

NMC2025

The Peace Equation: Crafting & Connecting

21-24 September 2025

Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park on Country Dharug Ngurra (Sydney)

nmc2025.com.au



National Mediation Conference 2025 Program

SUNDAY 21 SEP	TEMBER 2025 "Cultural Day"	
10.00 – 12.00pm	Working with neurodivergent clients in conflict with Dr Samantha Hardy See website for costs and how to register	Hyde Park Room Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park
12.30 – 2.00pm	Cultural Walking Tour Hidden in plain sight: a guided walking tour of Aboriginal Sydney See website for costs and additional information	Meet in the foyer of Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park
2.30 – 4.30	A PRACTITIONER FORUM Dispute Resolvers in the climate wars: An engagement with Dr Laurence Boulle AM See website for costs and how to register	Hyde Park Room Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park

2.30 – 4.30pm	Kintsugi Workshop Kintsugi is the traditional Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer and gold, embracing flaws as part of an object's history. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn its basic techniques, philosophy, and history using modern materials to restore broken pieces—making them even more beautiful. See website for costs and additional information	Kintsugi Sydney CBD studio Level 1, Suite 107 147 King St Sydney
3.00 – 7.00pm	Registration opens	Sheraton Grand Conference foyer
5.00 – 7.00pm	WELCOME RECEPTION Drinks and canapes amongst the exhibition MEDIATION The Dispute Resolution Training and Membership Specialist	_

MONDAY 22	SEPTEMBER 2025 "The Peace Equation"		
7.30am	Registration and exhibition opens		Conference foyer
8.30 – 9.15	Conference Opening Alysoun Boyle, Chair NMC Ltd Dharug Ngurra Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony Melissa Stubbings, Senior Dharug Woman Shane Laws, Senior Dharug Man and Men's Program Facilitator at Merana Principal Collaborator presentation AMDRAS	Cultural Collaborator MERANA	Grand Ballroom
9.15 – 10.00	PLENARY 1 Chair: Ippei Okazaki KEYNOTE: Dr Monique Williams, CEO Cure Violence Global, Chicago USA		
10.00 - 10.30	MORNING TEA		Conference foyer

10.30 – 12.30	1.01 Commercial &	1.02 Family Dispute	1.03 Practice & Ethics	1.04 Skills	1.05 Restorative
	Business	Resolution: Coordination			Approaches
	Facilitator: Deborah Lockhart	Facilitator: Maureen Inglis	Facilitator: Samantha Hardy	Facilitator: Alysoun Boyle	Facilitator: Serge Loode
Room:	Grand Ballroom 1	Grand Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park
10.30 – 11.00	The Hon. Kevin Lindgren AM KC, Federal Court Judge (rtd)	Supporting families to manage separation safely whilst navigating the Family Law Sector. Lea-anne Meehan, Relationships Australia QLD; Jeremy Culshaw, Culshaw Legal Consulting	Enhancing workplace harmony through restorative practices in mediation. Natascha Boehm, The Workplace Collective	Mediation myth busting. Bianca Keys, Bianca Keys Dispute Resolution Consulting	Healing and reconciliation through redress: the power of personal acknowledgement. Sonia Boersig , National Indigenous Australians Agency
11.00 – 11.30	Commercial/Construction Mediation. Dr Nav Sedaghati, Mediator, Arbitrator, Lawyer	PANEL: COORDINATION IN FDR The Case for Coordination: case management within family relationship centres. Janette Mulherin, Centacare Family and Relationship Services Brisbane Guiding families through the storm -Role of parenting coordination in family law. Anne-Marie Cade, Divorce Right	PANEL: SELF-CARE AND CLIENT-CARE Remaining connected, present, focused and engaged in dispute resolution. Athena Harris Ingall, Legal Member, Mental Heath Review Tribunal (NSW); Raymond Brazil, Dispute resolution consultant Multi-faceted reflective tools for deepening our learning from practice.	When to do fro and to [shuttle mediations and open sessions]. Joelene Nel, McLaughlins Lawyers; Dr Laurence Boulle AM, Independent Mediation Services	Mapping and credentialing restorative practice pathways in New Zealand. Jon Everest, Resolution Institute
11.30 – 12.00	PANEL: SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS The business of small business Dominique Lamb, Commissioner, Queensland Small Business Commission	PANEL: CHILD INCLUSIVE PRACTICE Children's voices and the rise of child inclusive practice in FDR. Valerie Norton, The Mediation Collective; Bianca Roche-Bolger, The Mediation Collective	Jenny Devlin, Relationships Australia Client care - preparation is a form of client care. Richard Dening, ACT Restorative Justice Unit	Telephone dispute resolution service: Managing high volume, virtual Family Dispute Resolution Service. Lea-anne Meehan, Relationships Australia QLD; Jeremy Culshaw, Culshaw Legal Consulting	PANEL: RESTORATIVE APPROACHES IN FDR Restorative practices in Family Dispute Resolution processes/mediation processes. Jodie Grant, Shifting Sands
12.00 – 12.30	Lynda McAlary-Smith, Commissioner, Victorian Small Business Commission Catherine Ellis Acting Commissioner, NSW Small Business Commission	YOUth Speak: Empowering young people's voices in family dispute resolution. Nikki Venter, Relationships Australia SA	Pioneering Mediation: Resolution Institute's Journey and Future Vision for Growing Mediation. Amber Williams, Resolution Institute Fiona Hollier, Hollier and Hart	Restoring, reviving and restructuring relationships through mediation. Linda Kochanski AM, College of Law; Mieke Brandon AM RIF, Resolution Institute (retd)	Child Inclusive Practice: The voice of the child and restorative approaches. Terrie Toner, Relationships Australia; Belinda Taranto, Relationships Australia Family Talk: Restorative approaches reset relationships in complex family conflicts. Freia Carlton, Victoria Legal Aid; Mary-Jo Anagnos, Victoria Legal Aid

