

verb litigant, meaning to quarrel or to go to law. Litigation typically involves warring parties going to Court and while a judge may be a neutral person he/she has to decide in favour of only one party.

The difference in meaning between the two words says a lot about the difference between mediation and litigation as mechanisms to resolve disputes.

According to the LEADR model of mediation in New Zealand it is a mediator's job to facilitate resolution by their parties of their dispute. This involves the mediator helping the parties:

- identify the issues that have brought them to the mediation table (which may be quite different for each of them);
- explore the issues each has identified, including identifying and exploring the par-

and acceptable solutions, and translate what has been agreed into an agreement or plan for the future.

Perhaps the distinguishing feature of the LEADR model above is that throughout the mediation it is the parties who control the outcome – what they put in is reflected in what they get out of it. Thus if the parties come to the table with a negative attitude towards the process they are very unlikely to get anything out of it. In fact, the mediation will probably not last much beyond the initial introductions.

What are the benefits of mediation? The principal benefits of mediation over litigation are:

The parties determine the outcome of their dispute, not a third party such as an arbitrator or judge.

The parties do not have to decide who's right and who's

pie, has an ideal process structure but this can be varied according to the needs of the specific mediation with the par-

always the appropriate mechanism to resolve a dispute. In many instances the parties are

ited: LEADR Association of Dispute Resolvers (www.leadr.co.nz) and the Arbitrators and

well as an Associate Member of AMINZ and am more than happy to assist.

Dispelling eight common myths about child abuse...

By **RACHEL MCGUIRE**

When we think of child abuse, we all probably get a picture in our minds based on numerous factors like our own upbringing, what we have heard and seen in the media, possibly from experiences of abuse or perhaps just long held beliefs.

You might be surprised to find that some of the common perceptions of child abuse are not actually based in fact. Following are eight myths about child abuse and the reality that dispels them...

Myth # 1: It is only abuse if it is violent.

Child abuse does not necessarily involve violence or anger. Abuse often involves adults exploiting their power over children, and using children as objects rather than respecting their rights as young people.

Myth #2: Children usually tell someone that they are being abused.

Most children do not tell. Abusers can be very effective in making children too fearful to talk about what is going on.

Myth # 3: Children are usually sexually abused by strangers.

85 – 90 percent of children who are sexually abused are sexually abused by someone they know.

Myth # 4: Most physical abuse is carried out by men, especially fathers.

Violent acts towards children are more likely to be carried out by mothers than

fathers.

Myth # 5: Sexual abuse is a rare occurrence.

One in three girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before they turn 18.

Myth # 6: Child abuse only happens in certain groups of society.

Child abuse happens across all socio-economic groups, races and religions, and in both city and rural environments.

Myth # 7: Parents who abuse their children do not love their children. These parents want to hurt or get rid of their children.

Most parents who abuse their children really do love them and feel very guilty after abusing them.

The problem is that these parents do not know how to raise and discipline children in a non-abusive manner.

Myth # 8: Abused children hate their parents and want to get away from them.

Most children who have been abused by their parents still love their parents and want to remain living with them; they just want the abuse to stop.

More information about child abuse signs, risk factors and what you can do if you are worried about a child are available from www.childmatters.org.nz.

You can also purchase a useful book called "How Can I Tell?" from the website for only \$2, with detailed information about recognising child abuse.

About Child Matters

Every child deserves to

CHILD MATTERS – speaking up for children

Child Matters, New Zealand's specialist child abuse prevention organisation

flourish in an environment safe from all abuse. Child Matters is determined to ensure that this happens.

Child Matters is a national charitable trust based in Hamilton that is dedicated to:

- Raising understanding and awareness of the issue
 - Educating and inspiring those working with children
 - Influencing change in society's attitudes and behaviours
- www.childmatters.org.nz.

Pumpkin Carnival full of new ideas

The government is asking that students are work-ready when they graduate from university, and that's exactly what happened in Hamilton. Tourism Management students from the University of Waikato were putting theory into fieldwork, as they prepared for the 'Great Pumpkin Carnival.'

This was the fourth annual 'Great Pumpkin Carnival' for children and grown-ups at Rhododendron Lawn, Hamilton Gardens in early April. The 'Event Management Strategies' class of third year students were getting hands-on with pumpkin, broccoli, lettuce and calendula seeds, putting together a stand promoting the importance of companion plants to children.

Their messages – "growing your own vegies is good" and "plants need buddies too" – were being demonstrated through an

interactive stall for children that was one of the highlights of the 'Great Pumpkin Carnival.'

The class spent three intensive weeks planning the event guided by lecturer Dr Jenny Cave. "The Pumpkin Carnival organisers challenged us to try something new, and provided the chance to apply theory to a real world setting. The students jumped at it," said Dr Cave.

The Waikato students were asking for a gold coin donation in exchange for the opportunity for children to plant 'companion seeds,' and learn which plants 'like' and 'dislike' each other. All proceeds were donated to the festival organisers, Friends of Hamilton Gardens.

The 'Great Pumpkin Carnival' included pumpkin competitions, creations, baking, the infamous 'downhill roll', family activities, food and refreshments.

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