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Dispute Resolution Centre Newsletter, August 2017

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Newsletter, August 2017

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Welcome

Libby Taylor & Rachael Field
Co-Directors

Welcome to the third Newsletter of 2017 for the Dispute Resolution Centre. We hope you enjoy meeting our DRC member, trainer and coach Bobbi Reilly. This newsletter provides some information about our new Family Dispute Resolution Clinic and also about a special edition of the *Bond Law Review* publishing papers from the 2016 National Mediation Conference.

Global Happenings

Date	Name	Location
25 Sep - 30 Sep 2017	International Commercial Mediation Competition - Canary Islands	Canary Islands
17 Oct 2017	WMO Symposium 2017 - Conflict Studies of International Interest	Berlin, Germany
18 Oct - 20 Oct 2017	ADR Institute of Canada 2017 Conference: ADR and Access to Justice	St John's, Newfoundland, Canada
31 Oct - 2 Nov 2017	The 2017 Annual International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict	New York City, USA
1 Nov - 2 Nov 2017	The 2017 Conflict Resolution Conference: Relate, Resolve, Restore	Wellington, New Zealand
22 Nov - 25 Nov 2017	Moot Internacional de Negociación y Mediación Civil y Mercantil	Madrid, Spain

Hot Topics

1. Bond University Family Dispute Resolution Clinic

The Bond Family Dispute Resolution Clinic (the Clinic) provides high quality, caring, client-centred specialist family dispute resolution services at a low cost to achieve the best possible outcomes for clients in conflict and for the entire community as a result.

The Clinic operates out of a specialised clinical facility where safety and security of parties is the highest priority. Dedicated staff work with clients and Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) practitioners to provide a caring environment.

The Clinic aims to assist families and children through FDR to overcome the challenges associated with relationship breakdown and separation, and to establish effective post-separation parenting arrangements for the family's wellbeing into the future. The Clinic is dedicated to reducing the negative effects of dispute and conflict, and improving and strengthening relationships.

The Clinic will also facilitate parties to resolve property and financial disputes.

Objectives of the Clinic

- To provide high quality professionally supervised family dispute resolution to clients in Queensland and northern NSW.

- To provide Bond student volunteers with the opportunity to complete their required hours of supervised FDR practice following completion of the required courses with the Dispute Resolution Centre.
- To provide student volunteers with an opportunity to gain practical experience in a controlled and supportive environment and prepare them for FDR practice.

The staff and volunteers of the Clinic believe that a collaborative, interest-based and fair approach to managing and resolving post-separation family disputes is important for the wellbeing of children, families, individuals and communities.

Supervising FDR Practitioner

Associate Professor Libby Taylor, Co-Director of the Dispute Resolution Centre (DRC), is the lead supervising FDRP at the Clinic. Libby has been practising as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) since 2006 and oversees the training courses delivered by the DRC which all student volunteers complete prior to commencing their work in the clinic. Libby supervises student volunteers, providing mentoring and guidance as they work with clients through the dispute resolution process.

Libby's work as the Clinic Director is supported by a team of supervising FDR practitioners with extensive professional experience in the clinical setting.

Operating Hours

Saturday, 9am – 4pm. All sessions for the FDR Clinic are by appointment only.

Cost \$200 per party, payable only if the case proceeds to dispute resolution.

Student Involvement

The Bond FDR Clinic is a teaching clinic, providing Bond FDR and Psychology students the opportunity to undertake practical requirements under supervision. Clients of the Clinic will be required to consent to student involvement in the dispute resolution process. Students will be working under the supervision of an accredited FDRP at all times.

2. Bond Law Review Special DR Edition

This special edition of the *Bond Law Review* brings you a selection of scholarly papers presented at the bi-annual National Mediation Conference held in September 2016 at the Gold Coast, Queensland. Presentations included discussion of the latest research and developments across the spectrum of forms of dispute resolution. The content of the conference, and of this special edition, is of interest to mediators, dispute resolution and restorative justice practitioners, facilitators, conciliators, educators, trainers, conflict coaches, arbitrators, adjudicators, academics, researchers, managers, administrators and anyone else who is interested in and involved in helping people in dispute. Click [here](#) to access the special edition.



Meet DRC member Bobbi Reilly

What drew you to mediation?

I fell into mediation by accident. I had finished studying counselling and didn't feel that it was the right role for me at that time. I then did a mediation training course and loved it. I loved the fact that I could assist people in having a conversation that would create understanding and empathy and allow them to put aside their adult differences and focus solely on their children's needs. I also liked that I didn't have to have an in depth knowledge of the clients lives to assist, working in the present and making plans for the future suited me as this is in line with the way that I think. Rarely am I thinking about why something is the way it is, I'm usually curious about how it could be.

Tell us about your best mediation moment.

There are so many to choose from....

The first one that comes to mind is when I was a Coordinator for the Coordinated Dispute Resolution Pilot; there was one particular case where between Intake and FDR the domestic violence had escalated to an extreme level, the mother and children were in a lot of danger. Due to the framework of the pilot we were continually in touch with the clients and therefore were able to intervene and assess continuously to ensure everyone was safe and supported, including the perpetrator. In the normal model of FDR this is not always possible, but from that day forward I have ensured that clients know that I can provide referrals etc while they are in my process and I keep the lines of communication open without losing sight of my role to assist in keeping clients and children safe.

What are some of the challenges that you as a mediator face?

One of the main challenges I believe is knowing how to reality test clients without it impacting on your relationship with them or your role as an impartial third person. How I manage this is by doing the exploration stage well. I have found that in the exploration stage clients will give you enough information for you to reality test them later in the option generation/negotiation stage. This allows you to do the reality testing in a curious way by comparing what they have previously said to what they are currently saying, clients are usually open to this type of reality testing because I am using their words and examples in a respectfully curious way without having an opinion or any judgment.

What is your top tip for new mediators?

My top tip would be to ensure that you practise in an open way. Be open to showing your work to a clinical supervisor, have conversations about what you could have done differently, because there is always something. Never be too proud to admit that you are still learning, because the reality is, is that we all are.



2017 Short Course Program

All Courses will be held on campus at [Bond University](#)

29-30 Sept 2017 [2 day Mediator Assessment Course](#)

25-29 Oct 2017 [5 day Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner Training Course](#)

22-25 Nov 2017 [Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner Clinical Course](#)

[Please see Short Course Accreditation for more details](#)

For enquiries please contact:

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