation (Jacobson, 1978; Spanier & Thompson, 1984). However, in due course, when family members have time to become accustomed to the new living arrangements, it should be possible for fathers to be able to have more normal living arrangements with their children.

According to Burr (1995), theories in family research give perspectives and help to explain what is going on. They are useful for providing existing sets of ideas that give guidelines for studying in certain areas. However, it is necessary to understand that families are complex entities with varying environments and long histories (Burr, 1995).

Therefore, integrating theory into family research, while necessary, should be approached with the understanding that families are diverse and often wrought with complicating issues. This is especially true for the study of divorced families.

The Current Study

As families are complex systems, they require richness and diversity in collecting data. Sells, Smith and Sprenkle (1995) suggest a multimethod approach to family research as it is able to offer information that neither quantitative nor qualitative research alone can provide. They state that a multimethod approach assists in bridging the gaps that currently exist between theory, research and practice. This study adopts a multimethod approach to replicate and extend Esposito's (1995) study, with the view of attempting to understand the father's perspective of relationship issues associated with his ex-wife and his children and the ability for him and his children to function as a family post divorce.

The replication endeavours to predict cohesion and adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family, by the quality of parental interactions and the quality of father-child interactions. The extension is an exploratory analysis which attempts to explain findings from the main study. The

multimethod approach incorporating quantitative and qualitative methodology, is useful for replicating studies which have yielded unexpected results, giving the researcher an opportunity to explore the relevance of theoretical applications as they are applied to specific populations (Sells et al., 1995). Esposito (1995) found that parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality predicted cohesion. However, he did not find any association between parental interaction quality or father-child interaction quality and adaptability. This finding was unexpected, leading the author to consider that perhaps adaptability was difficult to measure in separated families. This study, through a multimethod approach, attempts to explain findings from the replication, by exploring areas of family functioning as they apply to nonresidential fathers and their children.

The study is divided into two sections, the replication (section 1) and the extension (section 2). Two research questions are addressed in the first section, which hypothesise that from the father's perspective, (a) higher levels of parental interaction quality will predict more functional levels of cohesion and adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family, and (b) higher levels of nonresidential father-child interaction quality will predict more functional levels of cohesion and adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family.

It was expected that due to the body of literature regarding the effects of poor parental relationships on the well being of children (Fox & Blanton, 1995; Frieman, 1994; Johnston et al., 1989), and the widespread

difficulties involved in the restructuring of family relationships between nonresidential fathers and their children (Fox & Blanton, 1995; Minton & Pasley, 1996; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), that both hypotheses would be supported. As Esposito (1995) had few controls in his study, this study tested the hypotheses with more stringent controls in an attempt to see if they would make a difference.

The second section explores the way in which the nonresidential father and his children function as a family. Research questions incorporate the theoretical components of cohesion and adaptability, with general questions regarding the nonresidential father's perception of family life with his children. As the nonresidential father-child family has unique characteristics that are likely to differ from intact families, it was necessary to explore the extent to which the components of the model applied to the nonresidential father-child family.

Two criterion (dependent variables), (a) cohesion and (b) adaptability are measured by two predictors (independent variables), (a) the quality of the interactions between the parents and (b), the quality of the interactions between the father and his children. All variables are according to the perception of the nonresidential father.

METHODS

Section 1

Research Design

A survey questionnaire, correlational research, cross sectional design was used for this study. This design was considered the most appropriate due to the sensitive topic under investigation and time constraints in gathering data. It was conducted mostly by mail, with some participants receiving materials in person.

Participants

A nonprobability sampling approach using a purposive sample was necessary due to the specific sample required. Most participants were from Western Australia and some were from Victoria. A total of 104 questionnaires were distributed, 56 of which were returned. Eight were discarded due to incomplete questionnaires and participants not meeting the required criteria, leaving 48 valid returns.

Several strategies took place in recruiting participants. The Lone Fathers Family Support Service, the Men's Health and Well-Being Association, the Lone Fathers Association and informal networking were all instrumental in obtaining participants. In addition, a community newspaper group, "Community News" published an editorial in several community newspapers, inviting those who met the criteria to participate. Parents Without Partners, Parents Without Rights and informal networking assisted in recruiting those from Victoria.

All participants received information regarding the nature and purpose of the study. They were also informed that the study would

increase knowledge and understanding of the family lives of nonresidential fathers and their children. Ethical guidelines were strictly adhered to in approaching participants.

Due to the nature and complexity of the study, which can involve many influential factors, the following conditions applied to control for some obvious potentially confounding variables. Participants were nonresidential fathers. That is, fathers without their children living with them most of the time and (a) had been separated from their children's mother for at least two years, (b) had children from their own biological union with the children's mother, aged 16 years and under, (c) had contact with their children and (d) had some contact with their children's mother. Information regarding demographic details of participants (see Table 1) were recorded for the purpose of obtaining a reasonable understanding of the specific sample under investigation (further details in Appendix I).

Selection and requirements of participants differed in this study to the Esposito study in several ways. While Esposito recruited his participants from five area support groups, the current sample was selected through various means, mostly from the general public and some from selected men's associations. The purpose was to endeavour to obtain results that are more representative of the population being studied. Men who attend support groups are more likely to have unresolved emotional issues than others, regarding their feelings toward their ex-partners, their children and their circumstances.

Table 1

Demographic details of Nonresidential Father-Child Families

	Mean	Std D	Range	Minim	Maxim
Father's age (years)	41.4	5.9	25	32	57
Years with children's mother	9.8	5.0	23	1	24
Years separated from family	4.9	3.0	14	2	16
Number of children	2.0	0.8	3	2	4
Monthly child support paid	\$413	\$319	\$1170	\$0	\$1170

	Percentages		Percentages
Frequency of contact		Initiator of separation	
More than weekly	22.9	Father	16.7
Weekly	22.9	Mother	68.8
Fortnightly	33.3	Both	14.6
Monthly	10.4	Country of origin	
Less than monthly	10.4	Australia	70.8
Father's annual income		England	18.8
Less than \$20,000	27.1	America	2.1
\$20,001 - \$30,000	27.1	New Zealand	4.2
\$30,001 - \$40,000	16.7	Other	2.1
\$40,001 - \$50,000	12.5	Went to court for custody	
\$50,001 - \$60,000	4.2	Yes	35.4
More than \$60,000	10.4	No	52.1
Number of residential children		Father has live-in relationship	
None	83.3	Yes	35.4
One	12.5	No	64.6
Two	4.2	Mother has live-in relationship	
Father's highest education		Yes	50
Year 7	4.2	No	50
Year 10	45.8	Mother's highest education	
Year 12	12.5	Year 10	54.2
Tertiary	35.4	Year 12	18.8
		Tertiary	20.8

Another important difference is the control for a minimum separation time of two years. The Esposito study included men separated for only two months. It is generally accepted among professionals working with divorced families and substantiated in the literature (Jacobson, 1978; Spanier & Thompson, 1984), that the early years of a marriage break up are prone to high emotional states. Child support issues, property settlements, unresolved feelings for partners and other obstacles involved in the transition all have an effect.

Further, the sample obtained for the Esposito study was primarily American, whereas the current study is Australian. Differences in social attitudes toward divorce may determine the importance of this variable.

Materials

Participants received three questionnaires. The first two were developed by Esposito (1995). These were the Measure of Parental Interaction Quality (Appendix B) and the Measure of Non-custodial Father-Child Interaction Quality (Appendix C). The third was the Family Adaptability and Cohesion Scale III (FACES III) (Olson, Portner & Lavee, 1985), which was adapted for the Esposito (1995) study (Appendix D). A covering letter accompanied questionnaires, fully explaining the purpose of the study (see Appendix A) and a demographic information form (Appendix E).

The Measure of Parental Interaction Quality measures the perceived quality of interactions between divorced parents. An eight-item index (5,7,8,10,13,15,18 &19) contained within the 20-item questionnaire is

measured. The information in the questionnaire was obtained through a review of the literature and the eight items chosen were considered to be stronger than the others. Internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .84$) is empirically supported (Esposito, 1995).

The Measure of Non-custodial Father-Child Interaction Quality assesses the perceived interaction quality of the non-custodial father and his children. The eight-item index within a 20-item questionnaire also applied as above. Internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .61$) is adequately supported (Esposito, 1995).

The FACES III is a test used extensively in family studies and measures cohesion and adaptability, components of the Circumplex Model. It has high ($r = .77$ cohesion; $r = .62$ adaptability) internal consistency reliability and higher ($r = .83$ cohesion; $r = .80$ adaptability) test re-test reliability (Olson et al., 1989).

Procedure

As data collection occurred through various means, procedure varied according to its source. The Lone Fathers Family Support Service was the main collecting point in Western Australia and a private mail box in Victoria. A stamp addressed envelope accompanied every set of questionnaires distributed to facilitate confidentiality.

The Lone Fathers Family Support Service provided names and phone numbers from their data base. The people sought had no record of attending any support group, but had made contact with the service at some point of time. Details on the data base indicated suitability as

candidates. After phoning those who appeared to fit the criteria, the researcher informed them about the nature and purpose of the study, and invited them to participate.

Those obtained by word of mouth were first told of the nature and purpose of the study and then invited to participate. Where persons other than the researcher made the contact, they received a note with the necessary information regarding the criteria for suitable participants.

The Lone Fathers Family Support Service assisted procedure for the phone-in arrangements. Receptionists received written instructions for taking calls from volunteer participants. They recorded the person's name, address and telephone number, for mailing of questionnaires.

The editorial published by Community News provided information about the purpose and intention of the study. It invited nonresidential fathers who met the criteria to call in and leave their name and address, so that they could receive the necessary materials.

The Men's Health and Well Being Association and the Lone Fathers Association when approached, agreed to inform their members of the study. The same phone-in arrangements used by the media also applied to those contacted through the associations. Participants in Victoria came from Parents Without Partners, Parents Without Rights and through word of mouth.

Section 2

Research Design

The qualitative investigation involved one hour semi-structured, face to face interviews. Audio tapes and notes recorded the interviews after receiving permission from participants. This approach is recommended for analysis of qualitative data to ensure obtaining maximum information (Riessman, 1993). Combining note taking with tape recording provides maximum benefit for obtaining optimal information.

Participants

Participants were randomly selected from the list of names, addresses and telephone numbers obtained in the main study. The selection only included those who provided phone numbers. Participants were called and invited to be interviewed. They received an explanation of the purpose, which was to extend the main study and gain a more in depth understanding of the perceptions of nonresidential fathers. Several declined due to time factors or for personal reasons. Eight agreed to an interview, but three declined near to the scheduled interview time, leaving five participants to interview. For ethical reasons, it was made clear to all participants that they were free to refuse should they wish.

The five participants all had very different backgrounds and varied situations. Three had two children each, including one with twins, one had three children and the other had one child (total = 10 children). Four were formerly married and one had been in a defacto relationship with their children's mother. The separation time ranged from two and one half years

to seven years. Contact with children varied from a restricted three hour access time, usually each week to unlimited access with organised contact one week day overnight and every second weekend for the full weekend. Re-partnering of parents also varied from neither parent being re-partnered to both being re-partnered. Of the ten children represented by their fathers, three were boys and seven were girls. Their ages ranged from six (twin girls) to twelve years.

Materials

A pre-interview form (see Appendix F) was used to record demographic information. A scale was also included, which asked the participant to rate his perception of (a) the quality of interactions between himself and his children's mother, (b) the quality of interactions between himself and his children, (c) how he sees his family situation with his children (d) what is the biggest obstacle in preventing him and his children from being a family. The first two questions were on a likert type scale with five options ranging from very poor to very good. The third was semi-structured, allowing for multiple answers and the fourth was open ended.

