

**ADRA**  
**Australian Dispute Resolution Association Inc.**

c/- Community Justice Centre  
17 Randle St  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Phone: 212-2526  
16 March, 1990

Ms Gail Quirk  
MCLE Board, Law Society of NSW  
DX 362  
SYDNEY

Dear Ms Quirk,

re: ADRA Family Mediation Division  
Lunchtime workshops and lectures

I am the convener of the Family Mediation Division of the Australian Dispute Resolution Association (formerly known as ADRAA).

The Family Mediation Division comprises most members of ADRA who are interested in Family Mediation. My committee has organised monthly lunchtime meetings at the staff common room at the Law School of Sydney University at which experts in Family Mediation have been invited to deliver talks and to conduct discussion groups and workshops and to answer questions at the conclusion of the talk.

We are now seeking MCLE points for the past monthly lunchtime meetings and also for future meetings. Set out below are the dates of the past meetings with details of the speaker and the subject matter of the talk presented:

August 2, 1989 Emilia Renouf, well known Sydney clinical psychologist and family counsellor who previously was a senior counsellor with the Family Court Counselling Service.

Emilia spoke on her findings during a recent visit to England and Canada particularly to discuss research work which had been carried out in the United Kingdom and Canada on the efficacy of conciliation/mediation during 1985 and 1989 with particular emphasis on the problems experienced there and which are likely to arise in Australia when Family Mediation becomes established. Emilia concentrated particularly on outcome and cost effectiveness of this method of Mediation.

September 6, 1989 Michelene Dewdney a lawyer, author and Mediator (who is a member of the Society's Dispute Resolution Committee) summarised the results of her world survey of Mediation which she had carried out during 1988 and had recently published. She has travelled widely and had studied in depth, various models for Mediation throughout the world and was able to compare the various models being used and give an overview of the practice of Mediation in the western world.

- October 11, 1989 Associate Professor John Wade of Sydney University Law School and a practising Family Mediator spoke on the likely future of Mediation in Australia, gave insight into the particular model for Mediation which he used and looked critically, but objectively, at the reception of Mediation by the legal profession and the community.
- November 1, 1989 John Pollard, LL.M., a Family Lawyer and Family Mediator with the Family Mediation Centre, spoke on the model for Mediation used by the FMC, training and accreditation of Mediators at the Centre and gave some insight into situations where Mediation was a preferable dispute resolution option.
- February 7, 1990 June Gibson, the Deputy Director of Court Counselling of the Family Court of Australia and the supervisor of the Family Court/Centacare and Marriage Guidance Council trial programme for Family Mediation, spoke on the establishment of the programme which now functions as the Co-operative Family Mediation Centre and how it functioned, attracted clientele and its success rate to date, with particular emphasis on the methods used by that centre to ensure that its Mediators were mediating and not counselling, this being more of a problem because most of its recruits had come from a "counselling" background.
- March 7, 1990 Dr Hilary Astor, lecturer in Family Law and Dispute Resolution, Sydney University Law School spoke on domestic violence and Mediation and presented a substantial paper as to her analysis of the available research into the efficacy of Family Mediation as a means of dealing with domestic violence.

The next programme is scheduled for May and at that meeting, Maureen Carter, the Director of the Community Justice Centre at Bankstown will talk on the "Family Mediation" work of the Community Justice Centres in New South Wales with particular reference to the type and amount of Family Mediation work done and the training of Mediators for this work.

Each of the abovementioned sessions commenced at 12.45 and concluded at approximately 2.15. The formal presentation of the talk normally took about 50 minutes and there was then a lengthy period of discussion and questioning of the speaker and a mutual exchange and sharing of ideas on particular issues and on how to deal with particular problems in Family Mediation. In most cases, written material was handed out to attendees.

The majority of persons attending were lawyers. These meetings have proved to be very valuable in exchanging information and in highlighting different points of view as well as giving all those present a very valuable understanding and insight into how Family Mediation is being practised in Sydney, other parts of Australia and overseas.

A record is always kept of persons who attended and these records will be retained for MCLE purposes. Whilst the formal part of the proceedings would normally take more than 1 hour, we are seeking MCLE points for those participating lawyers for 1 hour of each of the abovementioned sessions. We would also be seeking MCLE points for all similar meetings in the future. Normally they will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at the law school. Any member of your committee is invited to attend at any time.

I look forward to your response as soon as possible. If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,



J. A. F. POLLARD