



*Supporting and transforming the community of dispute resolution practice  
By providing leadership, direction and growth*

ABN 75 535 099 840 ADRA is not registered for GST  
ADRA acknowledges the traditional owners of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

## **ADRA Board Meeting Minutes**

**24 September 2019**

***Law Society 170 Phillip Street, SYDNEY 2000***

### **Present:**

***Chair:*** Katherine Johnson and Andrew Wong (by phone)  
***Treasurer:*** Andrew Wong  
***Members:*** Louise Mathias, Helen Miedzinski, Cheryl Bryan (by phone)  
***Secretary:*** Wendy Buchanan assisted by Jaehee Yoon

### **Apologies:**

Mary Walker, Laurence Boule, Dennis Nolan, Margaret McCue, Jaehee Yoon

### ***Guest Speaker:***

Nil

### **AGENDA:**

Meeting commenced at 5.35pm.

ADRA Board resolved that:

## **1. Declaration of Executive Committee Election Results**

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	<b>Katherine Johnson and Andrew Wong</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Wendy Buchanan and Jaehee Yoon</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Margaret McCue assisted by Andrew Wong</b>
<b>Membership Officer</b>	<b>Wendy Buchanan and Jaehee Yoon</b>
<b>Accreditation Officer</b>	<b>Helen Miedzinski</b>
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Mark Brady, Cheryl Bryan (by phone) , Jane Houselander, Peggy Lin, Louise Mathias, Tania Murdock, Dennis Nolan.</b>
	<b>Student Member Jaehee Yoon</b>
<b>Website Administration</b>	<b>Andrew Wong</b>

## Complaints Handling Panel

**Louise Mathias, Andrew Wong,  
Helen Miedzinski, Katherine Johnson**

### 2. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2019 are approved by Helen Miedzinski and seconded by Louse Mathias.

### 3. President's Report:

- **Mongolian Project**

The President reports that the Mongolia Judiciary representatives are eager to be affiliated with ADRA. It is expected that further visits by Mongolian officials will be occurring either later this year or early next year. President will contribute an article about the Mongolian Project for ADRA's website

- **John Pollard Trophy**

- ADRA has created a trophy commemorating the late John Pollard and the President will present it to his family on ADRA's behalf.

- **Representing ADRA on the NMAS Board**

Our President has submitted a nomination for a position on the Mediator Standards Board.

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- Noted

### 4. Treasurer's Report:

- The latest figures up to 9 September 2019 were **\$14,487.98** in our cheque account; and **\$42,317.12** in our Term Deposit. Our PayPal funds are transferred to the cheque account monthly. This equates to a **total of \$56,805.10**
- Noted

### 5. Governance Committee Report:

- Andrew Wong has requested that the Board examine the issue of whether access to the Complaints Handling Process is limited to Practitioner Members or open to all member of ADRA. It is proposed to place this issue on the Agenda for the October Board Meeting.
- Noted

### 6. Membership Officer's Report:

- Six memberships were processed this month including three new members from Queensland Currently there are 142 financial members of ADRA. 129 in New South Wales, 20 in Victoria, 18 in Queensland 4 in the ACT, 3 in Western Australia, 2 in South Australia and 1 in Tasmania.
- Noted

### 7. Accreditation Officer's Report

- Three accreditations were processed this month.

- Nil re-accreditations were processed this month.
- Noted

## 8. Secretary's Report

- **AGM Dinner 29 August 2019** Twenty-three people enjoyed a vigorous and frank presentation on the topic of the Early Appropriate Guilty Plea and Mediation in Criminal Proceedings. Mr. James predicted that the use of mediation in these matters will rise as the legal fraternity understands that both time and money can be saved. However, he warned that judicial officers will need education in the mediation process for this to happen.
- **Native Title Mediator Panel**  
ADRA has circulated to our members the notice of Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Native Title Mediator List of the Federal Court which closes on 1 November 2019.
- **Student Engagement Committee**  
The Committee will be meeting on 17 October. It will be clarifying its approach for recruiting Student representatives from Educational Institutions and Universities and finalising arrangements for the Essay Competition.
- Noted

## 9. Calendar Dates for Events and Mediator Practice Network

- **28 October Ralph Steele event:** no confirmation yet received from Professor Steele
- **26 November Christmas Party** following Board Meeting.  
Our new Patron, Justice Terry Sheahan will be introduced to members.

## 10. General Business:

- **ADRA's role in Complaints Handling**  
ADRA is on the Federal Department of the Attorney General's list of suitable complaints-handling bodies for their FDR practitioners. Our website states that all members of ADRA have access to our complaints-handling mechanism. An enquiry was received from the Family Law branch of the Attorney-General's Department asking for clarification of ADRA's memberships for FDR practitioners. Not all FDR practitioners are NMAS accredited (their license to practice by the AGD).
- **Confusion regarding Practitioner Membership and National Accreditation.**  
The Membership Application form on our website has a requirement that Practitioner applicants must provide evidence that they meet NMAS requirements (accreditation with an RMAB). If not, it is proposed they can apply for Non-Practitioner Membership which would enable FDR members to have access to ADRA's complaint handling process. See Governance Committee Report
- Noted

Next ADRA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 22 October 2019

**Minute Taker:** [Click here to enter text.](#)