12.30 – 1.30	LUNCH				Conference foyer
1.30 – 3.00	1.06 Family Dispute Resolution: Child Inclusive Practice	1.07 Workplace	1.08 Complex Dispute Resolution Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM	1.09 Public Sector and the Courts	1.10 Yarning, Crafting & Connecting
Room:	Facilitator: Peter Mathie Grand Ballroom 1	Facilitator: Alysoun Boyle Grand Ballroom 2	Hvde Park Room	Facilitator: Lola Akin Ojelabi Phillip Room	Facilitator: Melissa Stubbings
1.30 – 2.00	1.30 - 2.10 WORKSHOP: Small voices that change parents' minds: Meeting with children in Family Law. Jon Graham, International Centre for Children and Family Law; Dr Lorri Yasenik, International Centre for Children and Family Law	WORKSHOP Embodying the Paradox: How caring for yourself enhances service to others Dr Mark Seton, University of Sydney and Excelsia University College	Working together collaborative communication skills engaging EQ for best outcomes to conflict Paula Bruce , Resolution Services Group	Building Trust in Institutions through Conciliation Practice. Joseph Hongoh, PaCSIA	Beaumont Room WEAVING WORKSHOP Sarah Merritt, Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung weaver and artist Led by people with DR wisdom and cultural knowledge, this workshop will engage participants in a collective dialogue of deep listening and learning. Working alongside artists and healers, participants will explore together Dispute Resolution (DR) stories deeply woven into lore, culture, and traditional practices.
2.00 – 2.30	2.10 - 2.35 Does Child-Inclusive Mediation satisfy requirements to hear the voice of the child? Dianne Loveday, Bayside Mediation		How trauma informed practice helps DR practitioners, improve practice and benefits clients. Jodie Grant, Shifting Sands	The relationship between employment mediation and the Employment Relations Authority in Aotearoa New Zealand. Dr Grant Morris, Victoria University of Wellington NZ	
2.30 – 3.00	2.35 - 3.00 Minors in mediation: Can they participate effectively? Dr Esther Erlings, Macquarie Law School	Workplace Conflict - from the inside out. Rachael Brady, Rachael Brady-Workplace Coach and Consultant	Trauma-informed conciliation: from principles to practice. Justin Toohey, Applied Dispute Resolution	Mediation in the Land and Environment Court Commissioner Elizabeth Espinosa, Commissioner to the Land and Environment Court of NSW and Councillor of the Law Society of NSW	
3.00 – 3.30	AFTERNOON TEA				Conference foyer
3.30 – 4.15	PLENARY 2				Grand Ballroom
	Chair: Alysoun Boyle NMAS to AMDRAS and Beyo Stephen Dickinson, AMDRAS Kirsten Eades, AMDRAS Board Jodie Grant, AMDRAS Board Adam Rosser, AMDRAS Board	Chair, d Member Member		AMDRAS	

