

## Bond opens family dispute resolution clinic

A new family dispute resolution clinic at Bond University will provide affordable dispute resolution and mediation services to families coping with the difficulties of separation.

Family dispute resolution students working alongside experienced practitioners will staff the clinic, which opened last month.

The initiative, the result of a collaboration between the university's law faculty and its psychology clinic, will help families to access dispute resolution services to resolve parenting arrangements, as well as providing referrals to other experienced professionals to ensure parties receive the professional support, guidance and advice needed during what are often very challenging times.

Family Dispute Resolution Clinic co-director Libby Taylor (*above, left*) said the centre was focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for families and, in particular, the best interests of the children.

"The clinic has been developed to assist families and children who are facing the challenges of separation and who need assistance in making both short- and long-term parenting arrangements," she said.



"The students, under the guidance and supervision of accredited family dispute resolution practitioners, will work with these families to establish effective post-separation parenting arrangements, helping to reduce the negative effects of separation and conflict, particularly on children."

Psychology clinic director Deborah Wilmoth (*right*) said provisionally-registered psychologists, in conjunction with qualified staff, would provide support by helping identify psychological risk

factors that might need to be addressed as part of family dispute resolution and mediation.

"The new clinic will provide clients with a 'one-stop shop', where they can access psychological support as part of the family dispute resolution assessment, rather than needing to seek help elsewhere," she said. "We will also be offering a dedicated course for parents who are going through separation to help them understand the impact it can have on children."

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