The pre-interview form had three purposes. First, it was necessary to obtain some information that provided a link between the first and second parts to the study. Second, it was to use as a guide to initially establish the participant's thoughts on his family relationships and third, it was instrumental in preparing each participant for the interview to follow and encourage him to focus on his family relationship with his children.

Interviews were semi-structured and an interview schedule was constructed according to the theoretical factors underpinning cohesion and adaptability, components of the Circumplex Model (see Appendix G). As the model assesses normal family functioning and it is common for nonresidential fathers to strive for normal family relationships with their children, it is a useful tool to use as a standard by which to measure. The purpose is to identify areas that prevent the nonresidential father and his children from normal family living, as well as identifying the areas in which they are able to function as a normal family.

Procedure

Interviews took place at the office of Lifeline's Lone Fathers Family Support Service. A short conversation took place to establish rapport and allow enough time for the participant to become reasonably comfortable with the interview situation. Each participant was informed of the focus of the study and that should he wish to discuss any other issues, counselling would be available to him at a different time. Permission was obtained from the participant to tape the interview before commencement.

The participant completed the interview schedule, which took approximately five minutes. After viewing the answers on the schedule, the researcher continued with the interview. The purpose of viewing the answers was to obtain a picture of how the participant perceives his family relationship before exploring the details.

Open ended questions included those regarding emotional closeness, family loyalty, dependency, feelings shared, space permitted,

closeness and separateness and agreement on decisions for cohesion. Questions regarding adaptability included parental style, parental control, discipline, consequences, negotiations, decisions, role clarity, rules and expectations. For example, the question on emotional closeness read, "Can you tell me a little about how close you think that you and your children are emotionally?" Likewise, the question on role clarity read, "How clear would you say your role as a parent is?" Some questions needed further prompting, but most times prompting was unnecessary as the participants readily answered the questions with details of their experiences.

At the end of the planned interview, participants were invited to further comment on issues regarding their family relationships with their children. The purpose was to ensure that the questions previously asked, based on the Circumplex Model, did not restrict nor inhibit any further thoughts and feelings the participant may want to comment on. It also gave them the opportunity to comment where they considered questions asked to be unsuitable to the nonresidential father-child situation. On completion of each interview, the researcher recorded impressions gained from the interview content and procedure.

RESULTS

Section 1

Two separate standard multiple regression analyses were performed to predict cohesion and adaptability from parental interaction quality and nonresidential father-child interaction quality. SPSS for Windows was used to perform statistical procedures.

Assumptions were tested for univariate and multivariate outliers and regarding normality, linearity and homoscedasticity of residuals, as suggested by Tabachnick and Fidell (1989). There was no evidence of multicollinearity among the predictors. The correlation coefficient matrix indicated that parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality were not significantly related ($r = .112$). There were no univariate outliers detected with the use of Z scores at -3 and +3 levels. Scatterplots indicated that no assumptions were violated regarding normality, linearity and homoscedasticity among the variables. Using Mahalanobis distance with $p < .001$, no multivariate outliers were detected. Data with missing cases were not included in the study, $N=48$.

Table 2 illustrates correlations between cohesion and the two predictors, the unstandardised regression coefficients (B) and the standardised regression coefficients (Beta). B for regression was significantly different from zero, $F(2,45) = 8.89$, $p < .001$. The R Square of .28 (adjusted R Square = .25) indicates that 28% of the variance in cohesion can be explained by the linear combination of the predictors. However, individual regression coefficients indicated that only the quality of nonresidential father-child interaction was significantly related to

cohesion at .52 ($p < .001$). Whereas parental interaction quality showed almost a nonexistent relationship with cohesion in the nonresidential father-child family (.06, $p > .05$).

Table 2

Standard Multiple Regression for Parental Interaction Quality and
Father-Child Interaction Quality on Cohesion

Variables	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.245967	.060531	.517729	4.064	.0002*
PIQ	.016549	.035052	.060151	.472	.6391
(Constant)	-4.995588	2.075149		-2.407	.0202

$F(2, 45) = 8.69, p < .001$

R Square = .28; Adjusted R Square = .25

* $p < .001$

Table 3 displays correlations between adaptability and the two predictors, the unstandardised regression coefficients (**B**) and the standardised regression coefficients (Beta). Results indicated that **B** for regression was not significant, $F(2,45) = .12, p > .05$. Therefore, neither parental interaction quality nor father-child interaction quality significantly predicted adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family (further details on analysis in Appendix J).

Table 3

**Standard Multiple Regression for Parental Interaction Quality and
Father-Child Interaction Quality on Adaptability**

Variables	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.021155	.067331	.047006	.314	.7548
PIQ	-.015870	.038990	-.060894	-.407	.6859
(Constant)	4.074309	2.308294		1.765	.0843

$F(2, 45) = .12, p > .05$

R Square = .005; Adjusted R Square = -.039

Demographic details were tested to see if any significantly related to the dependent variables. There were no significant relationships to cohesion or adaptability when measured with the years spent with the children's mother, years separated from the family, number of children, sex of children, frequency of visitation, child support paid, fathers highest education, father live-in relationships or mother live-in relationships.

A further analysis was conducted to investigate the possibility of interactions between the predictors with cohesion and adaptability. Results indicated that there were no significant interactions between the predictors with either cohesion or adaptability when tested at the .05 level.

Section 2

A Narrative Analysis procedure (Riessman, 1993) was implemented to record interview data. The procedure takes into consideration comments, inferences and emotional tones. For example, when the participant is showing an emotional reaction to a situation, the interviewer records the incident and considers it in context of comments and inferences. A full profile of the individual experiences of each participant was recorded.

Excel spreadsheets were used to facilitate analysis and sorting of data. A thematic approach was taken to identify common themes among refined variables. As expected, results indicated that nonresidential fathers shared some experiences and differed in others (see Appendix K).

The pre-interview form showed that perceived interaction quality with the children's mother ranged from very poor to satisfactory (see Table 4), with an average of 'poor'. Nonresidential father-child interaction ranged from poor to very good (see Table 5), with an average of 'good'.

Table 4
Pre-interview Ratings on Parental Interaction Quality

Parental Interaction Quality	Participant Number					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor		x	x			2
Poor				x		1
Satisfactory	x				x	2
Good						0
Very Good						0

Table 5
Pre-interview Ratings on Nonresidential Father-Child Interaction Quality

Father-Child Interaction Quality	Participant Number					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor						0
Poor	x					1
Satisfactory						0
Good		x	x	x		3
Very Good					x	1

Participant numbers one, three and five reported that they did not see themselves as a family at all, while participant number two said they try to be a family and it sort of works out okay. Participants four and five reported doing okay at being a family while together.

Participants one, two, three and five (4 participants) reported that contact time was an obstacle to being a family with their children. Participants two and three (2 participants) said the mother's interference was an obstacle, participants one and four (2 participants) considered that distance was an obstacle and one participant said that the inability to make lasting decisions was also an obstacle to them being a family.

Results from the interviews indicated that several common themes emerged for issues related to cohesion (see Table 6). Comments are arranged in descending order of reported frequency among participants, to illustrate items more likely to indicate the possibility of general association with nonresidential father-child families.

Table 6

Emerging Common Themes for Cohesion

Participant Number	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fath & chn dependent on each other	x	x	x	x	x	5
Feelings between fath & chn are shared	x	x	x		x	4
Fath & chn like time tog & time apart	x	x		x	x	4
Lack of time affects cohesion	x		x	x		3
Fath notices individual differences in chn	x			x	x	3
Fath considerate of chn's feelings	x	x			x	3
Fath directs decision making	x	x		x		3
Fath & chn very close emotionally	x	x			x	3
Fath & chn communic./personal issues			x	x	x	3
Fath & chn do most things together	x		x		x	3
Father has contact outside access time	x			x	x	3
Fath believes his family is loyal	x			x	x	3
Unsure of loyalty when chn away		x	x			2
Fath & chn reasonably close			x	x		2
Fath notices difference son/daugh-close				x	x	2
Fath misses emotional issues with chn	x			x		2
Fath & chn depend on emotional contact	x	x				2
Fath & chn don't share feelings enough		x		x		2

Fath = father; chn = children

Note that all fathers reported an interdependency with their children. All participants except one said that feelings between father and children are shared. Participant four, the one exception, reported that he found openly showing his feelings difficult due to his upbringing. All participants except one also commented that father and children like time together and time apart. The exception, participant three, has very limited contact time with his child, which would not allow him this option. Lack of time was mentioned by three participants as affecting areas of cohesion. Other common themes that emerged relating to cohesion were emotional closeness, communication, contact time and loyalty.

Of particular interest is the pattern of agreement between fathers who have outside access time and his perception of family loyalty. Of equal interest is that those who were unsure of how loyal their children were when they were away, were the same fathers who reported very poor relationships with their children's mother. They also said that the mother's interference was an obstacle in them and their children being a family. One is the father who has limited access time, while the other has reasonable weekend access every second week. Another interesting observation is that the fathers who reported distance being an obstacle to being a family also commented that they miss the emotional sharing with their children. For example, wanting to be with the children when they are unwell, missing the everyday sharing of the children's problems and missing special spontaneous times when feelings are shared.

On a more positive note, the fathers who scored better ratings of perceived parental interaction quality also reported having contact with their children outside the normal designated access time. Further, all fathers having two or more children of different sexes noticed differences between them in areas of cohesion. Fathers reported that their daughters openly displayed their emotions more so than their sons.

An overview of all the interviews suggests that all fathers appear to have a reasonably close and loving relationship with their children. They also indicated that they are able to communicate with their children on a personal level. Many comments unique to each nonresidential father and his situation occurred throughout the interviews, which enhance the common themes presented, and will be discussed in the next chapter.

More common themes emerged for adaptability than for cohesion (see Table 7). They included four on which all participants agreed. Negotiating with children, believing in discipline, having rules and boundaries and using various parenting methods applied to all nonresidential fathers. Four fathers saw that limited time with their children hindered their parenting role. The fifth participant, not included, appeared to have the best relationship with his children's mother, had unlimited contact outside access time and showed great pride in his parenting role. All fathers except the third, with limited access time, reported having reasonably good parental control.

Table 7

Emerging Common Themes for Adaptability

Participant Number	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fath negotiates with chn	x	x	x	x	x	5
Fath believes in discipline	x	x	x	x	x	5
Fath has boundaries / rules	x	x	x	x	x	5
Fath uses various parenting methods	x	x	x	x	x	5
Parenting role hindered by limited time	x	x	x	x		4
Fath has good parental control	x	x		x	x	4
Chn respond to fath's suggestions			x	x	x	3
Fath likes to teach in correcting			x	x	x	3
All make decisions together	x	x			x	3
Rules are sometimes broken	x			x	x	3
Fath feels left out/parenting involvement	x	x	x			3
Mother makes things difficult		x	x			2
Fath adapts to different situations	x		x			2
Instructions need repeating at times		x			x	2
Fath unsure of correct disciplinary action		x		x		2
Fath aware of own anger in discipline		x			x	2
Fath always consistent with discipline	x		x			2
Fath's situation determines consistency		x		x		2
Consistency of discipline depends		x		x		2
Fath believes in reasoning not hitting		x			x	2
Chn respond well to discipline			x		x	2
Fath has final say sometimes	x	x				2
Fath expects to always be there for chn		x			x	2
Fath expects more cooperation/ mother		x	x			2

Fath = father; chn = children

Participants three, four and five all appeared to take an authoritative role in decision making and reported an inclination to teach their children through correction and negotiation. Participants two and three, both with very poor relationships with their children's mother, mentioned the mother making things difficult in areas of adaptability and having expectations of greater cooperation. A pattern emerged with participants two and five in four areas. They both reported being aware of their anger in disciplining their children and had definite opinions about not hitting but reasoning with their children. They also said they need to repeat instructions at times and both stated they expected to always be there for their children. A noteworthy consideration is that the same two fathers demonstrated the closest attachments to their children of the five fathers.