4.15 – 5.00	PLENARY 3	
	Community Mediation in Australia: where to?	
	Chair: Mike Butler, Urboriginal.com.au	
	Facilitated discussion between	
	John Steele, Mediator, Uniting Communities Mediation Service	
	Lynn Davie, Mediator and Trainer	
5.00	DAY ONE CLOSE	
5.00 - 6.00	HOSTED DRINKS	Conference foyer

.00am	Registration, coffee cart and	exhibition opens			Conference foye
.00 – 10.00	PLENARY 4				
	Chair: Deborah Lockhart				
000 045	W-1				
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome				
9.15 – 10.00	KEYNOTE:				
	Developing a mediation res	ponse unit to meet a communi	ty need.		
	Cherise Hairston, Dayton Me				
	Michelle Zaremba, Dayton N		1154		
	Dr Jeanne Felicity Zimmer, D	Payton Mediation Centre, Ohio C	USA		
10.00 – 10.30	MORNING TEA				Conference foye
10.30 – 12.30	2.01 Family Dispute	2.02 Mastering capability	2.03 Community	2.04 ADR: Credibility, Data	
	Resolution: Data &	and practice	Mediation: International	& Learning	
	Practice		Context		
	Facilitator: Peter Mathie	Facilitator: Samantha Hardy	Facilitator: Maureen Inglis	Facilitator: Lola Akin Ojelabi	
Room:	Grand Ballroom	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park	
10.30 – 11.00	Tails of divorce, best practice for pet custody.	PANEL:	Nation building through mediation: The Mongolia	Myth and reality: The 'day in court' experience in dispute	
	Karis Nafte, Who Keeps The Dog,	Court-ordered, lawyer-assisted	experience.	resolution processes.	
	Pet Custody Mediation	property conciliation: which factors predict success?	Dr Katherine Johnson, Unilegal Consulting and ADRA	Anne Sutherland , Sutherland Kelly Mediation	
		Dr Genevieve Heard, Relationships	Enkhee Sharav, official interpreter	Wediation	
11.00 – 11.30	Roles and activities of FDRPs:	Australia VIC;	for the Mongolia Project	The establishment,	1
	ADRAC's empirical study of FDR	Dr Andrew Bickerdike, Relationships Australia		implementation and promotion of	
	practice. Susan Hamilton-Green, ADRAC;	Mark Hebblewhite, Victorian		a judicial alternative dispute resolution program.	
		Legal Aid Family Dispute		Judge Sharon Burchell, County	
		Resolution Service		Court of Victoria	
11.30 – 12.00	What do flat pack instructions,	Design and implementation of	Time to unmute: A tale of forced	Designing and implementing a	1
	recipes and parenting plans have	conflict management capability in	marriage in Hong Kong.	Family Dispute Resolution	
	in common? Mandy Drommer, WA Family	Queensland state schools. Peter Johnstone, Education	Sala Sihombing, Conflict Change Consulting	teaching clinic. Prof Rachael Field, Bond	
	Mediation Services	Queensland		University Law Faculty	

