

Australian Dispute Resolution Association

2008 Annual Report

Contents

President's report	pg 3
Treasurer's report	pg 6
Membership report	pg 8

President's Report

Thanks to the wonderfully collaborative spirit, continued support, commitment and hard work of the Board and many of its members, ADRA has had another successful year in 2008.

The year began with a successful planning session early in the year where we outlined events for the year, set the monthly meeting dates for the board and seminar topics and activities for members.

Highlights

- *Guide to Good Practice in Complaints Handling for Mediation Practitioners*
- Practitioner's Networking Meetings were initiated to enhance the ADRA's services to its practitioner members
- ADRA registered as a Recognised Mediator Accreditation Body (RMAB)
- ADRA's submission for the 10th National Mediation Conference
- ADRA Life Membership

Complaints handling

After much hard work the Complaints Handling Forum, under the expert leadership of Vice President, Katherine Johnson, completed a *Guide to Good Practice in Complaints Handling for Mediation Practitioners*. The Forum included many of NSW's leading practitioners who actively participated throughout the year long development process.

Many thanks to all members who assisted in developing the guide. I particularly want to thank Katherine Johnson who initiated the Forum and steered it through many very lively debates. Thanks to Debbie Jamison who gave us very expert assistance in writing the document with other members of the writing sub-committee including Amelia Taeuber and Salli Browning. Thanks also to David Holst who was an enthusiastic contributor throughout the process. In September the Guide was presented to the National Mediator Accreditation Committee's (NMAC) Complaints Handling Sub-Committee where it was well received not only as a well written and thought out document but also due to the comprehensive consultative process undertaken in its development.

Practitioners Networking Meetings

This year the Board instituted networking meetings for ADRA's practitioner members. The first networking meeting was held in April. It was very successful and Board members received positive feedback from many who attended. Due to its success, the second networking meeting was held in July and again was well attended. The meetings gave practitioner members the opportunity to catch up with colleagues, discuss issues and identify future areas of interest. We expect these meetings will continue in 2009.

Conference Submission

Another highlight of the year was ADRA's submission for the 2010 National Mediation Conference. ADRA was not successful in its bid. However, it was always considered as the basis for another possible ADRA conference in 2009 following the success of the last conference held in 2007. I consider the conference bid to be one of ADRA's successes because it was another example of the wonderful collaboration between the Board and ADRA members coming together working hard to develop a substantial and valuable document. Special thanks to Fran Doyle. Fran provided professional input from Legalwise Seminars Pty Ltd and gave us her time and valuable knowledge and experience in developing the bid. Thank you to Andrea Cotter-Moroz for her contribution and hospitality and thank you again to the Board members who contributed to the process.

RMAB

Another milestone for ADRA in 2008 is its registration as a Recognised Mediator Accreditation Body (RMAB). The adoption of the complaints handling process, outsourcing the accreditation process to LEADR and advising members they require professional indemnity for national accreditation means that ADRA can now add the national mediator accreditation service to those provided to its practitioner members at no extra cost. Details will be posted on the website.

Seminars

Along with all these other activities ADRA continued providing professional development seminars. All seminars were well attended. The topics included:

- Holistic Mediation, Michelle Brenner
- Implementation of Family Dispute Resolution legislation NSW, Tom Altobelli
- Ethical Living, Vera Ranki
- Consumers, Health Care & Complaints Handling, Julia Lines (HCCC) & Sally Trevena (SOCAP)
- Narrative Supervision, David Newman & Michelle Brenner
- The Power of Sorry, Renee Williamson, Chairperson, NSW Reconciliation Council, Chris Wheeler, NSW Deputy Ombudsman and Bronwyn Penrith, Aboriginal Mediator, Family Dispute Resolution.

My thanks to all the presenters who generously shared their time, knowledge and experience.

Membership of the National Mediator Accreditation Committee (NMAC)

ADRA was represented at the two NMAC meetings held in Canberra and Perth. ADRA is also represented on two NMAC sub-committees – Complaints Handling and Practice and Compliance working groups.