Questions that related to role identity and expectations were of particular interest. Rather than common themes, a range of individual experiences emerged through the interviews. Comments indicate some difficulties known to be experienced by many nonresidential fathers.

Results of the adaptability segment of the interview suggest that nonresidential fathers appear reasonably balanced in their ability to adapt to the situational and developmental changes in their children's lives. However, some influential issues, either unique to each individual situation or common to most nonresidential father-child family situations, make the parenting role very challenging for the father and normality in family living most difficult to achieve.

Discussion

This study replicated and extended Esposito's (1995) study, which investigated the family functioning of nonresidential fathers and their children. Since part of the results from Esposito's (1995) study were unexpected and the sample was representative of nonresidential fathers attending support groups only, it was considered that replicating the study with some stringent controls to try and obtain a more representative sample, could give different results. The study was extended by adding an exploratory dimension, for the purpose of adding richness and providing explanations for the findings. Further analysis indicated that there were no significant interactions between the two predictors and the two criterion.

Two hypotheses were tested, to see if cohesion and adaptability would be predicted by parental interaction quality and nonresidential father-child interaction quality, according to the nonresidential father's perception. Higher father-child interaction quality significantly predicted more functional levels of cohesion in the family life of nonresidential fathers and their children ($p < .001$). However, parental interaction quality did not predict cohesion and neither parental interaction quality nor father-child interaction quality predicted adaptability in the family lives of nonresidential fathers and their children.

Interpretation and Comparisons

These results differed considerably from Esposito's (1995) study. Esposito found significant relationships between cohesion and parental interaction quality ($r = .37, p < .01$) and father-child interaction quality

($r = .35, p < .02$). However, the nonsignificant results for adaptability in this study were consistent with those found by Esposito. Another interesting difference between the two studies is that Esposito reported a strong positive association between the two criterion, cohesion and adaptability ($r = .33, p = .01$). The correlation coefficient matrix for this study indicated that cohesion and adaptability showed a weak, negative relationship ($r = -.114$), indicating an entirely different view of family functioning in this study.

Differences in the two studies can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, to meet the criteria for this study, participants had to have been separated from their children's mother for at least two years. The Esposito study had no control for separation time and included participants who had been separated for only two months. The length of separation time of the parents is an important control that could make a significant difference to obtaining results applicable to nonresidential father-child families that are settled in their restructured family situations.

After marital separation, all family members take some time for emotional and psychological adjustment (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986). Even when one partner experiences a great sense of relief from the separation, emotions still run high and feelings of ambivalence are common (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986, Spanier & Thompson, 1984). McMurray (1995) outlines four stages that couples go through after marital separation, of which the first two are a time of shock and a rollercoaster experience. The rollercoaster experience can last for several months and

is characterised by severe mood swings. Anger, guilt, loneliness, depression, anxiety, low self esteem, attachment to the former spouse, feelings of worthlessness and general dissatisfaction with life are among the reported early responses to separation and divorce (Hetherington & Hagan 1986, McMurray, 1995; Spanier & Thompson, 1984; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980).

As the necessary adjustment time for parental separation is well established in the literature, it would be reasonable to conclude that Esposito's significant results, that high parental interaction quality predicted more functional levels of cohesion, could have been confounded by a certain amount of men's lingering attachment to their children's mother. This needs to be recognised and acknowledged as the initial period after marital separation is a passing phase, later replaced by a more fulfilling lifestyle with new relationships (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986) and often a new identity (McMurray, 1995). Therefore, a sample including recently separated fathers may give very different results than others who are more settled in their role as a nonresidential parent.

A second possible explanation for differences between the current study and Esposito's study is the sampling technique. Esposito acknowledged that his sample, which consisted of fathers from support groups, was a possible limitation to his study as he considered fathers were likely to have excessively strong feelings toward their children. This is a reasonable assumption as Frieman (1994) found that divorced men are more involved in support groups when they are focused on learning

about their children. Therefore, fathers who are committed enough to seek support could be considered to feel more attachment toward their children.

Esposito further commented that the father's strong feelings toward the children was possibly reflected in the very high scores on father-child interaction quality. However, these scores were consistent with the current study, which used a different sampling procedure. Therefore, it could be considered that inflated scores on father's perceptions of their relationships with their children is common regardless of whether or not they attend support groups. The fact that they have contact with their children indicates that they are likely to be emotionally attached (Hetherington & Hagan, 1989; Kruk, 1991; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980).

What is uncertain is whether perception differs from reality. This is difficult to ascertain at this stage due to the limited research on the experiences of nonresidential fathers. Further, the current study is primarily concerned with nonresidential father's perceptions.

Other minor differences exist between the two studies which could also be influential. As Esposito's study was American and the current study was Australian, social attitudes toward divorce could make a difference to how nonresidential fathers perceive their former spouses. Also, in view of the demographic details, the average education level of participants in Esposito's study (average = 14 years, range = 11-tertiary) was slightly higher than the current study (average = 11 years, range = 7-tertiary). It appears that the average schooling of Esposito's participants was at tertiary level while those in the current study were high school level.

To investigate further would be the work of another study. However, such differences need mentioning.

Part of the purpose of the qualitative investigation was to help explain findings from the first part of the study. As the results were somewhat unexpected, the value of the multimethod approach, allowing one method to build on, compliment and explain the other (Sells et al., 1995) has proven useful. The nonsignificant results that parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality did not predict adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family were no different to the Esposito study. Therefore, they were partially anticipated. However, what was unexpected was the almost nonexistent relationship between the quality of parental interactions and cohesion in the nonresidential father-child family. Contrary to Esposito's results and the literature regarding the effects of parental conflict on children (Fox & Blanton, 1995; Frieman, 1994; Johnston et al., 1989), results showed that the two variables were almost totally unrelated.

Parental Interactions and Cohesion

The mean scores for perceived parental interaction quality fell into the range of "poor" to "average" (mean = 21.4, sd = 6.2, range = 8-40). Scores on cohesion indicated that fathers perceived cohesion in their family functioning to be "separated" (mean 3.5, sd = 1.7, range = 1-8), falling into the mid-range type of family functioning. The results for perceived parental interaction quality from the interviews were consistent with these results. This trend in the data indicates that although parental

interaction quality did not predict family functioning, fathers perceptions of their ability to function as a family with their children are that they can be achieved to a certain extent. This looks reasonably encouraging for family functioning between fathers and their children. However, information gathered through the interviews helps to give more depth of understanding to the subject.

The two participants interviewed who reported the poorest interactions between their ex-spouses made some interesting comments which may provide some possible explanations for the results. Apart from reporting poor parental interaction quality, they also reported having too much interference from their children's mother and being unsure of their children's loyalty. However, the most striking observation common to both fathers is their determination to continue and improve their relationships with their children, despite the poor relationship they have with their children's mother. While they both displayed obvious aggravation and frustration with their respective situations, it was evident they each had a close bond with their children.

The two fathers differed in their situations in other ways. While one had reasonable access, the other had very restricted time with his child. The father who had access was awarded it through the court, while the other did not have a court order for access. However, he was in the process of pursuing one, as his child's mother was unapproachable about the matter and consistent with Arditti's (1995) comment, she was very controlling regarding the father's access. Yet he expected the situation to

improve after his court hearing and in the meanwhile, was determined to see his child as much as he could. He did not consider he and his child were able to be a family at that stage.

The father with reasonable access mentioned several times throughout the interview that he wanted to have an influence on his children's lives. It appeared he was able to detach his relationship with his children from the differences he experienced with their mother. However, it was evident that it did influence the relationship to a certain degree. When asked about the feelings shared between him and his children, he claimed his ex-wife was always in the background and that she had a negative influence on them. His children were obviously a very important part of his life and although he was not happy with his relationship with his ex-wife, he was determined to provide a good role model for his children and have a positive influence in general. When asked about the ability for him and his children to be a family, he was quite positive about it and said his girlfriend made it easier because he can demonstrate to his children that an open loving relationship between adults was possible. This was something that had bothered him greatly as he believes in teaching children by example and was aware the example he and their mother were setting was very poor indeed.

Considering the comments and experiences of these two fathers, some possible explanations for the findings can be considered. The fact that both fathers were determined to make an effort in their relationships with their children and that they demonstrated parental bonding with their

children, indicates that fathers are to a degree able to disallow contentious parental relationships to interfere with their family lives with their children. This may help to explain the nonsignificant results for parental interaction quality and cohesion. Therefore, family functioning between fathers and their children may not be as affected by parental interactions as expected.

Kitzmann & Emery (1994) suggest that child adjustment to divorce is not affected so much by parental problems themselves, but by the ability of parents to protect their children from them. However, Johnston et al. (1989) found children still showed symptoms of poor adjustment and being psychologically disturbed when parents of distressed families did not show any outward aggression. Parents may shelter their children from being involved in their problems as they become more aware of inappropriate behaviour in front of their children. However, the perception of children should not be taken lightly. Although Johnston et al. (1989) found that children are more affected when they are exposed to overt conflict between their parents, covert parental conflict may still be damaging to the well-being of children.

A further consideration refers to extra comments written on returned questionnaires in the current study, which indicated that some fathers only speak to their ex-wives when they have to. This is also consistent with the literature, which states that about one third of men following divorce will avoid seeing their former partner (Spanier & Thompson, 1984). Considering this, answers on questionnaires regarding quality of parental interactions may be confounded by limited contact between parents. For

instance, one of the questions was, "How often do you and you children's mother engage in name calling?" If the contact is limited, the answer is likely to be "never" and would score highest on the parental interaction scale. However, covert behaviours of hostility between the parents could exist. Therefore, measures of interaction quality do not necessarily indicate true relationship quality, but rather a more superficial account of the relationship as it appears on the surface.

Reports from both fathers that they were unsure of their children's loyalty is consistent with separated families involving parental conflict. Johnston et al. (1989) report that children try to be fair to both parents when conflict exists and that although they have various strategies to deal with it, they experience their own conflict in loyalty. They also state that girls who live with their mothers form closer relationships to them, which increases loyalty to that parent. As the two fathers had only female children, their perceptions of being unsure about their children's loyalty may be justified, yet a normal consequence of their situation.

Investigating the relationship between poor parental interaction quality and cohesion in the nonresidential father-child family gives some indication of possible hindrances to family functioning between fathers and their children. Those who reported better parental interaction quality demonstrated some enhancements to family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family. Differences in self confidence and obvious contentment between fathers reporting poor parental interaction quality and those reporting better interactions were quite noticeable.

Although one father had a problem with physical distance between himself and his children, he had obviously been through substantial personal growth. There had been conflict between himself and his ex-wife in the past and he considered it was better to avoid contact if arguments were unavoidable. He made several comments regarding the need for parents to keep their own problems separate from the children. He also showed some intolerance toward parental pettiness in divorce proceedings as his final comments indicated, "parents need to grow up!" Although he confessed he did not see himself and his children as being a family, the interview indicated a perception of reasonably balanced family cohesion.

