



6 April, 1990.

*Raxed*  
*30/4/90*

The President, Linda Fisher  
Australian Dispute Resolution Association  
C/- 17 Randle Street  
SURREY HILLS N.S.W. 2010

Dear Linda,

On behalf of the Institute for Peace Research and the Mediation Association of Victoria, we enclose for your urgent consideration a proposal for ADRA co-sponsorship of a national conference in mid 1991 on the theory and practice of conflict resolution in Australia.

We are aware that ADRA is hoping to hold a national conference in late October 1990 and inviting ADRA members in another state to take on the responsibility of organising it. We would like you to give serious thought to our proposal as an alternative.

Following a successful meeting last year with Dr. Dean Pruitt, co-sponsored by our respective organisations, a small sub-committee was formed to begin planning a conference together and the attached proposal is the result of their work.

In deciding to hold the conference in mid 1991, we have been influenced by a number of factors:

The need to have adequate time for planning. Most of us are very busy and some of those with the most interest in participating in the planning of this conference will be away for significant parts of this year.

Good cheap, central, residential and conference accommodation is available in university colleges at this time, i.e. late November to February and mid year.

The fact that we are inexperienced conference organisers and will need funds in advance of registrations to employ secretarial assistance.

The need for sufficient time to consult with other organisations around the country, so that the conference is, as much as possible, a national conference and worth coming to from long distances.

If ADRA decides to go ahead with holding a national conference in October or November 1990, we will have to review our plans because we think it unlikely that people will have the time or money to attend both.

We have applied for grants to the following bodies:

Myer Foundation

The William Buckland Foundation (refused)

ANZ Trustees

The La Trobe University Peace Research Institute, being an educational body, is eligible to apply to some trusts and MAV to others, which is one reason why the co-sponsorship is useful.

Both our organisations have agreed to lend the planning committee \$1,000 each, as soon as funds are necessary, for typing, mailing, etc., once a decision to proceed has been made. If ADRA agrees to co-sponsor, we would be asking for a similar sum.


In deciding to hold a national conference and to involve several bodies, including your own in its planning, we are hoping that we will be successful in bringing together experienced theorists and practitioners from a wide range of dispute areas and from all over the country.


We would like to know as soon as possible whether you agree to the proposal in principle, and to receive any suggestions for improving the plan, budget, program, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and would appreciate your forwarding a copy of your reply to each of us.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Professor Margot Prior

  
Mr. David Bryson

Proposal for a national conference on the theory and practice of conflict resolution to be co-sponsored by the Institute for Peace Research of LaTrobe University, the Mediation Association of Victoria and the Australian Dispute Resolution Association.

1. Conference Objectives

- . To bring together key persons practising, teaching or studying Conflict Resolution in all dispute areas, in order to encourage the interchange of ideas and skills.
- . To provide an opportunity for experienced practitioners to present their models of practice, to enable the skills being used to be identified as resource tools for others.
- . To introduce non-practising interested people to the area of Conflict Resolution and to develop the practical skills of those in the field.
- . To enable practitioners to gain new insights from recent research.
- . To support Australia-wide networks of conflict resolvers, mediators, conciliators, counsellors and teachers.
- . To review current developments in the Conflict Resolution field in Australia, including standards of training, accreditation, quality control and the uses of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the criminal justice system.

2 Conference Agenda

Date: Weekend in late June or early July 1991

Venue: Ormond College, Melbourne, Victoria ?

- Day One:
- \* Keynote speaker on a subject of broad general interest e.g. "Power and Conflict in the Community" followed by discussion with a panel of experienced practitioners and theorists.
  - \* Workgroups to devise problem solving approaches to deal with actual case studies such as recent or current disputes in the industrial or environmental areas. Followed by plenary reporting.
  - \* The last part of Day one and most of Day 2 will be given over to the presentation of a number of approaches to dispute resolution in a wide range of dispute areas.
- Day Two:
- \* The aim will be to provide participants with multiple choices for any one time slot and the emphasis will be upon actual demonstration of the model and the methods used to resolve a particular conflict.
  - \* The last part of the second day will provide participants to raise and discuss matters of common concern and to consider what needs to happen to provide an acceptable and effective national co-ordinating body.

