



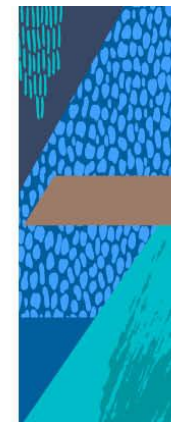
NMC2025

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 SEPTEMBER 2025 "Cultural Day"		
10.00 – 12.00pm	MASTERCLASS 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 <i>Hidden in plain sight: a guided walking tour of Aboriginal Sydney</i> <i>See website for costs and additional information</i>	Meet in the foyer of 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. <i>See website for costs and additional information</i>	Kintsugi Sydney CBD studio Level 1, Suite 107 147 King St Sydney

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3.00 – 7.00pm	Registration opens	<i>Sheraton Grand Conference foyer</i>
5.00 – 7.00pm	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Drinks and canapes amongst the exhibition</i>	Welcome Reception Collaborator MEDIATION  INSTITUTE The Dispute Resolution Training and Membership Specialist

NMC2025 Program

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2025 “The Peace Equation”			
7.30am	Registration and exhibition opens		Conference foyer
8.30 – 9.15	Conference Opening Dr 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 Stephen Dickinson, AMDRAS Chair	Cultural Collaborator  Principal Collaborator 	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

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10.30 – 12.30	1.01 Commercial & Business <i>Facilitator: Deborah Lockhart</i>	1.02 Family Dispute Resolution: Coordination <i>Facilitator: Maureen Inglis</i>	1.03 Practice & Ethics <i>Facilitator: Dr Samantha Hardy</i>	1.04 Skills <i>Facilitator: Dr Alysoun Boyle</i>	1.05 Restorative Approaches <i>Facilitator: Dr Serge Loode</i>
<i>Room:</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom 1</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom 2</i>	<i>Hyde Park Room</i>	<i>Phillip Room</i>	<i>Times on the Park</i>
10.30 – 11.00	The Hon. Kevin Lindgren AM KC , <i>Federal Court Judge (rtd)</i>	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 Health 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 Denning , 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

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12.30 – 1.30		LUNCH				Conference foyer
1.30 – 3.00		1.06 Family Dispute Resolution: Child Inclusive Practice <i>Facilitator: Peter Mathie</i>	1.07 Workplace <i>Facilitator: Dr Alysoun Boyle</i>	1.08 Complex Dispute Resolution <i>Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM</i>	1.09 Public Sector and the Courts <i>Facilitator: Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi</i>	1.10 Yarning, Crafting & Connecting <i>Facilitator: Melissa Stubbings</i>
Room:		Grand Ballroom 1	Grand Ballroom 2	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Beaumont Room
1.30 – 2.00		1.30 - 2.10 WORKSHOP: Small voices that change parents' minds: Meeting with children in Family Law. <i>Jon Graham, International Centre for Children and Family Law;</i> <i>Dr Lorri Yasenik, International Centre for Children and Family Law</i>	WORKSHOP Embodying the Paradox: How caring for yourself enhances service to others <i>Dr Mark Seton, University of Sydney and Excelsia University College</i>	Working together collaborative communication skills engaging EQ for best outcomes to conflict <i>Paula Bruce, Resolution Services Group</i>	Building Trust in Institutions through Conciliation Practice. <i>Joseph Hongoh, PaCSIA</i>	WEAVING WORKSHOP <i>Sarah Merritt, Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung weaver and artist</i> 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? <i>Dianne Loveday, Bayside Mediation</i>		How trauma informed practice helps DR practitioners, improve practice and benefits clients. <i>Jodie Grant, Shifting Sands</i>	The relationship between employment mediation and the Employment Relations Authority in Aotearoa New Zealand. <i>Dr Grant Morris, Victoria University of Wellington NZ</i>	
2.30 – 3.00		2.35 - 3.00 Minors in mediation: Can they participate effectively? <i>Dr Esther Erlings, Macquarie Law School</i>		Trauma-informed conciliation: from principles to practice. <i>Justin Toohey, Applied Dispute Resolution</i>	Mediation in the Land and Environment Court <i>Commissioner Elizabeth Espinosa, Commissioner to the Land and Environment Court of NSW and Councillor of the Law Society of NSW</i>	
3.00 – 3.30		AFTERNOON TEA				Conference foyer
3.30 – 4.15		PLENARY 2 <i>Chair: Dr Alysoun Boyle</i> NMAS to AMDRAS and Beyond <i>Stephen Dickinson, AMDRAS Chair,</i> <i>Kirsten Eades, AMDRAS Board Member</i> <i>Jodie Grant, AMDRAS Board Member</i> <i>Adam Rosser, AMDRAS Board Member</i>				Grand Ballroom
		Principal Collaborator 				