The other father considered himself "one of the lucky ones". As he was involved in a men's association, he contrasted his own experiences with nonresidential fathers who are not able to see their children because their ex-partners either won't allow it or have left town and can not be found. Although this father reported having satisfactory interaction quality with his ex-wife, results of the interview suggested it may have been better than he suggested. This father frequently discussed children's issues with their mother, was sometimes asked his opinion by the mother and had unlimited phone contact with the children, which he utilised every day. The perceived relationship with his children was very close and cohesion was portrayed as being reasonably "connected", which indicates moderately balanced family functioning. He was involved in almost every area of his children's lives, including school, further activities and any

incidental events that arose. When the children stayed with him, it appeared that they adapted to family life with their dad comfortably.

These two fathers gave a very different portrayal than the two with poor parental interaction quality. Research shows that supportive and cooperative ex-wives enhance the father's parenting role and the father-child relationship following divorce (Aydintug, 1995; Hoffman, 1995; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). This has also been demonstrated in this study. Johnston (1990) states that warmer and more accepting relationships between parents and their children, along with the ability for each member's role to be well defined within the family is predicted by parents being supportive of each other and being able to separate their own needs from their children's needs. The reported experiences of the two fathers who indicated higher parental interaction quality in this study appear to confirm these previous findings.

Cohesion and Family Functioning

Results from the interviews indicated that in general, the fathers had reasonably close emotional bonds with their children and a range of parental skills associated with handling emotional and personal situations as they arose. Limited time and distance were the main themes that emerged from the data. These problems are to a certain extent unavoidable. However, as some had more time with their children than others, it was obvious that a reasonable time frame enhanced the ability for fathers and their children to be able to function as a family.

Two fathers who reported a problem with limited time available, also reported distance being a problem and both indicated emotional closeness was affected. One said he does not get involved in his children's personal lives apart from when they are with him, yet he felt the need to be involved with them emotionally. Therefore, he experienced some dissonance between seeing a need to be involved, yet being unable and restricted by limited time and distance. He had in the past six months changed from weekly visits to fortnightly visits, as the mother had moved further away from him and he expressed discontentment with the new arrangements. The other father was very concerned about the distance he lived from his children. He indicated he missed the emotional sharing in his family and gave an example of feeling the need to be involved when the children were unwell. He felt sad that by the time he sees his children each month, most of what has happened in between is forgotten.

It is evident that time and distance are very realistic problems nonresidential parents are faced with and both often have the same effect. In general, fathers miss daily involvement with their children (McMurray & Blackmore, 1993; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). This is exacerbated by less time and more distance. Much of the depression and deliberate distancing of fathers from their children is caused by limited involvement, as they can not handle the pain of seeing their children for a time and having to leave them again (McMurray & Blackmore, 1993). The ability for fathers and their children to function as a family is thus thwarted by the discontinuity of experiencing everyday life events together.

However, when they have contact, fathers appear to be attentive to their children. All those who had more than one child mentioned noticing either developmental or personality differences in their children. Gender differences were particularly noticeable and age differences were related to developmental issues. One father reported that his daughters share feelings with him more often than his son, whether it be when they stay with him or talk to him on the phone. Another said he was closer emotionally to his daughter as she calls him on the phone and talks to him. He felt more connected with her as a result. The father with the most favourable contact time was very sensitive to the differences in his children. When discussing closeness and separateness, he spoke in some depth about personality differences in his children. This suggests that some nonresidential fathers see themselves as being quite tuned to their children's individual needs, which consequently indicates possible enhancement to family cohesion.

Adaptability and Family Functioning

Exploring components of adaptability also highlighted some issues regarding the family lives of nonresidential fathers and their children. Several common themes emerged from the interviews, suggesting possible common nonresidential parenting concepts. In four instances, all fathers reported the same practice or belief in their parenting style. They all used negotiation skills and various parenting methods and believed in discipline and setting boundaries for their children. However, all except the father with unlimited access reported that their parenting role was hindered by

the limited time they spent with their children. As in areas of cohesion, fathers found the discontinuity of the parenting role to be problematic in their ability to maintain a family situation.

Results from Esposito (1995) and this study found that neither parental interaction quality, nor father-child interaction quality predicted adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family. Esposito (1995) suggested the reason may be due to the limited time fathers and their children spend together, making adaptability very difficult to measure. Information obtained through the interviews provides some further understanding into the experiences of nonresidential fathers regarding this issue. The most obvious observation in fathers' perceptions of their family adaptability was their commitment to parenting. As with areas of cohesion, the fathers displayed an obvious focus on doing their best to be a good parent. Those who reported poor parental interaction quality, spoke comfortably and frankly about their parenting difficulties. They felt left out of parenting issues and showed annoyance from the mother's interference and unreasonable restrictions. However, their attitudes toward their parenting role did not differ from the others. It was evident that all fathers invested substantial time and effort into developing good parenting skills.

Research suggests that fathers who keep in contact with their children are likely to be exceptionally dedicated and that the limited contact causes father-child interactions to be more valued (Munsch et al., 1995). This may help to partially explain both the persistence and the attitudes of those who maintain contact with their children, despite having significant

obstacles between them and their parenting role. Thus, comments from mothers that their children's fathers are incompetent as parents (Wolchik et al., 1996) give cause for concern. Visits for nonresidential fathers are stressful (Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980; Wolchik et al., 1996). Fathers who remain in their children's lives have not opted for the easy solution, but instead continue to be involved in their children's lives regardless of the stress involved. One father mentioned that he sees himself as a father, but not a parent. Some fathers commented in the interviews and in letters sent with returned questionnaires, that often fathers are not heard and mothers always have the upper hand in parenting decisions. This is also substantiated in the literature (Arendell, 1995; McMurray & Blackmore, 1993). Fathers need to be given more consideration in planning their children's lives. This study indicates that nonresidential fathers are capable of being committed and competent parents.

Other common themes emerging from the questions regarding adaptability further supported that fathers were mostly competent and demonstrated having sound parenting skills. For instance, three fathers indicated having very good negotiating skills, decision making skills and correcting strategies. Some went into detail about how they handle various situations and explained the methods they used, some of which were well thought out and indicative of a democratic style of parenting. It was very noticeable that fathers took pride in their ability to handle various situations with their children. One father mentioned that he was more lenient than he had been when he was living with them, because he

desperately wanted them to keep coming to him. Two fathers spoke frankly about parenting issues they were unsure about and one indicated he would be interested in doing a parenting course. It was apparent that they genuinely wanted to be better parents and they disliked the uncertainty they experienced regarding some child developmental issues.

Two fathers reported similarities in several areas that were rather interesting. Both mentioned having a problem with anger in the past and both took great care in describing their own self control and patience with disciplining their children. They both spoke about how they were aware of their problem in the past and how they took great care in dealing with things without allowing anger to be at the forefront. The most interesting aspect of these two fathers is that out of the five, they were the two who appeared to have the closest emotional bonds to their children. They also were the only two who said they expected to always be there for their children and looked forward to being good friends with them later in life.

After interviewing the five fathers, reasons for the nonsignificant results for adaptability by parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality were apparent. The key factor, evident among all the fathers was the importance they placed on their own involvement in their children's lives, especially when it comes to their parental role. The father who did not see himself as a parent demonstrated more of a parental role than he initially reported. The father who had the least time with his child expressed that disciplinary issues were too important to neglect. He spoke of his beliefs about being consistent and demonstrated a good knowledge

of sound parenting skills. Although his role as a parent was very limited and he had a lot of restrictions and interference from his child's mother, he still acknowledged the importance of his role. The attitudes of all fathers regarding their parenting style, discipline, negotiations and decisions appeared balanced, stable and with definition. It was unlikely that parental interactions or father-child interactions would have any effect on these areas of family life.

The areas of adaptability that gave the most varied answers were about role clarity and expectations. Some were unsure about their role, as they could only see themselves as a part-time parent, while others were quite clear about it. Both fathers with poor parental relationships said that the mother's interference hindered their parental role and both with the distance problem said their parental role was a problem as they felt isolated from their children most of the time. The expectations varied immensely without any common themes, which indicates the variety of unique situations and expectations of fathers.

Theoretical Implications

One of the purposes of this study was to explore family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family. Due to the lack of appropriate and applicable theoretical explanations for family functioning in divorced families, the Circumplex Model was used as a guide to investigate the components of family functioning as they apply to the nonresidential father-child family. This gives an opportunity to evaluate in which ways

the model applies to nonresidential father-child families and areas it does not apply.

The Circumplex Model has been used previously in research for divorced families. In a study which compared divorcing with intact families, Mathis and Yingling (1990) found that divorcing couples scored lower on cohesion than intact couples, as was expected. However, there was no significant difference between the two groups for family adaptability. The results of this study substantiate these findings in the sense that adaptability appears to be resistant to potential influential variables. The authors concluded that family systems do not discontinue, but change in varying degrees and questions regarding cause and effect between the divorce process with cohesion and adaptability were raised. With this in mind, it is important to acknowledge that it is unknown how different the fathers are from when they were in the intact family. For instance, they could have remained how they were, experienced some changes or have been changed by the divorce process itself. More research in the area is necessary before this can be better understood. However, the focus of this study is on the father's perspective of cohesion and adaptability as the family is now, regardless of how it was before.

It was quite apparent that most areas of cohesion were applicable to nonresidential fathers and their children. However, problems regarding limited time and distance showed to have a certain impact, which questions the content validity of the Circumplex Model for this particular population. Although it is suitable for measuring cohesion as a gauge for

normal family functioning, consideration needs to be given to the limited time nonresidential fathers and their children are able to spend together and often the distance between them and their children. This has an obvious impact on matters of emotional closeness and bonds between parents and their children, which future models for nonresidential family functioning need to take into account.

Adaptability in nonresidential father-child families also present some problems. The actual parenting areas such as parental style, parental control, discipline, rules, negotiations and decision making, appeared to be suitable most of the time. In fact, most fathers demonstrated both confidence and competence in their parenting skills. However, being consistent with discipline showed to be sometimes determined on whether fathers felt vulnerable to losing their relationships with their children if they were too harsh. Role clarity was also a problem, as some fathers were unable to feel secure in their role as a parent due to problems with their children's mother. Further, the concept of expectations for nonresidential fathers has vastly different connotations to what it would mean to fathers from intact families. Therefore, this part of the Circumplex Model appears to be inappropriate for nonresidential fathers as they each have unique situations, which could not be measured in this sense.

Practical Implications

The understanding gained on the family functioning of nonresidential fathers and their children through this study is substantial. First, as only five nonresidential fathers were interviewed, some caution is

necessary in generalising to all nonresidential fathers. While the fathers were all entirely different and with different circumstances, they were fathers who agreed to be interviewed. Therefore, they can not be representative of the entire nonresidential father population as they may give different accounts to those who would not agree to be interviewed. However, the insights gained regarding their attitudes and experiences contributes to the area considerably. As nonresidential fathers are often looked upon by society as the villain in the scenario (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986), the five interviewed portrayed quite a different picture, indicating being focused on keeping the relationship going with their children and being the best parent they can be.

