



## Non-lawyers to enable dispute resolution

LAWYERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS and financial advisors will work together on resolving disputes following the launch of Collaborative Professionals Victoria last week.

The three groups of professionals met for the launch in support of collaborative practice and the recently established Collaborative Practice Section of the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV).

Describing this emerging method of dispute resolution, Tony Cinque, the facilitator of the new collaborative practice said collaborative practice provides an innovative and effective way to resolve issues by seeking to empower individuals to find their own solutions.

"The process focuses on facilitating outcomes which promote identified interests and goals," he said. "The process uses a team approach involving clients, their lawyers and other professionals including psychologists and financial advisers."

Cinque also noted that although collaborative practice was primarily associated with family law, it is well suited to the areas of estate claims, commercial disputes and other civil matters.

According to Cinque, it works particularly well for couples going through a separation process because of the focus on the welfare of children and observing and promoting a co-parenting relationship after separation.

"The core purpose of this process is to achieve resolution by collaboration and consensus to avoid or at least minimise conflict as much as possible. Lawyers and other professionals work with clients collaboratively to find mutually acceptable and workable solutions," Cinque said.