



Bernie Bolger

Principal, The Mediation Collective

Of what value are the skills of counselling, psychotherapy and mediation? Bernie Bolger believes they are of great value if they can help produce deeper understanding of differing points of view, particularly when the potential for conflict is high. She sees less value in counselling for the sake of counselling. This focus on practical results reflects Bernie's philosophy and background in building a business.

Bernie has a Bachelor with Honours Degree in Pharmacy, a Masters Degree in Counselling and Applied Psychotherapy, a Graduate Diploma in Mediation and Family Dispute Resolution and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning. She is also trained in collaborative practice, is Vice President of the Board of Collaborative Professionals NSW (CPNSW) and is a Board Member of the Australian Association Collaborative Professionals (AACP). She has been included in the Doyles Guide as a Leading Family Law Mediator for a number of years.

She enjoyed a successful career as a community pharmacist for many years but sold her retail interests to concentrate on her real passion for helping people improve their communication and relationships. She sees good communication as the key to cutting through all sorts of difficult relationship issues, whether work related, relationship related or post separation / divorce related. She attributes her business success not only to her empathic style and people skills but also to her strong focus on results. And it is these qualities which continue to differentiate her today. Facilitating difficult conversations is one thing – facilitating difficult conversations towards purposeful goals is where Bernie's combined business and counselling experience really produces results.



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Today Bernie works with people whose relationships have broken down but who still want to have a civil, respectful relationship as co-parents post-divorce. Key to this is working in a team of like-minded collaboratively trained professionals to holistically guide their clients to a better financial and emotional outcome for the family as a whole.

Bernie is frequently asked to speak on radio, television and at major conferences on family wellbeing, relationships and money.



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