

# Gathering food for thought: First Nations peoples' approaches to peacebuilding and peacemaking in Australia

## Project team members

*The Project Research team is based in the School of Law and Justice, College of Human and Social Futures, at the University of Newcastle.*

**Professor Tania Sourdin** is the Dean of the University of Newcastle Law School. Tania has been a mediator since 1991 and has mediated hundreds of disputes. She has also held senior Tribunal positions for more than 20 years and is the current NBN Industry Dispute Resolution Advisor (since 2014).

She has a background as a litigation lawyer, judicial registrar and is the author of a number of more than 140 publications (including 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' now in a 6<sup>th</sup> ed with Thomson Reuters), that include books articles and papers.

**Dr Helen Bishop's** long history is occupied with remote and urban First Nations peoples of Australia in dispute resolution, (DR). She works tirelessly to amplify First Nations peace building, decision-making, problem-solving and conflict management in process practices to minimise criminal justice contact and magnify effective community support and intervention. Her expertise and her advocacy are for greater recognition of First Nations DR approaches, restorative in nature in facilitating security, wellbeing improved relationships and safety in First Nation communities. Helen is a Koongurrukun woman.

**Dr Bin Li** is a senior lecturer at the University of Newcastle teaching and researching dispute resolution. He has expertise in examining the technological impact on formal and informal justice domains. This includes how newer technologies are used in dispute resolution processes, and how these innovations should be harnessed in a manner that the ethical use of technology is promoted. He has completed several projects in collaboration with Professor Tania Sourdin.

**Alysoun Boyle** is a researcher, trainer, and practitioner in ADR/DR. Her research interests include First Nations approaches to conflict, reality testing and ethics in mediation, mediator effectiveness, and research methods. She is a member of the ADR Research Network, a foundation member of ADRAAC, and the Chair of the Board of NMC Ltd. Alysoun is a recipient of the National Emergency Medal 2019-2020.