	mediation services				
	The distance of the distance o				

12.00 – 12.30	Demonstrating the value and impact of Family Dispute Resolution: A cost benefit analysis. Sandra Opoku, Relationships Australia Victoria; Dr Andrew Bickerdike, Relationships Australia Victoria	No one wants a complaint but maybe it's good for your practice. Linda Kochanski AM, College of Law	Harnessing technology for unity: Community mediation and conflict resolution through data analytics. Norwahidah Zinalibdin, Department of National Unity & Integration Malaysia	A tick-box exercise? Benefits of mandatory FDR for ambivalent clients. Dr Genevieve Heard, Relationships Australia VIC; Dr Jemima Petch, Relationships Australia QLD	
12.30 – 1.15	LUNCH				Conference foyer
1.15 – 2.00	PLENARY 5				Grand Ballroom
	Dr Laurence Boulle AM , Inde	pendent Mediation Services Sydney and Excelsia University	f conflict: Vulnero-empowero-ı College	resolio strategies.	
2.00 – 3.30	2.05 Family Dispute Resolution Facilitator: Peter Mathie	2.06 Mediation & Neurodivergency Facilitator: Lola Akin Ojelabi	2.07 Workplace Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM	2.08 Sustainable Practice	2.09 Yarning, Crafting & Connecting Facilitator: Melissa Stubbings
Room:	Grand Ballroom	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park	Beaumont Room
2.00 – 2.30	Working with lawyers at family law mediation. Matthew Shepherd, Ramsdens Family Law; Annabel Murray, Ramsdens Family Law	Improving access to justice for autistic parties in mediation [research repport]. Dr Özlem Süsler, La Trobe University	Responding to complaints of Sexual Harassment in 2025 Paula Bruce, Resolution Services Group	2.00 - 2.45 WORKSHOP: Mediation as Improv: Creative tools for navigating conflict. Sala Sihombing, Conflict Change Consulting; Prof Joel Lee, National University of Singapore; Melvin Loh, School of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences	WEAVING WORKSHOP Sarah Merritt, Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung weaver and artist Led by people with DR wisdom and cultural knowledge, this workshop will engage participants in a collective dialogue of deep listening and learning. Working alongside artists and healers, participants will explore together
2.30 - 3.00	PANEL: From the inside out - enhancing capacity in Child Inclusive Practice.	Mediation for all: Understanding neurodiversity and how to ensure inclusive practice.	Giving peace a chance in workplace conflict. Rachael Brady, Rachael Brady-	2.45 - 3.30 WORKSHOP Supervision in mediation:	Dispute Resolution (DR) stories deeply woven into lore, culture, and traditional practices.

3.00 – 3.30			Workplace Bullying: Debunking the myths, facilitated by narrative mediation. Debbie Dunn, The Narrative Centre		
3.30 – 4.00	AFTERNOON TEA				Conference foyer
4.00 – 5.00	2.10 Family Dispute Resolution Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM		2.12 Online Processes & Technology Facilitator: Ippei Okazaki	2.13 Best Practice Facilitator: Bianca Keys	
Room: 4.00 – 4.30	Grand Ballroom Crafting Clarity: Navigating complex property and financial settlements with confidence. Marney Bowden, 601 Mediation; Carmel Cumberbatch, 601 Mediation	Hyde Park Room Bridging traditional and contemporary mediation: Addressing immediate disputes underpinned by historical grievance. Amiel Nubaha, Comprehensive Mediation Services; Dr Judith Rafferty, Conflict Management Academy	Phillip Room Culture and the use of technology in dispute resolution. Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi, RMIT University	Times on the Park Quality control of Legal Aid NSW Family Dispute Resolution informing best practice. Gabriela Nitsolas-Pirc, Legal Aid NSW; Eloise Riches, Legal Aid NSW Glenys Rikard-Bell, Legal Aid NSW	
4.30 – 5.00	Mediation and parenting coordination: Exploring new Family Law dispute resolution directions. Dr Anne Purcell, Resolution Partners; Shelby Timmins, Divorce Done Differently	Informed, involved, inclusive: A new model in intercultural competence. Rory Gowers, Gowers Facilitating; Milan Nitopi, Sussex Partners	Community Based FDR: A supportive, educational, accessible approach for families experiencing conflict. Erica Nicholls, Uniting Communities Noarlunga Family Relationship Centre	Mapping hybrid dispute resolution in Aotearoa New Zealand. Dr Grant Morris, Victoria University of Wellington NZ	
5.00	DAY TWO CLOSE				
6.30 – 10.00pm	CONFERENCE DINNER "To Great time to relax and join to Dress Code: 'Bee' as you like	hreads of Connection: Honey, the conversation	Craft & Conversation"		Grand Ballroom

