

# MEDIATION.....A Way Forward through Respectful Dialogue

*Mediation is a consensual process in which an independent and impartial person, the mediator, works with disputing parties to help them explore and, if appropriate, reach a mutually acceptable resolution of some or all of the issues in dispute. The Mediator has no decision-making authority regarding the outcome, the mediator therefore has no power to impose an agreement.*



## Mediation is especially appropriate where:

- Relationships between the parties are important and continuing
- Unclear communication and resultant misunderstandings are involved
- Confidentiality is important
- The parties need the opportunity to talk openly and frankly
- The parties wish to determine their own outcome
- The parties wish to minimise legal costs and save time

## Training and Experience

A Victoria University Graduate, Sue Adams has 30 years experience as a social worker/ counsellor. After gaining much experience in the Dept of Social Welfare (as it was called then), Justice Department, Hutt Valley District Health Board, and Soma Medical Centre, she began private practice as a counsellor in 1992. This led to her increasing interest in reconciliation, conciliation and mediation.

## Sue is a member of:-

NZAC New Zealand Association of Counsellors.  
NZCCA New Zealand Christian Counsellors Association  
AMINZ Arbitration and Mediation Institute of New Zealand

**She** is a Health Provider for ACC,  
A Counsellor/Mediator for the Family Court,  
A Counsellor/Mediator for Employment Assistance Programmes through Stratos Ltd., Instep, Work Place Support and SEED

Sue has practised reconciliation/conciliation and mediation in family court work, employment assistance programmes, government departments, and for religious organisations.

## Belief Statement

*I believe that every person has the fundamental right to express their own opinions, to be listened to, heard and respected.*

*I believe that the person who will listen, hear and respect another's opinions, beliefs, values and feelings, even when they differ from their own, will develop a deeper level of maturity. This does not mean they have to change their own beliefs or values in doing so.*

*I believe in dialogue that is solution focused.*

*I have a passion for mediation because it is a process that allows this exchange to happen.*

Sue Adams



**Assurance**  
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