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

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TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 “Crafting”					
8.00am	Registration, coffee cart and exhibition opens				Conference foyer
9.00 – 10.00	PLENARY 4 <i>Chair: Deborah Lockhart</i>				Grand Ballroom
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome				
9.15 – 10.00	KEYNOTE: Developing a mediation response unit to meet a community need. <i>Cherise Hairston, Dayton Mediation Centre, Ohio USA</i> <i>Michelle Zaremba, Dayton Mediation Centre, Ohio USA</i> <i>Dr Jeanne Felicity Zimmer, Dayton Mediation Centre, Ohio USA</i>				
10.00 – 10.30	MORNING TEA				Conference foyer
10.30 – 12.30	2.01 Family Dispute Resolution: Data & Practice <i>Facilitator: Peter Mathie</i>	2.02 Mastering capability and practice <i>Facilitator: Dr Samantha Hardy</i>	2.03 Community Mediation: International Context <i>Facilitator: Maureen Inglis</i>	2.04 ADR: Credibility, Data & Learning <i>Facilitator: Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi</i>	
	<i>Room: Grand Ballroom</i>	<i>Hyde Park Room</i>	<i>Phillip Room</i>	<i>Times on the Park</i>	
10.30 – 11.00	Tails of divorce, best practice for pet custody. <i>Karis Nafte, Who Keeps The Dog, Pet Custody Mediation</i>	PANEL: Court-ordered, lawyer-assisted property conciliation: which factors predict success? <i>Dr Genevieve Heard, Relationships Australia VIC;</i> <i>Dr Andrew Bickerdike, Relationships Australia</i> <i>Mark Hebblewhite, Victorian Legal Aid Family Dispute Resolution Service</i>	Nation building through mediation: The Mongolia experience. <i>Dr Katherine Johnson, Unilegal Consulting and ADRA</i> <i>Enkhee Sharav, official interpreter for the Mongolia Project</i>	Myth and reality: The 'day in court' experience in dispute resolution processes. <i>Anne Sutherland, Sutherland Kelly Mediation</i>	
11.00 – 11.30	Roles and activities of FDRPs: ADRA's empirical study of FDR practice. <i>Susan Hamilton-Green, ADRA;</i>			The establishment, implementation and promotion of a judicial alternative dispute resolution program. <i>Judge Sharon Burchell, County Court of Victoria</i>	
11.30 – 12.00	What do flat pack instructions, recipes and parenting plans have in common? <i>Mandy Drommer, WA Family Mediation Services</i>	Design and implementation of conflict management capability in Queensland state schools. <i>Peter Johnstone, Education Queensland</i>	Time to unmute: A tale of forced marriage in Hong Kong. <i>Sala Sihombing, Conflict Change Consulting</i>	Designing and implementing a Family Dispute Resolution teaching clinic. <i>Prof Rachael Field, Bond University Law Faculty</i>	

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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 <i>Chair: Bianca Keys</i> PANEL: Holistic and playful innovations for solvers and resolvers of conflict: Vulnero-empowero-resolio strategies. Dr Laurence Boulle AM , Independent Mediation Services Dr Mark Seton , University of Sydney and Excelsia University College Joelene Nel , McLaughlins Lawyers				Grand Ballroom
2.00 – 3.30	2.05 Family Dispute Resolution <i>Facilitator: Peter Mathie</i>	2.06 Mediation & Neurodivergency <i>Facilitator: Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi</i>	2.07 Workplace <i>Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM</i>	2.08 Sustainable Practice <i>Facilitator: Dr Serge Loode</i>	2.09 Yarning, Crafting & Connecting <i>Facilitator: Melissa Stubbings</i>
<i>Room:</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>	<i>Hyde Park Room</i>	<i>Phillip Room</i>	<i>Times on the Park</i>	<i>Beaumont Room</i>
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 report]. Dr Özlem Süssler , 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. Matthew Horsfall , Centacare Brisbane Thinking outside the box: Expanding CIP so every child is heard Elke Pitkethley , Uniting	Mediation for all: Understanding neurodiversity and how to ensure inclusive practice. Danielle Hutchinson , Resolution Resources; Dr Samantha Hardy , Conflict Management Academy + NMC Board	Giving peace a chance in workplace conflict. Rachael Brady , Rachael Brady-Workplace Coach and Consultant; Nina Harding , Nina Harding Mediation Services	2.45 - 3.30 WORKSHOP Supervision in mediation: empowering practitioners, elevating practice. Joanne Law , Mediation Institute	Dispute Resolution (DR) stories deeply woven into lore, culture, and traditional practices.

