

Valerie Sinclair

From: David Baker [David.Baker@unisa.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2004 6:45 PM
To: 'tbrass@ra.asn.au'; 'leahw@easnt.org.au'; 'valsinc@ozemail.com.au';
'Peter.johnstone@justice.qld.gov.au'; 'newport@newportwildman.com';
'carolegrace@bigpond.com'; 'halsmith@iinet.net.au'
Subject: Mediation News 2004 - A national newsletter for Dispute Resolution Associations
Importance: High



Mediation News
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Dear Colleague,

I have attached a proposal for a national Mediation News newsletter which represents issues in each state/territory and is cost-effective. In the attached I address three things:

1. How to have a national newsletter that is cost-effective and efficiently managed.
2. I ask for contributions to the current Mediation News which is being produced by SADRA (it is our turn) and which we will produce as a trial of what we are suggesting.
3. How to have a means of communicating with each other.

I ask please that you read and respond to the questions and suggestions. Certainly we at SADRA would appreciate some early responses for contributions for the current edition. I would especially welcome information from the smaller states and territories who have not participated in Mediation News in the past.

<<Mediation News proposal.doc>>

I look forward to hearing from you,

Best wishes,

David
Chairperson
SADRA

To: State/Territory contacts:

ACT	C/- Tanya Brass tbrass@ra.asn.au	SA	David Baker, Chairperson, SADRA, david.baker@unisa.edu.au , Mob: 0418 891 807
NT	Leah Wallace, NTDRA leahw@easnt.org.au	TAS	Tony Newport tnewport@newportwildman.com
NSW	Val Sinclair, Chairperson, ADRA valsinc@ozemail.com.au	VIC	Carole Grace, Chairperson, VADR carolegrace@bigpond.com
QLD	Peter Johnstone, ADRAQ Peter.johnstone@justice.qld.gov.au	WA	Margaret Halsmith, halsmith@iinet.net.au

Mediation News 2004 – A national newsletter for Dispute Resolution Associations

You may be aware that the production of Mediation News has increasingly not been satisfactory over recent years and has been limited in its coverage across Australia. In this email I am proposing changes that can see a truly national and invigorated, cost-effective newsletter.

I address three things:

1. How to have a national newsletter that is cost-effective and efficiently managed.
2. I ask for contributions to the current Mediation News which is being produced by SADRA (it is our turn) and which we will produce as a trial of what we are suggesting below.
3. How to have a means of communicating with each other.

1. A cost-effective, truly national newsletter.

A national newsletter should make it possible for content from every state/territory in every edition.

Previously Victoria, NSW and SA would take turns to produce an edition which reflected the interests of each of those states and where possible items of national interest. While informative and with the best intentions, it was not national by content, design or management. We have this opportunity to develop a national newsletter than can put issues before us all, at the same time in the same way and in a national framework.

I am proposing a more efficient, participative and representative approach.

I suggest:

- An editor in one state would produce Mediation News for a year at a time then this role would move to another state. The past practice of moving editorial responsibility with each edition has proved inefficient.
- The editor would be a member of an editorial board comprising an editorial nominee from each participating states/territory. The editor would chair the board and the board would manage the activity and editorial deadlines.
- The editorial nominee from each participating states/territory would be responsible to forward information to the Editor for each edition.
- The Board could be reformed each year as the editorial role moves to another location, and so be more representative,
- We produce four editions annually compared to the present three.

This can build in some means to produce editions on time, with the participation of all regions and representative of issues that are important to them.

I am proposing a much more cost-effective approach than in the past.

- I propose that editions be produced and sent electronically to each association.
- The main costs in the past have been at the back end for printing and distribution. The desk top design and layout has not been the expensive part at approximately \$350 for an edition. SADRA's costs plummeted two years ago when our members agreed to receive the Mediation News electronically.
- We could share the cost of desk top production of Mediation News and have Inprint Design, after approval by the editor, email the finished edition directly to the editorial nominee from each participating state/territory.
- Then each participating associations can make their own decisions about how they distribute to their members. If states/territories wish to post hardcopies, they can download and print off as many as they wish from their own facilities or printing businesses in their own localities. This puts them in control of their spending.

- And it means that we share the cost equally. For example if we produced four editions annually, and the cost of $4 \times \$350 = \1400 was shared by all eight states/territories, that would be less than \$200 each per year in total. This is much more reasonable than our past experiences.
SADRA has about 50 financial members, so that is about \$4 for the newsletter per member per year which is more than covered by the membership fees. If you have more members of course, it makes even more economical sense. Even if all states/territories do not participate, it will still be cost-effective.

2. I seek contributions from each state/territory to the current Mediation News which is being produced by SADRA (it is our turn) and which we will produce as a trial of what is suggested above.

This edition is something of a development model for what we believe should replace the way in which they have been produced before.

The information sought is for your members who will receive the newsletter so local matters are important, information from other regions and national information can help them see what is happening elsewhere, and articles etc can keep them abreast of national developments.

I would ask if you would email me information where you can under the following suggested headings:

Association specific information, such as

- Committee members & their email and phone contacts.
- Planned activities for the year (announcements of forums, training programs, conferences etc.)
- Association website address.

I would appreciate at least from each location this Association-specific information suggested above.

State/Territory specific information, such as

- Service innovations or changes to legislation, practice dilemmas.

Issues of particular national interest, such as

- National conferences, meetings

- Reports or inquiries

Articles

- Such as conference papers, write up's about conferences, case studies, film reviews, issues for debate, interesting courses or professional development workshops, case studies or case dilemmas, essays or articles that may have been written as part of a program of study,

Miscellaneous items

Jokes, poems, cartoons (your own), photo's ...

3. How to have a means of communicating with each other.

I have put my contact details at the head of this email. I would appreciate if you could advise your details or those of the appropriate person in your association.

I would welcome any comments and ask that when you email these please email them to all of us so we can hear each other's views.

Please let me respectfully point out that in the past many of our attempted national endeavours have floundered because people just didn't acknowledge the receipt of an email and/or just didn't respond. Can I ask if you would acknowledge that you have received the message and keep me informed about any delays. Even if you are not interested in participating, I would appreciate being advised of that.

So can you please advise:

1. Is your association willing to participate in the national Mediation News?
2. Will you send information for the current one which is in production?
3. Are you willing to communicate about this and other national matters?

I also look forward to meeting you or representatives of your association at the National Mediation Conference in Darwin in June.

Best wishes,

David