WEDNESDAY 2	4 SEPTEMBER 2025 "Co	onnecting"			
8.00am	Registration, coffee cart and	exhibition opens			Conference foyer
	PLENARY 6				
	Chair: Melissa Stubbings				Grand Ballroom 2
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome				
9.15 – 10.00	First Nations Yarning Circle				
	facilitated by Melissa Stubbi Jackie Stewart , Director of Yo				
10.00 – 10.45	KEYNOTE:				Grand Ballroom 1
	<u> </u>	rporate world - I promise we w sultant, OASIS People and Cultu		a.	
10.45 – 11.15	MORNING TEA				Conference foyer
11.15 – 1.15	3.01 First Nations Practice	3.02 Family Violence	3.03 Data Driven	3.04 Crafting Dispute	3.05 Bouganville
			Professional Skills	Resolution	Experience
	Facilitator: Melissa Stubbings	Facilitator: Alysoun Boyle	Facilitator: Lola Akin Ojelabi	Facilitator: Samantha Hardy	Facilitator: Maureen Inglis
Room: 11.15 – 11.45	Grand Ballroom 1 WORKSHOP:	Grand Ballroom 2 Navigating complexity: mastering	Hyde Park Room WORKSHOP:	Phillip Room	Times on the Park WORKSHOP:
11.15 – 11.45	Mediation through Gurrutu - further learnings. Noelene Marika , ARDS Aboriginal Corporation;	nuanced risk assessment in high- risk family violence contexts. Marney Bowden, Relationship Matters	Conflict coaching techniques and skills for convenors: Preparing parties for RJ conferences. Dr Judith Rafferty, Conflict		Home is where the heart is: community mediation to sustain peaceful relationships. Dr Serge Loode, Pacsia
11.45 – 12.15	Helen Nyomba Gandaŋu, ARDS Aboriginal Corporation; Ted Gondarra, ARDS Aboriginal Corporation; Lulu Guyula, ARDS Aboriginal Corporation	Adjusting more than percentages: mediating property after the 2025 Family Violence Amendment. Michele Brooks, Victorian Bar	Management Academy; Richard Dening, ACT Restorative Justice Unit		

12.15 – 12.45	WORKSHOP: Yarning about First Nations Family Dispute Resolution. Kathy Cullen, Victoria Legal Aid; Zack Smith, Victoria Legal Aid; Nakita Allen, Victoria legal Aid	Mediating in the age of rage. Miriam Ziegler, Miram Ziegler Mediation; Danielle Jaku-Greenfield, Jaku Mediation	Legal Aid NSW Family Dispute Resolution (LANSWFDR) ADR: the road less taken. Gabriela Nitsolas-Pirc, Legal Aid NSW; Eloise Riches, Legal Aid NSW; Corrina Faulkner, Legal Aid NSW	Mediation Makeover: Transforming how you think and talk about what you do. Sarah Blake, Sarah M Blake, in conversation with Dr Samantha Hardy, Conflict Management Academy + NMC Board	
12.45 – 1.15		"We've separated, so why are we still living under the same roof?" Tara Houseman, Relationships Australia; Naomi Doyle, Relationships Australia	Al and tech-enabled abuse in family mediation: recognising, responding, and resolving. Fiona Kirkman, CORTO; Pip Raedio, Upstream Educator	Empowering parties to seek accommodations, support, and accountability when facing practitioner misconduct. Dan Berstein, MH Mediate (via recorded presentation)	
1.15 – 2.15	LUNCH				Conference foyer
	PLENARY 7 Chair: Deborah Lockhart				Grand Ballroom
	PANEL: Ethics Mary Walker OAM, IMI Ethics Lola Akin Ojelabi, IMI Ethics				
2.45 – 3.30	A panel of overseas and Aust working with minority groups from notable conference prescherise Hairston, Dayton Me	s and First Nations peoples who senters who work in these area diation Centre, Ohio USA ure Violence Global, Chicago U d representatives:	ertise and discuss with each ot o are in conflict. This is a uniqu as.	•	

3.30 – 4.00	Wrap up of NMC2025 Chair: NMC Ltd NMC2027 – destination announcement NATIONAL MEDIATION CONFERENCE 2025 CLOSE	
4.00 - 5.30	CLOSING DRINKS	Conference foyer

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 "Connect & reflect"	
9.00am – 3.00pm	"Connect & reflect in nature" walking tour
	A guided walk for reflection, connection and creation Franca Petrone, Dispute Management Services; Anne Sutherland, Sutherland Kelly Mediation; and Nicole Arendsen, Cullaborate How often do you pull out your notes following a conference?
	This guided walk is designed to create the space for you to relax, restore and integrate your conference learning whilst walking in nature; connecting with others; sharing reflections on sessions you attended and hearing about sessions you didn't.
	Meet at 9 am at Circular Quay, catching a ferry together to a north shore coastal walk and returning to Circular Quay around 3pm
	Limited places available. Cost is \$50 per person
	Register as part of the conference or email nmc@conlog.com.au