As the parenting role of the nonresidential father is found to be valuable to the disrupted family (Curtner-Smith, 1995; Munsch et al., 1995; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980), it is evident that facilitating means for father involvement with their children is necessary. While lingering conflict and unsettled disagreements continue in parental relationships, lack of cooperation between parents and reasonable access prevents fathers from being the parent they appear to be capable of being. Therefore, the need for improved services for mediation, counselling and post divorce co-parenting education is becoming increasingly evident. A study by Arbuthnot and Gordon (1996) revealed that compulsory education classes for divorced parents were most successful, resulting in more cooperation and better understanding. Parents need to be made more aware of the necessity for positive restructuring in the entire disrupted family.

Mandatory education may be necessary, as the separated parents who are uncooperative are those who are more likely to be in need.

Clearly defined parental roles in post divorce families has been recognised through previous literature as needing further research (Arditti, 1995). Results from his study suggest that fathers who had better relationships with their children's mother were more secure in their parental role than those with poor parental relationships. Therefore, it is likely that nonresidential parental roles are hindered through poor ex-spousal relationships. Although this needs exploring further with the inclusion of the residential parent's perception, the focus on the father's perception has indicated some of the difficulties from his perspective. Professionals working with divorced families need to give more attention to parental roles and provide adequate strategies that enable parents to understand their importance.

Conclusions and Suggestions for Future Research

This study used a multimethod approach, incorporating qualitative with quantitative methodology, to investigate family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family from the father's perspective, with regard to parental interaction quality and father-child interaction quality. By replicating a recent study (Esposito, 1995), two hypotheses were tested to see if the quality of parental interaction or the quality of father-child interaction predicted cohesion and adaptability in the nonresidential father-child family. With two predictors and two criterion, one hypothesis was supported on one account only, with the other being non-significant.

These results indicate that the quality of interactions between nonresidential fathers and their children are predictive of cohesion, but not of adaptability and interactions between parents do not predict cohesion nor adaptability. Thus, nonresidential fathers form close emotional attachments to their children regardless of parental interactions. This was different to the findings from Esposito (1995), which found that parental interaction quality did predict cohesion in the nonresidential father-child family. Possible reasons for the difference in the two studies are the differences in sampling selection, sampling procedure, cultural differences in attitudes toward divorce or the education level of the fathers. Results from this study are substantiated through the qualitative interviews. However, some issues need to be raised regarding the interpretation of these results.

First, an important observation was made in exploring interaction quality, with regard to relationship assessment. Interaction quality is not necessarily a true estimate of relationship quality, but refers more to the relationship as it appears on the surface. Covert relationship issues are not necessarily detected by the interaction quality instruments. Therefore, it is vitally important not to confuse the two as each have their own characteristics, which differ in the sense of true relationship issues. The first section to this study dealt with interaction quality only, whereas the second section included consideration of real relationship issues.

Second, as fathers' perceptions only were considered in this study, caution needs to be taken in interpreting the results. As it is possible that

father-child interaction quality scores were inflated in Esposito's (1995) study and in this study, it is also possible that perceptions of family functioning were unrealistic. The scores on cohesion and adaptability could be more an indication of how participants would like it to be and not necessarily reflect how it really is. Likewise, fathers may have scored parental interaction quality lower than how it really is. Olson (1989) cautions that perceptions of a family member may be different to those of other family members. Therefore, it is important to interpret these results with the understanding that they are from the nonresidential father's perspective only. Children and mothers may give quite different accounts.

Qualitative data collected through interviews revealed that fathers are capable of demonstrating good parenting skills including nurturing ability, sound disciplinary strategies, good negotiation skills and creative decision making ability. They also demonstrated having democratic parenting styles, which included well thought out and balanced views of structure within the family and flexibility to allow for adapting to changes. Time and distance obstacles to cohesion and adaptability in the family were considered stressful to nonresidential fathers, due to discontinuity in the parenting role.

Fathers interviewed who reported having poor interaction quality with their former spouses demonstrated perceived difficulty in several areas of family functioning. Those who reported better parental interaction quality also gave accounts of more functional family lives. This validates previous findings, that support from former spouses is likely to enhance

family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family (Hoffman, 1995). However, all fathers appeared to demonstrate some perceived levels of family functioning with their children regardless of problems with former spouses. The difference appears to be in the degree to which they can function as a family, which relates to contact time, availability and cooperation from the mother. A combination of difficulties in all three areas makes the task most difficult.

Nonresidential father-child families may be expected to fall into the category of a dysfunctional family type, given that they possibly were before the separation and they are now a disrupted family. However, as the literature suggests, often fathers who were not close to their children before the separation become closer afterwards (Hetherington & Hagan, 1986, Wallerstein & Kelly, 1980). In view of this, adequate attention needs to be given to the ability of the family to be restructured. The family dynamics must change when one person leaves the family home. Therefore, restructuring does not necessarily follow the pattern of the previous family. This study shows that from the father's perspective, restructured nonresidential father-child families are able to demonstrate some functional levels of family living.

Each father interviewed in this study demonstrated a strong commitment to their children and a determination to be a good parent regardless of their situation. As found in the first part of the study and in the Esposito (1995) study, it was also evident that they had very strong feelings toward their children. This suggests that nonresidential fathers

who maintain contact with their children put substantial effort into maintaining their role as parents. Fox and Blanton (1995) state that divorce creates new opportunities for parents to deal with autonomy, connectedness and power. The authors encourage the recognition of the father's role in the family system, yet in a broader context which caters for divorced families. Considering divorce rates have been constantly rising since the 1960's (Furstenberg et al., 1983), it is evident that attention to improved attitudes and increased role awareness is long overdue in divorced families. The knowledge that fathers have a genuine desire and need to contribute to their children's lives in a variety of ways, indicates that regardless of previously existing trauma, new roles need to be defined.

This study has uncovered some new ground in family and divorce research. However, there remains an evident need for further research and development in the area. First, as current theoretical models for family functioning are inadequate in addressing the uniqueness of nonresidential parent-child families, there is a need for the development of a model to address their specific needs. Modifications to the Circumplex Model and Faces III would be an ideal place to start, given that a reasonable portion of the model seems appropriate. Second, further research is needed to empirically test findings from this study. For instance, while parental interaction quality did not predict family functioning in the nonresidential father-child family from the father's perspective, true relationships between spouses may give a different result. Support from former partners in

association with nonresidential father-child family functioning and the father's role clarity, also needs investigating empirically. Further, studies including perceptions of all family members are needed to evaluate discrepancies among members of divorced families. This is important for identifying attitudes that hinder parents from fulfilling their parental roles and for obtaining a more global account of disrupted families, which takes all perspectives into account.

In conclusion, exploring relationships of former partners with children highlights an obvious need for adequate forms of prevention and intervention strategies in divorced families. Wolchik et al. (1996) state the importance of early intervention to assist divorced parents in making the transition of co-parenting from the marriage situation to the divorced situation. Emery (1995) suggests that mediation agreements are useful for former partners, where a specific plan is followed. Funder (1992) proposes that education and advice for parents after divorce is necessary to assist in the transition process. However, while researchers and professionals are aware of these needs, communicating them to parents is not an easy task as they are often too pre-occupied with their anger and desire for revenge. Consequently they are distracted from appreciating the importance of redefining roles in the new dual family situation, that allow for both parents to contribute to the children's need for a family life that is as normal as possible. This study not only confirms the needs identified previously, but also uncovers the need for parental awareness and preventative education that assists in helping separated and divorced

parents to be more informed, more understanding and hopefully more cooperative in restructuring family lives for their children.

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Department of Psychology
Edith Cowan University
Joondalup Drive
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Dear Participant,

This study is being conducted as part of my Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) Honours degree at Edith Cowan University. The purpose of the research is to gain a greater understanding into the experiences of noncustodial fathers and their relationships with their children. It is expected that the results of the study will assist those who work with divorced and separated families. Understanding relationships are important for helping divorced and separated parents to provide a secure environment for their children. As you are a father living apart from your children, I would appreciate your participation in my research.

The questionnaires are designed to look at the quality of the interactions you have with your children's mother, and the quality of the interactions you have with your children in relation to the way you and your children function as a family. The focus of this study is on your perception as a father living most of the time, apart from your children.

As a participant in this study, I would like you to complete the attached questionnaires. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, please be aware that you are free to withdraw that participation at any stage or to decline to complete any part of the material.

The information obtained from you will be treated in the strictest confidence, and will remain anonymous. There is no need for you to record your name or any other information that could identify you.

Questionnaires should be returned by using the provided stamp addressed envelope.

Should you wish to find out about the results of the study, please feel free to write to me requesting a summary. If you have any queries regarding this project, you can contact me or my University supervisor at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy J. Nicholls Ph: 221 1668 (leave a message and I will call you back)

Ms Lis Pike
Department of Psychology
Edith Cowan University
Phone: 400 5535

MEASURE OF PARENTAL INTERACTION QUALITY

Think back on all the interactions you have had with your child(ren)'s mother during the past 6 months. Then indicate how true the following statements are with regard to your child(ren)'s mother by circling the appropriate response provided. PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

1. The majority of your conversations with your child(ren)'s mother are done:
 In person (face-to-face)
 On the telephone
 By mail (letters)
2. If you had to choose, how would you best describe your relationship with your child(ren)'s mother?
 Excellent Very good Good Fair Poor
3. How often do you talk with your child(ren)'s mother?
 Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always
4. How often do you plan to avoid communicating with your child(ren)'s mother?
 Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never
5. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother laugh together?
 Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always
6. How often do you plan to cut short communicating with your child(ren)'s mother?
 Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never
7. How often are you and your child(ren)'s mother sincerely polite to one another?
 Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always
8. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother exchange in name calling?
 Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always
9. How often are you and your child(ren)'s mother considerate of each other's feelings?
 Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always

10. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother criticise each other?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
11. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother keep each other informed about the children's activities?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
12. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother deceive or withhold information from one another?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
13. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother compliment one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
14. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother intentionally disagree?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
15. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother pay attention to what each other is saying?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
16. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother make demands of one another?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
17. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother express concern for one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
18. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother interrupt one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
19. How often do you and your child(ren)'s mother openly share positive emotions with one another (ie., happiness, joy, warmth, etc.)?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
20. How often would you say your child(ren)'s mother is unreasonable?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|

MEASURE OF NON-CUSTODIAL FATHER-CHILD INTERACTION QUALITY

Think back on all the interactions you have had with your child(ren) during the past 6 months. Then indicate how true the following statements are with regard to your non-custodial child(ren) by circling the appropriate response provided.

If you have more than one non-custody child, respond to the questions with your ¹oldest/youngest non-custody child in mind. PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. The majority of your conversations with your child is done:
 - In person (face-to-face)
 - On the telephone
 - By mail (letters)
2. If you had to choose, how would you best describe your relationship with your child?

Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
-----------	-----------	------	------	------
3. How often do you communicate with your child?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
-------	--------	-----------	-------	--------
4. How often do you plan to avoid communicating with your child?

Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
--------	-------	-----------	--------	-------
5. How often do you and your child laugh together?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
-------	--------	-----------	-------	--------
6. How often do you plan to cut short communicating with your child?

Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
--------	-------	-----------	--------	-------
7. How often are you and your child sincerely polite to one another?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
-------	--------	-----------	-------	--------
8. How often do you and your child exchange in name calling?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
-------	--------	-----------	-------	--------
9. How often are you and your child considerate of each other's feelings?

