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 ADRA acknowledges the traditional owners of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

## ADRA Board Meeting Minutes

**30 October 2019**

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

### **Present:**

***Chair:*** Katherine Johnson and Andrew Wong  
***Treasurer:*** Andrew Wong  
***Members:*** Cheryl Bryan (by phone), Jane Houselander, Ruwan Wakathurage,  
 Mark Rogers (by phone), Mayo Materazzo  
***Secretary:*** Wendy Buchanan assisted by Jaehee Yoon

**Apologies:** Mary Walker, Laurence Boulle, Dennis Nolan, Margaret McCue, Louise Mathias, Peggy Lim, Helen Miedzinski

***Guest Speaker:*** Nil

### **AGENDA:**

Meeting commenced at 5.35pm.

ADRA Board resolved that:

#### **1. Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019 are approved by Mayo Materazzo and seconded by Ruwan Wakathurage.

#### **2. President's Report:**

- **Mongolian Project**

ADRA has been contacted by the International Development Law Organisation which has been working with the Government of Mongolia on a project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, that aims to empower victims of domestic violence to access justice. IDLO will work on a triple track approach, which includes identifying legislation gaps,

building the capacity of legal aid providers, and increasing legal awareness through public outreach.. This is a top down approach which complements the grass roots process that ADRA has been developing, sharing information about alternate dispute protocols and procedures and training new mediators for the changes expected in legislation of Family Law matters.

#### **December-January Judicial Council of Mongolia Delegation visit to Australia.**

IDLO is planning that this delegation will arrive on 29 December and will be in Australia until 10 January 2020. Katherine Johnson, Andrew Wong and Enke Sharav (Interpreter) held a Skype meeting with the Global Affairs Representative on 27 October where it was stated that GA are hoping to fund the Mongolian Judicial delegation's accommodation in Australia whilst ADRA would assist with introductions to relevant Organisations and Court personnel.

- **Learned Friends Conference**

- ADRA was represented by Helen Miedzinski and Katherine Johnson at the Learned Friends Conference held in Seville in July. Our members presented an overview of our Project in Mongolia.

- **John Pollard Trophy**

The president forwarded the trophy celebrating John's contribution to mediation in Family Law to John Pollard's family who were so moved that they were in tears.

- **Our new Patron Terry Sheahan**

ADRA will also be introducing our new ADRA Patron, Justice Terry Sheahan at our Christmas Board Meeting on 26 November. Mr. Sheahan is a judge and former politician. He held various ministerial portfolios (including Attorney-General of New South Wales) between 1980 and 1988. On 9 April 1997 he was appointed to a judge on the New South Wales Land and Environment Court, a position he retired from earlier this year. Mr. Sheahan received the Order of Australia for services to the Law, the Parliament and the Community (health care of the aged, human rights and the environment). ADRA members are looking forward to meeting him at our Christmas Dinner on 26 November 2019.

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- Noted

### **3. 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**
- The Treasurer has filed the Annual Financial Statement with Fair Trading.
- Noted

### **4. Governance Committee Report:**

- **Updates to the Governance Manual**

The Manual was circulated by email to Board members prior to this meeting. The updates were approved by the Board.

Moved: Jane Houselander Seconded: Ruwan

- **Amendments to the Constitution**

Following the repeal of The Associations Act 1984, ADRA now comes under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The amendments involve replacing references to the previous Act with references to the current Act. The Board also made a number of amendments to the Constitution, particularly in relation to membership levels and dispute resolution.

Moved: Mao Materazzo Seconded: Ruwan Wakathurage

- **Access to ADRA's Complaint Handling Process**

Our website states that all members of ADRA have access to our complaints-handling mechanism. The Board agreed that this applies to FDR practitioners, non-practitioners and student memberships. Recently, ADRA has received more psychologists and social workers applying for ADRA membership.

- **Confusion regarding Practitioner Membership and National Accreditation.**

The website has been altered to make clear that Practitioner Membership alone does not include National Accreditation and that applicants must apply for accreditation separately.

Practitioner members are advised to check the Mediator Standards Board to see if they are currently accredited. (Accreditation requires renewal every two years.)

- **New Membership Levels.**

Katherine Johnson has proposed a new Membership Level of Honorary Member as a means of acknowledging other people's contribution to Alternate Dispute Resolution. This is to be formally discussed at the next meeting.

- Noted

## 5. 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

## 6. Accreditation Officer's Report

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

## 7. Secretary's Report

- **Essay Competition**

The Committee met on 17 October and decided to postpone the Essay Competition until early next year. Entries will be accepted from 6 March until 3 April. The winner will be agreed by the Sub-Committee and announced at the ADRA Board Meeting on

24 April 2020. The committee will begin promotion of the Essay Competition via our Website in Mid January and Jaehee Yoon will liaise with Andrew Wong about posting the competition on Facebook and Linked in.

- **Student Engagement**

The Committee has drawn up a list of Universities in New South Wales where there are Business, Law and Psychology Departments and any other equivalent disciplines and it is hoped that we will extend this process to the other states later in 2020.

It is proposed that committee members will contact relevant people in these departments in order to introduce ADRA and inform them of ADRA's purpose as an organisation. Alternate Dispute Resolution is becoming as mainstream as litigation across the world, so knowledge of its protocols and procedures can help students future proof their careers. A flyer is needed by mid-January to send to contact persons at the universities. The committee will enquire as to students need in this area and how ADRA can assist.

The committee will have a further meeting in early December to finalise the plans for 2020.

- Noted

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

- **28 October Ralph Steele event:** Professor Steele has asked for the date of his presentation to be changed to January 2020. He prefers the 26 January as this is his birthday. Topic for the presentation to be confirmed.
- **26 November Christmas Party** following Board Meeting.  
Our new Patron, Justice Terry Sheahan AO, will be introduced to members.
- Deep Democracy Training. Myrna Lewis has approached ADRA about presenting her Workshop and Accreditation programme. ADRA is happy to advertise this but the training itself is the responsibility of Ms Lewis.
- **ANZAPPL.**  
ANZAPPL will be holding its National Conference in Sydney in mid 2020. They have expressed interest in having ADRA involvement.  
ADRA could present a strand on Dispute Resolution. ADRA participants suggested are Terry Sheahan as Patron of ADRA,  
Psychologists: Geoffrey Glassock and Belinda Khong,  
Lawyers: Mary Walker and Professor Laurence Boulle and  
Psychiatrist: Louise Newman  
Date to be confirmed.

## 9. Member Practice Network Meetings.

- Two Mondays in 2020 Wendy Buchanan to co-ordinate.
- Two Saturdays in 2020 Ruwan Wakathurage to co-ordinate. Venue to be confirmed

## **10. General Business:**

- **CADR (formerly the Dispute Resolution Industry Forum).**  
It was noted that no forum has been held this year. ADRA is interested in resurrecting activity as the purpose is to provide a place for the DR industry can present a united front when negotiating with the Government and other organisations on issues affecting ADR. It is anticipated that this will be a topic for 2020.
- Noted

Next ADRA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 26 November 2019

Minute Taker: Jaehee Yoon and Wendy Buchanan