Life Membership Awards

In November last year the Board initiated a new life membership award and the first two recipients in November 2007 were Sir Laurence Street and Micheline Dewdney. Another life membership will be awarded this year.

Members of the Board and Associates

A special thank you to Emma Matthews and ACDC who continued to generously support ADRA in so many ways. Thanks to Micheline Dewdney who continued her role as a consultant to the Board and Anne Fieldhouse who provided her expertise and assistance to the Board throughout the year.

Finally I want to express my gratitude to all my fellow board members for their hard work and support. Katherine Johnson who in her role as Vice President continued to apply her enthusiasm, knowledge and energy in furthering ADRA's interests. Janice McLeay who not only diligently undertook the role of Treasurer but also took on the important roles of chairing the Complaints Handling Writing Sub-Committee and the Conference Submission Committee. Sally Trevena who continued to work hard as Secretary. Michelle Brenner who has been the soul of the Board reminding us of the higher meaning of the work we undertake in dispute resolution. Peter Irving, Emma Matthews, Mark England, Allan Parker, Val Sinclair, Tom Kelly, Robert Lopich all of whom provided valuable support, knowledge and hard work in the effective operation of the ADRA Board.

Paula Castile
President

ADRA Board Members 2008

President – Paula Castile
Vice President – Katherine Johnson
Deputy Vice President – Robert Lopich
Deputy Vice President – Allan Parker
Treasurer – Janice McLeay
Assistant Treasurer – Michelle Brenner
Secretary – Sally Trevena
Assistant Secretary – Mark England
Membership – Peter Irving
Assistant Membership – Tom Kelly
Events Coordinator – Emma Matthews
Assistant Events Coordinator – Val Sinclair

Treasurer's Report

for the year ended 30 September 2008

The Board decided early in 2008 to provide meals at Board meetings, continuing the use of a private room in the Celestial Restaurant, rather than paying room fees elsewhere. This decision was reviewed after six months and remains in place. At the same time, it was decided that Board members should be encouraged to attend and host seminars without the payment of attendance fees.

Thanks to the Law Society of NSW, a large number of functions were held during the year at catering cost only. Functions included the AGM/dinner, seminars, forums and practitioners' evenings.

Thanks to the continuing support of the Australian Commercial Dispute Centre Ltd, our administrative fees have been minimised.

The term deposit is now \$10843.69 invested at 7.95% until 22 January 2009. We received 6.75% interest during the 7 months up to May 2008.

A small financial loss occurred during this financial year.

Membership fees remain our primary source of income. It is recommended that fees remain at the same level again for 2008-2009, with the cost of national mediator accreditation being included in the Practitioner fee.

Janice McLeay
Treasurer

**AUSTRALIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION
ASSOCIATION INC**

**Statement of Revenue and Expenditure
for year ended 30 September 2008**

2007		2008
	REVENUE	
12,075.00	Conferences and functions	1,735.00
10,480.00	Membership subscriptions	6,465.00
369.01	Interest	708.74
22,924.01		8,908.74
	EXPENDITURE	
0.00	Audit fees	0.00
8.40	Bank charges and State taxes	0.00
20,250.11	Conference and function expenses	7,970.36
43.00	Depreciation	39.00
230.00	Postage	215.00
64.24	Printing and stationery	193.70
835.00	Sundry expenses	185.46
85.77	Telephone	30.00
442.85	Internet/web	239.40
0.00	Office removal fees	0.00
21,959.37		8872.92
	Loss/Profit	
964.64	Net operating loss	- 35.82
14,983.82	Retained profits - beginning of year	15,948.46
15,948.46	Accumulated surplus at 30 Sept 2007	15,912.64

Membership Report 2008

Our current membership stands at 136. This is to be compared with the figure of 106 which was shown on the records for last year.

Membership fees were unchanged from the previous year and were as follows:

- Member \$60.00
- Practitioner \$120.00
- Organisation \$200.00
(up to 4 nominees)
- Sponsor \$500.00
- Student (full-time) \$35.00
- Retired \$35.00

ADRA again expresses its appreciation for the continuing support from ACDC who keep our membership records electronically and generate all our email messages and notices.

Peter Irving
Membership Secretary