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
-------	--------	-----------	-------	--------

¹ Altered randomly in each situation

10. How often do you and your child criticise each other?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
11. How often do you and your child keep each other informed about each others' activities?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
12. How often do you and your child deceive or withhold information from one another?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
13. How often do you and your child compliment one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
14. How often do you and your child intentionally disagree?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
15. How often do you and your child pay attention to what each other is saying?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
16. How often do you and your child make demands of one another?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
17. How often do you and your child express concern for one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
18. How often do you and your child interrupt one another?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
19. How often do you and your child openly share positive emotions with one another (ie., happiness, joy, warmth, etc.)?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Always | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
20. How often would you say your child is unreasonable?
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often | Always |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|

¹FACES III MEASURE OF COHESION AND ADAPTABILITY

Please answer the following 20 questions with your non-custodial children in mind. If you have more than one child, respond to the questions with your ²youngest/oldest child in mind. PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

Describe your family now by placing the appropriate number response in the space provided:

1	2	3	4	5
almost never	once in a while	sometimes	frequently	almost always

- _____ 1. Family members ask each other for help.
- _____ 2. In solving problems, the children's suggestions are followed
- _____ 3. We approve of each others' friends.
- _____ 4. Children have a say in their discipline.
- _____ 5. We like to do things with just our immediate family.
- _____ 6. Different persons act as leaders in our family.
- _____ 7. Family members feel closer to other family members than to people outside the family.
- _____ 8. Our family changes its way of handling tasks.
- _____ 9. Family members like to spend free time with each other.
- _____ 10. Parent(s) and children discuss punishment together.
- _____ 11. Family members feel very close to each other.
- _____ 12. The children make the decisions in our family.
- _____ 13. When our family gets together for activities, everybody is present.
- _____ 14. Rules change in our family.
- _____ 15. We can easily think of things to do together as a family.
- _____ 16. We shift household responsibilities from person to person.
- _____ 17. Family members consult other family members on their decisions.
- _____ 18. It is hard to identify the leader(s) in our family.
- _____ 19. Family togetherness is very important.
- _____ 20. It is hard to tell who does which household chores.

¹ Adapted from Olson et al. (1985) for Esposito (1995)

² Altered randomly in each situation

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following demographic questions as accurately and as completely as possible. Should you have had more than one family break up, please answer for the same family throughout. Where options are given, please circle the correct answer. Remember this information is completely unidentified and confidentiality is assured.

1. What was your age on your last birthday? _____
2. How many years were you married to your children's mother? _____
3. How many of your children do not live with you permanently? _____
4. Do you have custody of any of your children? _____ How many? _____
5. What are the ages of your children?

male						
female						

6. What country do you come from? _____

7. What was your highest education level?

Year 7	Year 10	Year 12	Tertiary
--------	---------	---------	----------

8. What was the highest education of your children's mother?

Year 7	Year 10	Year 12	Tertiary
--------	---------	---------	----------

9. What is your annual income?

Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$30,000	\$30,001 - \$40,000
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$50,001 - \$60,000	more than \$60,000

10. Approximately how much child support do you pay per month? _____

11. How many years have you lived apart from your family? _____

12. The Initiator of the separation was -

Myself	My children's mother	Both
--------	----------------------	------

13. Did you and your children's mother go to court for custody? yes / no

14. Do you have a current live-in relationship? yes / no

15. Does your children's mother have a current live-in relationship? yes / no

16. Do you see your children

more than weekly	weekly	fortnightly	monthly	less than monthly
------------------	--------	-------------	---------	-------------------

PRE-INTERVIEW FORM

Time separated _____ Number of Children _____
Age & sex of children _____
Contact time with children _____
Father repartnered _____ Mother repartnered _____

1. How do you view the quality of the interactions between yourself and your children's mother?

very poor poor satisfactory good very good

2. How do you view the quality of the interactions between yourself and your children?

very poor poor satisfactory good very good

3. What would you say is true of you and your children?

- (a) I do not see that we are like a family at all _____
- (b) I believe we try to be a family when we are together but it doesn't quite work out that way _____
- (c) I believe we try to be a family when we are together and it sort of works out okay _____
- (d) I believe we do okay at being a family when we are together _____
- (e) I believe we are able to be a great family when we are together _____

4. What would you say is the biggest obstacle in preventing you and your children from being a family?

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

COHESION

1. Emotional closeness:

Can you tell me a little about how close you think that you and your children are emotionally?

2. Family loyalty:

What about loyalty...What would you say about any loyalty that exists between you and your children?

3. Dependency:

What would you say about you and your children depending on one another?

4. Feelings shared:

Do you and your children openly share feelings?

5. Space permitted:

How much space do you like to have for yourself?

Do your children like to have their own space?

6. Closeness/separateness:

Do you like to keep your children close by or do you like them to spend time with their friends.

7. Agreement on decisions:

Do you and your children make decisions together to come to some kind of agreement or do you make decisions regardless of each other?

ADAPTABILITY

8. Parental style:

Would you say your parenting is strict, casual or do you like to discuss things with your children?

9. Parental control:

How much influence would you say you have over your children?

10. Discipline:

How do you feel about disciplining your child?

11. Consequences - consistent / inconsistent:

How consistent are you with carrying out your discipline?

12. Negotiations:

Do you negotiate with your children?

13. Decisions made:

How are the decisions made?

14. Role clarity:

How clear would you say your role as a parent is?

15. Rules:

How are rules set and carried out in your house?

16. Expectations:

Tell me about your expectations as a parent?

APPENDIX I

FAGE FATHER'S AGE

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	32	1	2.1	2.1	2.1
	33	3	6.3	6.3	8.3
	34	1	2.1	2.1	10.4
	35	2	4.2	4.2	14.6
	36	1	2.1	2.1	16.7
	37	6	12.5	12.5	29.2
	38	3	6.3	6.3	35.4
	39	3	6.3	6.3	41.7
	40	2	4.2	4.2	45.8
	41	5	10.4	10.4	56.3
	42	4	8.3	8.3	64.6
	43	3	6.3	6.3	70.8
	44	4	8.3	8.3	79.2
	46	1	2.1	2.1	81.3
	48	3	6.3	6.3	87.5
	49	2	4.2	4.2	91.7
	52	1	2.1	2.1	93.8
	54	1	2.1	2.1	95.8
	55	1	2.1	2.1	97.9
	57	1	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	41.417	Median	41.000	Mode	37.000
Std dev	5.910	Range	25.000	Minimum	32.000
Maximum	57.000				

Valid cases 48 Missing cases 0

YTOG YEARS WITH CHILDREN'S MOTHER

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	1	1	2.1	2.1	2.1
	2	1	2.1	2.1	4.2
	3	2	4.2	4.2	8.3
	4	2	4.2	4.2	12.5
	5	7	14.6	14.6	27.1
	7	5	10.4	10.4	37.5
	8	2	4.2	4.2	41.7
	9	4	8.3	8.3	50.0
	10	4	8.3	8.3	58.3
	11	1	2.1	2.1	60.4
	12	3	6.3	6.3	66.7
	13	7	14.6	14.6	81.3
	14	2	4.2	4.2	85.4
	15	2	4.2	4.2	89.6
	16	2	4.2	4.2	93.8
	18	1	2.1	2.1	95.9
	21	1	2.1	2.1	97.9
	24	1	2.1	2.1	100.0

Total	48	100.0	100.0
-------	----	-------	-------

Mean	9.792	Median	9.500	Mode	5.000
Std dev	4.959	Range	23.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	24.000				

* Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown.

Valid cases 48 Missing cases 0

YSEP YEARS SEPARATED FROM FAMILY

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	2	12	25.0	25.0	25.0
	2	1	2.1	2.1	27.1
	3	1	2.1	2.1	29.2
	3	4	8.3	8.3	37.5
	4	8	16.7	16.7	54.2
	5	5	10.4	10.4	64.6
	6	3	6.3	6.3	70.8
	7	6	12.5	12.5	83.3
	8	4	8.3	8.3	91.7
	9	1	2.1	2.1	93.8
	11	2	4.2	4.2	97.9
	16	1	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	4.932	Median	4.000	Mode	2.000
Std dev	2.981	Range	14.000	Minimum	2.000
Maximum	16.000				

Valid cases 48 Missing cases 0

NCHN NO. OF NONRESIDENTIAL CHILDREN

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	1	13	27.1	27.1	27.1
	2	23	47.9	47.9	75.0
	3	11	22.9	22.9	97.9
	4	1	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	2.000	Median	2.000	Mode	2.000
Std dev	.772	Range	3.000	Minimum	1.000
Maximum	4.000				

Valid cases 48 Missing cases 0

CSUP MONTHLY AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAID

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	0	8	16.7	17.0	17.0
	60	1	2.1	2.1	19.1
	100	1	2.1	2.1	21.3
	150	2	4.2	4.3	25.5
	195	1	2.1	2.1	27.7
	200	2	4.2	4.3	31.9
	220	1	2.1	2.1	34.0
	294	1	2.1	2.1	36.2
	300	1	2.1	2.1	38.3
	305	1	2.1	2.1	40.4
	320	1	2.1	2.1	42.6
	325	1	2.1	2.1	44.7
	350	1	2.1	2.1	46.8
	400	3	6.3	6.4	53.2
	410	1	2.1	2.1	55.3
	438	1	2.1	2.1	57.4
	440	1	2.1	2.1	59.6
	450	1	2.1	2.1	61.7
	500	4	8.3	8.5	70.2
	550	1	2.1	2.1	72.3
	560	1	2.1	2.1	74.5
	600	2	4.2	4.3	78.7
	660	1	2.1	2.1	80.9
	800	1	2.1	2.1	83.0
	850	2	4.2	4.3	87.2
	864	1	2.1	2.1	89.4
	880	1	2.1	2.1	91.5
	888	1	2.1	2.1	93.6
	975	1	2.1	2.1	95.7
	1080	1	2.1	2.1	97.9
	1170	1	2.1	2.1	100.0
	.	1	2.1	Missing	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	413.489	Median	400.000	Mode	.000
Std dev	318.876	Range	1170.000	Minimum	.000
Maximum	1170.000				

Valid cases 47 Missing cases 1

CONT AMOUNT OF CONTACT WITH CHILDREN

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
MORE THAN WEEKLY	1	11	22.9	22.9	22.9
WEEKLY	2	11	22.9	22.9	45.8
FORTNIGHTLY	3	16	33.3	33.3	79.2
MONTHLY	4	5	10.4	10.4	89.6
LESS THAN MONTHLY	5	5	10.4	10.4	100.0
		-----	-----	-----	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	2.625	Median	3.000	Mode	3.000
Std dev	1.248				

Valid cases 48 Missing cases 0

 FINC FATHER'S ANNUAL INCOME

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
LESS THAN \$20,000	1	13	27.1	27.7	27.7
\$20,001-\$30,000	2	13	27.1	27.7	55.3
\$30,001-\$40,000	3	8	16.7	17.0	72.3
\$40,001-\$50,000	4	6	12.5	12.8	85.1
\$50,001-\$60,000	5	2	4.2	4.3	89.4
MORE THAN \$60,000	6	5	10.4	10.6	100.0
	.	1	2.1	Missing	
		-----	-----	-----	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Mean	2.702	Median	2.000	Mode	1.000
Std dev	1.614				

* Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown.