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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 <i>Facilitator: Dr Laurence Boulle AM</i>	2.11 Intercultural Competence <i>Facilitator: Dr Serge Loode</i>	2.12 Online Processes & Technology <i>Facilitator: Ippei Okazaki</i>	2.13 Best Practice <i>Facilitator: Bianca Keys</i>	
	Room: Grand Ballroom	Hyde Park Room	Phillip Room	Times on the Park	
4.00 – 4.30	Crafting Clarity: Navigating complex property and financial settlements with confidence. Marney Bowden , 60I Mediation; Carmel Cumberbatch , 60I Mediation	Bridging traditional and contemporary mediation: Addressing immediate disputes underpinned by historical grievance. Amiel Nubaha , Comprehensive Mediation Services; Dr Judith Rafferty , Conflict Management Academy	Culture and the use of technology in dispute resolution. Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi , RMIT University	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 <i>"Threads of Connection: Honey, Craft & Conversation"</i> Great time to relax and join the conversation Dress Code: 'Bee' as you like 				Grand Ballroom

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WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2025 “Connecting”					
8.00am	Registration, coffee cart and exhibition opens				Conference foyer
	PLENARY 6				
	Chair: <i>Melissa Stubbings</i>				Grand Ballroom 2
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome				
9.15 – 10.00	First Nations Yarning Circle				
	facilitated by Melissa Stubbings , Senior Dharug Woman Natalie Chiappazzo , Youth Practice Specialist				
10.00 – 10.45	Chair: <i>Dr Alysoun Boyle</i>				Grand Ballroom 1
	KEYNOTE:				
	Reflective practice in the corporate world - I promise we won't finish by singing Kumbaya. Stuart Wesley , Principal Consultant, OASIS People and Culture				
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 Professional Skills	3.04 Crafting Dispute Resolution	3.05 Bouganville Experience
	Facilitator: <i>Melissa Stubbings</i>	Facilitator: <i>Dr Alysoun Boyle</i>	Facilitator: <i>Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi</i>	Facilitator: <i>Dr Samantha Hardy</i>	Facilitator: <i>Maureen Inglis</i>
	Room: <i>Grand Ballroom 1</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom 2</i>	<i>Hyde Park Room</i>	<i>Phillip Room</i>	<i>Times on the Park</i>
11.15 – 11.45	WORKSHOP: Mediation through Gurrutu - further learnings. Noelene Marika , ARDS Aboriginal Corporation;	Navigating complexity: mastering nuanced risk assessment in high-risk family violence contexts. Marney Bowden , Relationship Matters	WORKSHOP: Conflict coaching techniques and skills for convenors: Preparing parties for RJ conferences. Dr Judith Rafferty , Conflict Management Academy;		WORKSHOP: Home is where the heart is: community mediation to sustain peaceful relationships. Dr Serge Loode , PaCSIA
11.45 – 12.15	Helen Nyomba Gandanu , 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	Richard Dening , ACT Restorative Justice Unit		

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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	AI and tech-enabled abuse in family mediation: recognising, responding, and resolving. Fiona Kirkman , CORTO; Pip Rae , 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				
	PLENARY 7				
2.15 – 2.45	Chair: <i>Deborah Lockhart</i> PANEL: Ethics Mary Walker OAM , IMI Ethics Committee Prof Lola Akin Ojelabi , IMI Ethics Committee				
2.45 – 3.30	Chair: <i>Dr Alysoun Boyle</i> PANEL: Strengthening Cohesion: Minority groups and their approaches to conflict. A panel of overseas and Australian speakers share their expertise and discuss with each other their experiences working with minority groups and First Nations peoples who are in conflict. This is a unique opportunity to hear more from notable conference presenters who work in these areas. Cherise Hairston , Dayton Mediation Centre, Ohio USA Dr Monique Williams , CEO Cure Violence Global, Chicago USA Zack Smith , Victoria Legal Aid ARDS Aboriginal Corporation representatives: Noelene Marika Helen Nyomba Gandangu Ted Gondarra Lulu Guyula				

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3.30 – 4.00	Wrap up of NMC2025 <i>Dr Alysoun Boyle, Chair NMC Ltd</i> NMC2027 – destination announcement NATIONAL MEDIATION CONFERENCE 2025 CLOSE
4.00 – 5.30	CLOSING DRINKS <i>Conference foyer</i>

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 “Connect & reflect”	
9.00am – 3.00pm	“Connect & reflect in nature” walking tour A guided walk for reflection, connection and creation <i>Franca Petrone, Dispute Management Services; Anne Sutherland, Sutherland Kelly Mediation; and Nicole Arendsen, Cullaborate</i> 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 <i>Limited places available. Cost is \$50 per person</i> <i>Register as part of the conference or email nmc@conlog.com.au</i>