

ADRA AGM HELD 30 NOVEMBER 1993 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 1992-93 ADRA Board started out with some new faces and some rather grand plans.

We established an agenda for the year which was based on the work of committees.

These included the Training and Accreditation Committee, the Promotion and Publicity Committee, the Law Week Committee, the Constitution Committee, the Membership Committee, the ambitiously named National Development Unit, and the Conference Committee.

All Board members were willing to be involved in one or more of these committees, and some very interesting and challenging plans were developed.

As might have been expected, however, the large demands of planning and organising the Conference came to take up much of the time of those involved, and the work of some of the other committees was to a large extent put on hold.

The results of the Conference Committee's work has been seen here today and yesterday. I particularly wish to thank Pat Frater (Convenor of the Community Division), Patrina Duffy and David Rollinson for their tireless work in making the Conference plans into such a successful reality.

The Accreditation and Training Committee looked at and considered a number of models and proposed that ADRA's role could be most valuable in facilitating discussion amongst agencies and interested bodies, as it had done with the first Forum held in Sydney in 1992. The hosting of a second forum in this Conference year would have placed considerable demands on the Board's resources, and it is to be hoped that the new Board will consider pursuing this function in 1994.

The Law Week Committee developed and presented a very successful function at the Parliament House Auditorium which took the form of a forum on mediation in multi-party and public interest disputes. The speakers included Justice Paul Stein and Deputy Registrar McMillan of the Land and Environment Court, David Brodie and Micheline Dewdney of the CJC, and Terry Murphy of the Legal Aid Commission.

The Membership Committee undertook to computerise membership records for greater ease of reference and for use as a resource. Many thanks to Anne Duffield^{W.R.P.} who installed the appropriate program and has maintained the register throughout the year.

The Promotions Committee examined ways of promoting mediation to the community and established guidelines for ADRA's involvement. John Byrne has offered to continue his work in this area.

Other activities were undertaken to promote the interests of ADRA's members, and the status of ADRA as a professional body.

The submission to the Chief Justice's Committee on Mediation in the Supreme Court was presented with the aim of establishing standards for accreditation and training. The submission also dealt with the standing of community mediators, and their entitlement, as well as lawyer mediators to be considered for proposed panels for court-annexed mediation.

Members of the Board met with Justice Mushin of the Family Court concerning the pilot mediation program established in Victoria. Again, ADRA's possible role in assisting in the establishment of accreditation standards was brought forward, and was discussed with the Judge.

ADRA's Divisions continued to meet throughout the year and provide information and activities for their members.

The Family Division received good support and enthusiasm for its series of lunch time meetings where a number of speakers gave stimulating talks. There was some disappointment with the lack of support for the evening social meetings. A questionnaire has been developed which will be distributed to try to gain some insight into what the Division can most effectively offer its members. John Byrne, the Convenor of the Family Division, wishes to extend his appreciation to all who assisted during the year, with particular thanks to Anne Duffield, Patrina Duffy and Debra Oddi.

It was decided that the newly formed Environmental Division should hold joint meetings with the Community Division, as they had interests and members in common. Evening meetings were held with guest speakers and discussion groups providing strong interest to members.

In addition, members of these Divisions provided much input into the development and planning of the Conference. Many thanks to Pat Frater (Convenor, Community Division) and David Rollinson (Convenor, Environmental Division) and to Nefley Takacs (Minutes Secretary).

The three Divisions intend again this year to hold an end of year combined social evening on Monday 22 November.

An important link was forged this year with the Mediation Association of Victoria (MAV) and the South Australian Dispute Resolution Association (SADRA) through the publication of three issues of a new joint publication entitled *MEDIATION NEWS*. ADRA, MAV and SADRA each undertook to collate, edit and print one issue of this production. It proved to be an excellent means of widening insights and sharing experiences, and the editors are to be warmly congratulated. ADRA also produced its own newsletters in between. Anne Duffield, ADRA's editor, would like to seek reactions from members on the continuance of this scheme for the next year, particularly as the cost of this larger and more frequent publishing program is higher.

As President, I wish to thank warmly all those Board members who faithfully appeared on Monday evenings for our regular meetings, and contributed as well through their committee work and general support to the ongoing program of the year. Especial thanks go to our Secretary, Patrina Duffy and our Treasurer, Debra Oddi for their meticulous attention to those duties which are so essential but which so few of us want to do!

I hope that the ADRA Board in 1993-94 will wish to continue the work of this Board, will consider some of the projects left uncompleted, and will develop in new and interesting ways its service to its members of professional representation and development.