Valid cases 47 Missing cases 1

FEDU HIGHEST LEVEL OF FATHER'S EDUCATION

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
YEAR 7	1	2	4.2	4.3	4.3
YEAR 10	2	22	45.8	46.8	51.1
YEAR 12	3	6	12.5	12.8	63.8
TERTIARY	4	17	35.4	36.2	100.0
.	.	1	2.1	Missing	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	

Mean 2.809 Median 2.000 Mode 2.000
 Std dev .992

Valid cases 47 Missing cases 1

MEDU HIGHEST LEVEL OF MOTHER'S EDUCATION

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
YEAR 10	2	26	54.2	57.8	57.8
YEAR 12	3	9	18.8	20.0	77.8
TERTIARY	4	10	20.8	22.2	100.0
.	.	3	6.3	Missing	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	

Mean 2.644 Median 2.000 Mode 2.000
 Std dev .830

Valid cases 45 Missing cases 3

RESID NO. OF RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
	0	40	83.3	83.3	83.3
	1	6	12.5	12.5	95.8
	2	2	4.2	4.2	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	48	Missing cases	0		

INIT INITIATOR OF SEPARATION

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
FATHER	1	8	16.7	16.7	16.7
MOTHER	2	33	68.8	68.8	85.4
BOTH	3	7	14.6	14.6	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	48	Missing cases	0		

COUR WENT TO COURT FOR CUSTODY

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
YES	1	23	47.9	47.9	47.9
NO	2	25	52.1	52.1	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	48	Missing cases	0		

FREL FATHER HAS LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
YES	1	17	35.4	35.4	35.4
NO	2	31	64.6	64.6	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	48	Missing cases	0		

MREL MOTHER HAS LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
YES	1	24	50.0	50.0	50.0
NO	2	24	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	48	Missing cases	0		

CORIG COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
AUSTRALIAN	1	34	70.8	72.3	72.3
ENGLISH	2	9	18.8	19.1	91.5
AMERICAN	3	1	2.1	2.1	93.6
NEW ZEALAND	4	2	4.2	4.3	97.9
OTHER	7	1	2.1	2.1	100.0
	.	1	2.1	Missing	
	Total	48	100.0	100.0	
Valid cases	47	Missing cases	1		

APPENDIX J

- - Correlation Coefficients - -

	ADAPT	COHES	FCIQ	PIQ
ADAPT	1.0000 (48) P= .	-.1143 (48) P= .439	.0402 (48) P= .786	-.0556 (48) P= .707
COHES	-.1143 (48) P= .439	1.0000 (48) P= .	.5244 (48) P= .000	.1179 (48) P= .425
FCIQ	.0402 (48) P= .786	.5244 (48) P= .000	1.0000 (48) P= .	.1116 (48) P= .450
PIQ	-.0556 (48) P= .707	.1179 (48) P= .425	.1116 (48) P= .450	1.0000 (48) P= .

(Coefficient / (Cases) / 2-tailed Significance)

" . " is printed if a coefficient cannot be computed

* * * * MULTIPLE REGRESSION * * * *

Listwise Deletion of Missing Data

Equation Number 1 Dependent Variable.. COHES cohesion

Block Number 1. Method: Enter FCIQ PIQ

Variable(s) Entered on Step Number

1.. PIQ parental interaction quality
 2.. FCIQ father-child interaction quality

Multiple R .52784
 R Square .27861
 Adjusted R Square .24655
 Standard Error 1.48725

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	38.44267	19.22134
Residual	45	99.53649	2.21192

F = 8.68988 Signif F = .0006

----- Variables in the Equation -----

Variable	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.245967	.060531	.517729	4.064	.0002
PIQ	.016549	.035052	.060151	.472	.6391
(Constant)	-4.995588	2.075149		-2.407	.0202

End Block Number 1 All requested variables entered.

>Note # 12650

>No outliers found. No casewise plot produced.

* * * * * M U L T I P L E R E G R E S S I O N * * * * *

Equation Number 1 Dependent Variable.. COHES cohesion

Residuals Statistics:

	Min	Max	Mean	Std Dev	N
*PRED	1.2551	5.1929	3.5208	.9044	48
*ZPRED	-2.5052	1.8488	.0000	1.0000	48
*SEPPRED	.2208	.6270	.3569	.1055	48
*ADJPRED	1.1132	5.6668	3.5158	.9127	48
*RESID	-2.7649	3.3988	.0000	1.4553	48
*ZRESID	-1.8591	2.2853	.0000	.9785	48
*SRESID	-1.9204	2.3492	.0017	1.0120	48
*DRESID	-2.9502	3.5915	.0051	1.5584	48
*SDRESID	-1.9818	2.4800	.0040	1.0291	48
*MAHAL	.0570	7.3736	1.9583	1.8429	48
*COOK D	.0001	.1905	.0241	.0369	48
*LEVER	.0012	.1569	.0417	.0392	48

Total Cases = 48

Hi-Res Chart # 2:Normal p-p plot of *zresid

Hi-Res Chart # 1:Scatterplot of *zresid with *zpred

* * * * *

From Equation 1: 1 new variables have been created.

Name	Contents
----	-----
MAH_3	Mahalanobis' Distance

***** MULTIPLE REGRESSION *****

Listwise Deletion of Missing Data

Equation Number 1 Dependent Variable.. ADAPT adaptability

Block Number 1. Method: Enter FCIQ PIQ

Variable(s) Entered on Step Number

1.. PIQ parental interaction quality
 2.. FCIQ father-child interaction quality

Multiple R .07265
 R Square .00528
 Adjusted R Square -.03893
 Standard Error 1.65435

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	.65357	.32679
Residual	45	123.15893	2.73687

F = .11940 Signif F = .8877

----- Variables in the Equation -----

Variable	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.021155	.067331	.047006	.314	.7548
PIQ	-.015870	.038990	-.060894	-.407	.6859
(Constant)	4.074309	2.308294		1.765	.0843

End Block Number 1 All requested variables entered.

>Note # 12650

>No outliers found. No casewise plot produced.

	zfinc	zpiq	mah_1
1	.18456	.58540	.36861
2	-1.05460	2.35165	7.37365
3	.80413	.74597	2.12443
4	.18456	.42484	1.65942
5	-.43502	.42484	.39027
6	-.43502	1.06711	1.15014
7	-.43502	-.53857	.29013
8	-.43502	-.21744	1.91655
9	.80413	.58540	.50037
10	-1.05460	1.86994	5.39669
11	-1.05460	-1.34141	4.02974
12	-.43502	-.85971	1.36768
13	.18456	-.05687	6.54215
14	.80413	.58540	.35663
15	-1.05460	-.37800	2.91267
16	-.43502	.42484	1.05863
17	-1.05460	.26427	.91451
18	1.42371	.42484	.21252
19	-1.05460	-1.02027	1.28676
20	.18456	-.53857	.36342
21	.18456	.74597	.57499
22	1.42371	1.38824	2.04959
23	.18456	1.22767	1.54335
24	.80413	.10370	1.78271
25	2.04329	1.54881	2.50890
26	2.04329	.10370	1.40327
27	-1.05460	-.53857	.36342
28	-.43502	-1.18084	1.43388
29	2.04329	1.22767	1.72734
30	-1.05460	-1.34141	6.00796
31	.18456	-1.34141	2.67434
32	.18456	-.85971	.79422

	zfinc	zpiq	mah_1
33	-1.05460	-1.34141	2.01072
34	.80413	-1.50198	6.73262
35	-.43502	.10370	.05700
36	-1.05460	-1.82311	3.82850
37	-1.05460	-.85971	1.51578
38	-.43502	.74597	2.14160
39	-1.05460	.58540	.53628
40	-.43502	-.21744	.14148
41	-.43502	1.70938	3.68201
42	2.04329	-1.50198	2.45102
43	.80413	-.53857	3.06550
44	-.43502	-.69914	.83013
45		.58540	1.97356
46	-.43502	-.05687	.05757
47	-1.05460	-.85971	1.10183
48	2.04329	-.21744	.79544

*** MULTIPLE REGRESSION ***

Listwise Deletion of Missing Data

Equation Number 1 Dependent Variable.. COHES cohesion

Block Number 1. Method: Enter FCIQ PIQ

Variable(s) Entered on Step Number

1.. PIQ parental interaction quality
2.. FCIQ father-child interaction quality

Multiple R .52784
R Square .27861
Adjusted R Square .24655
Standard Error 1.48725

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	38.44267	19.22134
Residual	45	99.53649	2.21192

F = 8.68988 Signif F = .0006

----- Variables in the Equation -----

Variable	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.245967	.060531	.517729	4.064	.0002
PIQ	.016549	.035052	.060151	.472	.6391
(Constant)	-4.995588	2.075149		-2.407	.0202

End Block Number 1 All requested variables entered.

**** MULTIPLE REGRESSION ****

Listwise Deletion of Missing Data

Equation Number 1 Dependent Variable.. ADAPT adaptability

Block Number 1. Method: Enter FCIQ PIQ

Variable(s) Entered on Step Number

1.. PIQ parental interaction quality
2.. FCIQ father-child interaction quality

Multiple R .07265
R Square .00528
Adjusted R Square -.03893
Standard Error 1.65435

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	.65357	.32679
Residual	45	123.15893	2.73687

F = .11940 Signif F = .8877

----- Variables in the Equation -----

Variable	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
FCIQ	.021155	.067331	.047006	.314	.7548
PIQ	-.015870	.038990	-.060894	-.407	.6859
(Constant)	4.074309	2.308294		1.765	.0843

End Block Number 1 All requested variables entered.

ANALYSIS OF INTERACTION BETWEEN COHESION AND PARENTAL INTERACTION QUALITY WITH FATHER-CHILD INTERACTION QUALITY

Iteration	Residual SS	B	C
1	733.0000000	.000000000	.000000000
1.1	128.7230822	.001904014	-2.1668020
2	128.7230822	.001904014	-2.1668020

Run stopped after 3 model evaluations and 2 derivative evaluations.
 Iterations have been stopped because the magnitude of the largest correlation between the residuals and any derivative column is at most RCON = 1.000E-08

Nonlinear Regression Summary Statistics Dependent Variable COHES

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	604.27692	302.13846
Residual	46	128.72308	2.79833
Uncorrected Total	48	733.00000	
(Corrected Total)	47	137.97917	

Parameter	Estimate	Asymptotic Std. Error	Asymptotic 95 % Confidence Interval Lower	Upper
B	.001904014	.001046901	-.000203289	.004011316
C	-2.166801988	.782673544	-3.742242119	-.591361856

EXPLANATION OF CALCULATION

=====
 DF = # of parameters - 1
 (2-1=1)
 SSreg = correlated total SS-resid
 (137.979 - 128.723 = 9.256)
 Regression mean squares =
 SSreg divided by DF
 (9.256)
 F Ratio = Regression mean squares
 divided by residual mean squares
 (9.256 divided by 2.798 = 3.3)
 Critical value of F = 4.04
 Fobt < Fcrit
 (3.3 < 4.04)
 Therefore, there is no significant interaction between
 cohesion and parental interaction quality, nor between
 cohesion and father-child interaction quality.

