


**CLIENT:** To Be Loved  
**PUBLICATION:** Courier Mail  
**PLATFORM:** Digital  
**DATE:** 26 January 2020

**VIC NEWS**

# New app plans to help loneliness in kids

Jeff Whalley, Herald Sun  
January 26, 2020 9:18pm  
 Subscriber only



A new app aims to help children caught in the middle of a bitter divorce to [battle loneliness and isolation](#).

Kids are often the forgotten party [when parents split](#), and barrister Darren Mort says the app will help tackle the distress that many feel.

“The app will be developed to help children navigate the Family Court process,” Mr Mort said.

“The app will also include a wellbeing component to help children understand their feelings as they experience parental separation and divorce.”

Mr Mort entered the area because of a “desire to assist children and give them a voice” after his own experience of his parents divorcing when he was young.



 A new app aims to help children caught in the middle of a bitter divorce to battle loneliness and isolation.

---

“Too often in Family Court proceedings we have a mother and a father there trying to attack each other’s credit, when at the end of the day you have a child in the middle who is often voiceless and is not heard directly by the judge,” he said.

Mr Mort and his charity To Be Loved are working with Melbourne University.

“Subject to funding, it is proposed that the app will be launched at the end of this year. The app will be an extremely useful tool for these children, as there are no resources currently available or they are outdated,” he said.

The app will allow children and young teens to scroll through simple questions and get help if they need it.

“It allows kids to assess how they are feeling — they might be having a crap day — and they can just press a button on the app,” Mr Mort said.

The To Be Loved charity, which Mr Mort helped start, last year produced the 20- minute film *Tommy*, which last week screened as a part of the Flickerfest International Film Festival.

[jeff.whalley@news.com.au](mailto:jeff.whalley@news.com.au)