### 3. Conference Budget

#### Anticipated expenses:

##### Conference Secretary

8 hrs per week @ \$15.00 per hr  
x 80 weeks (June 1990 - Dec.91) \$9,600

##### Printing, Postage Telephone

including conference literature \$1,000

##### Conference meeting rooms

hire @ \$150 per day, plus 4  
tutorial rooms @ \$35 per day \$480

##### Conference meals and accommodation

\$150 per head x 100 participants \$15,000

##### Printing and Binding of Report

500 copies @ \$12.00 each \$6,000

##### Posting report to participants

100 copies @ \$2.00 each \$200

##### Speakers' Fees

\$1,000

##### Contingencies

\$500

##### TOTAL EXPENDITURE

\$33,780

#### Anticipated income

100 registrations @ \$250 \$25,000

Sale of Conference Reports  
400 @ \$15

\$ 6,000

Grants from funding bodies

unknown

\$31,000

Note that if no funding is available, we will have to reduce costs, e.g. by holding the conference at a less expensive venue like LaTrobe University, and/or we will have to increase the registration fee payable.

#### 4. Conference Planning

The Conference committee currently consists of:

<u>Susan Gribben</u>	Family Mediator, Marriage Guidance Council of Victoria Committee Member, Mediation Association of Victoria
<u>Judi Kiraly</u>	Head of Training & Development, Council of Adult Education Committee Member, Mediation Association of Victoria Committee Member, Conflict Resolution Working Party
<u>Dr. Anthony Love</u>	Lecturer in Psychology, LaTrobe University
<u>Dr. Connie Peck</u>	Senior Lecturer in Psychology, LaTrobe University Member, Institute for Peace Research, LaTrobe Uni
<u>Dr. Margot Prior</u>	Professor of Psychology, LaTrobe University Chairperson, Institute for Peace Research

Dr. Stephanie Charlesworth, Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Melbourne, is about to join the committee.

The Institute for Peace Research exists to develop a theoretical base for understanding the elements and dynamics of conflict at personal, social and international levels. The Institute is also involved in training in negotiation and conflict resolution and includes a wide range of alternative dispute resolvers in its interdisciplinary membership.

#### 5. Conference planning outline

- . June 1990 Appointment of part-time Project/Conference secretary
- . July 1990 Call for papers and workshop leaders
- . September 1990 Preliminary advertising of conference
- . February 1991 Printing of conference literature
- . March 1991 Call for Registrations
- . April/May 1991 Briefing of workshop leaders and speakers;  
General administration of registrations
- . June/July 1991 Conference administration
- . August 1991 Compilation and printing of papers for conference report
- . Oct/Nov 1991 Publication of Report  
Community awareness campaign, using appropriate papers, to newspapers, journals, schools and other outlets
- . December 1991 Project Report to funding body/ies

## 6. Conference Sponsorship

It is proposed that:

- \* each sponsoring organisation lend \$1,000 to the conference committee to open an account and that the committee repay these sums as soon as other moneys are available to meet conference expenses (e.g. from trust funds or registration fees)
- \* each sponsor will share as equally as possible in contributing the resources necessary to plan and administer the conference including time, money, facilities and person power.
- \* all profits or losses will be shared equally/
- \* The conference committee's budget must be acceptable to all sponsors, must plan to meet the cost of the conference from registrations only if no other funds are available, and the committee must report regularly to each sponsor actual income and expenditure.
- \* With regard to ADRA's special contribution as an "out of state" sponsor, it is suggested that there be a N.S.W. ADRA member appointed to be a corresponding/telephoning member of the committee, who will be consulted before or during every meeting and be kept informed of the progress of all implementation of decisions. This person could be responsible for the promotion in N.S.W. of the conference and for organising workshop presentations from N.S.W.