

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**HOW NOT TO BE ... DIVORCED & HOMELESS**

New research has outlined one of the many difficulties facing middle aged women after divorce is whether they can afford to own their own house.

Melbourne University's Dr. Andrea Sharam said that women who rent after their marriage breaks down may never re-enter the housing market because their career paths have included periods of part-time work and maternity leave.

A survey of 111 Victorian women over the age of 40 who did not expect to own their own homes prior to retirement found that 77% were still renting, despite 70% being employed and 79% having tertiary degrees.

As Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that most women divorce between the ages of 35-39 years, this research is very relevant and somewhat worrying.

Clarissa Rayward of the Brisbane Family Law Centre (BFLC) agrees that with the current trend of one in every three Australian marriages ending in divorce, all issues associated with relationship breakdown need to be carefully considered.

"One option is of course to protect your assets prior to marriage through a Binding Financial Agreement", said Ms Rayward. "However, should there be no pre-nuptial agreement, the best hope is for couples to reach a settlement that is fair to both parties without causing undue stress and expense".

"That is why our team at BFLC favour a collaborative approach where couples can negotiate amicably to resolve their matters".

As well as saving on expense, the collaborative method can offer more creative options as the parties consider all aspects of life after divorce.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, legal services generate \$18 billion a year in income, contributing \$11 billion to the Australian economy.

"Surely the sensible option would be to keep more money in your own pockets by settling early" said Ms Rayward.

For further information on the collaborative method and family law generally, please contact Brisbane Family Law Centre, a boutique firm located in Albion, on 3862 1955 or see our website [www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au](http://www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au).

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The image is a promotional banner for the Brisbane Family Law Centre. It features a white brick wall background on the left with the BFLC logo in orange and black. The logo includes the letters 'BFLC' in a stylized font, the words 'BRISBANE FAMILY LAW CENTRE' in bold black and red text, and a small icon of a family. To the right, there is a red brick wall with the text 'START YOUR NEW LIFE WITH US' in yellow. Below this, the website address 'www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au' is displayed. On the far right, contact details are listed: '10 Albion Road, Albion Qld 4010', 'Ph: 07 3862 1955', 'Fx: 07 3862 1255', and 'info@bflc.com.au'. At the bottom right, the director's name and qualifications are given: 'Director: Clarissa Rayward BA LLB ABN 17130966317'. A black bar at the bottom contains the text 'a SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW FIRM focusing on collaborative law, mediation and out of Court dispute resolution' in white and red.

**BFLC**  
**BRISBANE**  
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