

ADRA Minutes of Board Meeting

held 17 November 2010

at the Celestial Restaurant, Bligh St Sydney

Present: Emma Matthews (Chair), Andrea Cotter-Moroz, Michelle De Vries, Micheline Dewdney, Mark England, Linda Fisher, Naomi Holtring, Jane Houselander, Peter Irving, Katherine Johnson, Janice McLeay, Allan Parker, Mary Reheby and Val Sinclair.

Minutes of the meeting held 20 October were adopted.

REPORTS

President's Report

Emma reported that:

- 1 It should be noted that the National Mediation Conference is independent from ADRA, although the majority of the Board and organising committee are ADRA members.
- 2 The role of the committee for the Family conference was confirmed. It was agreed to have a reporter. Mark England offered to join the conference committee. Emma thanked Naomi and her team on their good work. The draft schedule of fees as circulated by Janice was **approved**.
- 3 The Jennifer Scott seminar was well received. Terry O'Connell who recently presented a PAVE seminar provided copies of his book REAL Justice for each person present. It was noted that PAVE will be holding a half-day conference on 21 June 2011 to celebrate its 15 years. It was **agreed** to write to thank Terry for his generosity. - ?
- 4 The ADRA banner will be ready to display at the Christmas function. ✓ + seminar
- 5 Emma has written to the Adelaide Board and Convenor congratulating them on the recent National Mediation Conference. Chris Jefferys has replied expressing her gratitude.
- 6 Katherine has organised for a speaker on the *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* in February.
- 7 Comments have been sent to the ADR Steering Committee on the draft *Civil Procedures Amendment (Dispute Resolution) Bill 2010*, with thanks to Andrea and Peter for their assistance. It was **agreed** to monitor the next reading of the Bill.
- 8 Emma has circulated the article from the AFR that was referred to by Mark at the last meeting re the NSW Governments involvement in a High Court case about reasons given in arbitral awards. It was agreed this was important for Med-Arb and for Australia's

place in the world. Allan recommended that the processes of arbitration and mediation remain separate, as there is an apparent danger of dispute resolution losing its identity as legal processes exert more influence. Emma noted that arbitration outside the court system provides advantages to parties in terms of time and subsequent minimisation of financial loss.

9 Emma and Peter spoke on behalf of ADRA at a recent dinner for John Pollard. It was **agreed** to write to Lorraine Lopich congratulating her on organising this tribute dinner.

Treasurer's Report

Janice reported that we have \$13170.36 in the cheque account and \$12179.79 in the term deposit.

Janice apologised that she has not completed the costing of ADRA's Board dinners as promised.

The following payments were **agreed**:

LEADR for ADRA's share of Christmas function unknown

Membership Report

The membership task is now in Jane's hands following her return from holiday. No new member applications were received in the last month. Renewals are still coming in.

LEADING GROWTH AND DIRECTION

Allan spoke about his recent work involving water resources. He praised Dr Jane Elix for her part in devising and delivering an effective training program within tight limits set by the client. Mark suggested that Allan speak on his role at the NMC 2012. It was also suggested that Dr Jane Elix be asked to present a workshop.

It was **agreed** that Janice will liaise with LEADR for the advertising of the Family Conference when the program is complete. All members will be ask to circulate the advertising widely.

EDUCATION

Katherine has secured Ian Bailey SC to present a seminar on the *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* on 16 February 2011.

The producer of *Light on the Hill* has approved the showing of this DVD at a seminar in the new year.

POLICY

It was agreed that the working group for FDRPs would not meet separately from the conference committee until after March 2011. It was **agreed** that ADRA members will be invited to join the working group.

WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

It was **agreed** to hold the Christmas function in conjunction with LEADR because both organisations had chosen the same date, 9 December. It was noted that LEADR suggested that it be held on a cost-recovery basis at \$30 per head. It was agreed that \$30 was too high and that Janice would negotiate with Fiona Hollier about a reduced rate. Even \$25 was thought to be high. It was **agreed** that ADRA would pay any cost required for its members to attend the function.

PRACTITIONER SUPPORT

It was **agreed** that the Talk It Over service should be advertised to Practitioner Members only.

It was **agreed** that experienced mediators should be encouraged to support the Sydney Mediation Practice Network as Naomi and Jen-Marcel will have limited time available next year. The plan is to have two people, one being the leader and one being the support. The support person will become the leader the following month. Naomi is drawing up a roster for 2011. People are asked to volunteer for two consecutive monthly meetings.

Our thanks go to Naomi Holtring and Jean-Marcel Malliate for their contribution to the education of mediators through their dedication to the practice network.

CORRESPONDENCE

Janice has been emailing Lomin Saayman who made *Light on a Hill*. Lomin will be in Sydney in January. It was agreed that it is not practical to present a seminar in January.

GENERAL BUSINESS

It was **agreed** to hold the annual Planning Day commencing at 11am on Sunday 30 January 2011 at Linda Fisher's home, if that date is convenient to her.

Andrea was congratulated on being re-elected as Chair of the NSW Chapter of LEADR. Val and Robin Hunt, another ADRA member, are also on the Board.

Mark and Katherine were congratulated on being co-convenors of the dispute resolution interest group of the Australian Psychologists' Society

No date was set for the next meeting.