Asymptotic Correlation Matrix of the Parameter Estimates

	B	C
B	1.0000	.9512
C	.9512	1.0000

ANALYSIS OF INTERACTION BETWEEN ADAPTABILITY AND PARENTAL INTERACTION QUALITY WITH FATHER-CHILD INTERACTION QUALITY

Iteration	Residual SS	B	C
1	1069.000000	.000000000	.000000000
1.1	123.3880110	-.00040775	-4.7274668
2	123.3880110	-.00040775	-4.7274668

Run stopped after 3 model evaluations and 2 derivative evaluations.
 Iterations have been stopped because the magnitude of the largest correlation between the residuals and any derivative column is at most RCON = 1.000E-08

Nonlinear Regression Summary Statistics Dependent Variable ADAPT

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	2	945.61199	472.80599
Residual	46	123.38801	2.68235
Uncorrected Total	48	1069.00000	
(Corrected Total)	47	123.81250	

R squared = 1 - Residual SS / Corrected SS = .00343

EXPLANATION OF CALCULATION

=====
 DF = # of parameters - 1
 (2-1=1)
 SSreg = correlated total SS-resid
 (123.81250 - 123.38801 = 0.425)
 Regression mean squares =
 SSreg divided by DF
 (0.425)
 F Ratio = Regression mean squares
 divided by residual mean squares
 (0.425 divided by 2.682 = 0.158)
 Critical value of F = 4.04
 Fobt < Fcrit
 (0.158 < 4.04)
 Therefore, there is no significant interaction between
 adaptability and parental interaction quality, nor between
 adaptability and father-child interaction quality

Parameter	Estimate	Asymptotic Std. Error	Asymptotic 95 % Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
B	-.000407746	.001024977	-.002470917	.001655425
C	-4.727466789	.766282524	-6.269913510	-3.185020068

Asymptotic Correlation Matrix of the Parameter Estimates

	B	C
B	1.0000	.9512
C	.9512	1.0000

APPENDIX K

ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEW DATA	INT 1	INT 2	INT 3	INT 4	INT 5	TOTALS
Time Separated	3.5	2.5	7	5	6	24
Number of Children	3	2	1	2	2	10
Male	1	0	0	1	1	3
Ages	9			8	9	
Female	2	2	1	1	1	7
Ages	11	6	7	12	10	
	7	6				
Father repartnered	N	Y	Y	N	N	
Mother repartnered	N	Y	Y	Y	N	
Interaction with Children's Mother - Very Poor	0	1	1	0	0	2
Interaction with Children's Mother - Poor	0	0	0	1	0	1
Interaction with Children's Mother - Satisfactory	1	0	0	0	1	2
Interaction with Children's Mother - Good	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interaction with Children's Mother - Very Good	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interaction with Children - Very Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interaction with Children - Poor	1	0	0	0	0	1
Interaction with Children - Satisfactory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interaction with Children - Good	0	1	1	1	0	3
Interaction with Children - Very Good	0	0	0	0	1	1
Does not see as a family at all	1	0	1	0	1	3
Tries to be a family when together but doesn't work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tries to be a family & sort of works out okay	0	1	0	0	0	1
Do okay at being a family when together	0	0	0	1	1	2
Believes they are a great family when together	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obstacle to being a family - Contact Time	1	1	1	0	1	4
Obstacle to being a family - Mother's Interference	0	1	1	0	0	2
Obstacle to being a family - Distance	1	0	0	1	0	2
Obstacle to being a family - Ability to Make Lasting Decisions	1	0	0	0	0	1

COHESION						
1. Emotional Closeness						
<i>Can you tell me a little about how close you think you and your children are emotionally?</i>						
Very close	1	1	0	0	1	3
Reasonably close	0	0	1	1	0	2
Lack of time a problem	1	0	0	1	0	2
Communicates / confides about personal issues	0	0	1	1	1	3
Misses emotional things	1	0	0	1	0	2
Children have reservations due to mother's influence	0	0	1	0	0	1
Doesn't get involved in personal lives, except when visiting	0	0	0	1	0	1
Openly show emotion	0	0	0	0	1	1
Has contact outside normal access time	0	0	0	1	1	2
Notices difference between children	1	0	0	1	1	3
Kid's don't call as often as father would like	1	0	0	0	0	1
Has support from children's mother	0	0	0	0	1	1
Takes an active interest in various areas of children's lives	0	0	0	0	1	1
2. Family Loyalty						
<i>What about loyalty...What would you say about any loyalty that exists between you and your children?</i>						
Believes family is loyal	1	0	0	1	1	3
Depends on individual differences of children	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unsure of what happens when children are away	0	1	1	0	0	2
Father feels responsible for children being affected by separation	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father teaches children by example not to attack others	0	0	0	0	1	1

3. Dependency						
<i>What would you say about you and your children depending on one another?</i>						
Are dependent on each other	1	1	1	1	1	5
Distance between them makes a difference	1	0	0	0	0	1
Both father and children depend on emotional contact	1	1	0	0	0	2
Child had problems at school when there was no father contact	0	0	1	0	0	1
Children depend on father emotionally	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unsure how kids feel about it	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father has sense of loneliness when they leave	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father provides a different environment to mother	0	0	0	0	1	1
Children say no one replaces dad	0	0	0	0	1	1
4. Feelings Shared						
<i>Do you and your children openly share feelings?</i>						
Feelings between father and children are shared	1	1	1	0	1	4
Father is considerate of children's feelings	1	1	0	0	1	3
Individual differences between boys and girls	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not as much as they should	0	1	0	1	0	2
Mothers influence interferes	0	1	0	0	0	1
Father hopes time will improve mother's influence	0	1	0	0	0	1
Children constantly concerned about mother	0	0	1	0	0	1
Father doesn't feel comfortable sharing feelings	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father doesn't expect too much because of limited time together	0	0	0	1	0	1

7. Agreement on Decisions						
<i>Do you and your children make decisions together to come to some kind of agreement or do you make decisions regardless of each other?</i>						
Father directs decision making	1	1	0	1	0	3
Father aware of different standards in 2 homes & parental conflict	1	0	0	0	0	1
Father likes to set an example for good decision making	0	1	0	0	0	1
Children make decisions	0	0	1	0	0	1
More time with child would be more give and take	0	0	1	0	0	1
Children have some input	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father and children always make decisions together	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mother makes decisions with them too	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mother sometimes consults with father re decisions	0	0	0	0	1	1

10. Discipline						
<i>How do you feel about disciplining your children?</i>						
No change - Father has maintained same discipline	1	0	0	0	0	1
Father is unsure of correct disciplinary action	0	1	0	1	0	2
Father believes in discipline	1	1	1	1	1	5
Father has difficulty with discipline due to limited time	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mother is opposed to father smacking children	0	0	0	1	0	1
Corrects through teaching / reassuring	0	0	0	1	1	2
Father needs to be aware of own anger	0	0	0	0	1	1
Father corrects through deprivation	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father uses punishment (smacking) & reward (lollies)	0	1	0	0	0	1
Children respond well to discipline	0	0	1	0	1	2
11. Consequences - Consistent / Inconsistent						
<i>How consistent are you with carrying out your discipline?</i>						
Always consistent	1	0	1	0	0	2
Kids know how far to push dad	1	0	0	0	0	1
Girlfriend is helpful to father in being consistent	0	1	0	0	0	1
Father's own situation (eg. tired) determines consistency	0	1	0	1	0	
Depends on the size / importance of the issue	0	1	0	1	0	
Has a system for purpose of teaching children	0	0	1	0	1	
12. Negotiations						
<i>Do you negotiate with your children? How?</i>						
Father negotiates with children	1	1	1	1	1	5
Finances restrict activities	1	0	0	0	0	1
Girlfriend helps	0	1	0	0	0	1
Father notices changes as children are getting older	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father teaches children they have to give to receive	0	0	0	0	1	1
Father teaches children to learn in negotiating	0	0	1	0	1	2

13. Decisions Made						
<i>How are the decisions made?</i>						
All make decisions together	1	1	0	0	1	3
Children take it in turns	1	0	0	0	0	1
Father sometimes has the final say	1	1	0	0	0	2
Father suggests - children respond	0	0	1	1	1	3
14. Role Clarity						
<i>How clear would you say your role as a parent is?</i>						
Father sees himself as a part-time parent	1	0	0	0	0	1
There is some conflict with mother's role in parenting	1	0	0	0	0	1
Father feels left out of some parenting involvement	1	1	0	0	0	2
Parenting role is hindered through limited time	1	1	1	1	0	4
Father believes his children will appreciate his role later	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mother makes things difficult	0	1	1	0	0	2
Distance makes difficult	0	0	0	1	0	1
Father is clear about his parenting role	0	0	0	0	1	1
Father is involved in various parts of children's lives	0	0	0	0	1	1
15. Rules						
<i>How are rules set and carried out in your house?</i>						
Father attempts to keep same rules as at home	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rules change occasionally due to father's living situation	1	0	0	0	0	1
Father has boundaries and rules	1	1	1	0	1	4
Rules are different to mother's rules	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rules are sometimes broken	0	1	0	0	1	2
Instructions need repeating	0	1	0	0	1	2

16. Father's Expectations						
<i>Tell me about your expectations as a parent?</i>						
Would like to have greater role as a parent	1	0	0	0	0	1
Take care of his own life so children are happy with him	1	0	0	0	0	1
More obedience from children	0	1	0	0	0	1
To always be there for his children	0	1	0	0	1	2
More consideration / cooperation from mother	0	1	1	0	0	2
Spend more time with children	0	0	1	0	0	1
Maintain a balance of discipline and caring	0	0	0	1	0	1
Not to be angry	0	0	0	1	0	1
To structure time to be as normal as possible when together	0	0	0	1	0	1
To teach children the right things	0	0	0	0	1	1
Take an interest in the children's activities	0	0	0	0	1	1
To have a good relationship with them when they're older	0	0	0	0	1	1

EMERGING COMMON THEMES FOR COHESION	INT 1	INT 2	INT 3	INT 4	INT 5	TOTALS
Father and children are dependent on each other	1	1	1	1	1	5
Feelings between father and children are shared	1	1	1		1	4
Father & children like time together and time apart	1	1		1	1	4
Lack of time affects areas of cohesion	1		1	1		3
Father notices individual differences in children*	1			1	1	3
Father is considerate of children's feelings	1	1			1	3
Father directs decision making	1	1		1		3
Father and children are very close emotionally	1	1			1	3
Father and child communicate about personal issues			1	1	1	3
Father & children do most things together	1		1		1	3
Father believes his family is loyal	1			1	1	3
Unsure of what happens when children are away (loyalty)		1	1			2
Father notices difference in closeness b/w son & daughter				1	1	2
Father misses the emotional issues with children	1			1		2
Father has contact outside access time				1	1	2
Father and children both depend on emotional contact	1	1				2
Father and children are reasonably close emotionally			1	1		2
Father & children don't share feelings as much as should		1		1		2
* Int 2 aslo mentioned noticing individual differences in his children regarding style of parenting (adaptability)						

EMERGING COMMON THEMES FOR ADAPTABILITY	INT 1	INT 2	INT 3	INT 4	INT 5	TOTALS
Father operates in a combination of parenting styles	1	1	1	1	1	5
Father negotiates with children	1	1	1	1	1	5
Father believes in discipline	1	1	1	1	1	5
Father has boundaries / rules	1	1	1	1	1	5
Parenting role is hindered through limited time	1	1	1	1		4
Father has reasonably good parental control	1	1		1	1	4
Father suggests something and children respond			1	1	1	3
Father likes to correct through teaching			1	1	1	3
All make decisions together	1	1			1	3
Rules are sometimes broken		1			1	2
Mother makes things difficult		1	1			2
Instructions need repeating sometimes		1			1	2
Father's own situation determines consistency in discipline		1		1		2
Father teaches children to learn in negotiating			1		1	2
Father needs to adapt to different situations	1		1			2
Father is unsure of correct disciplinary action		1		1		2
Father is aware of own anger / frustration in discipline		1			1	2
Father is always consistent with discipline	1		1			2
Father feels left out of some parenting involvement	1	1				2
Father expects to always be there for the children		1			1	2
Father expects more consideration/cooperation from mother		1	1			2
Father believes in reasoning, not hitting		1			1	2
Consistency of discipline depends on importance of issue		1		1		2
Children respond well to discipline			1		1	2
At times, father has the final say	1	1				2