



# Australian Dispute Resolution Association, Inc.

PO Box E468 St. James  
Sydney NSW 2000  
26 February, 1992

Dear ADRA Member,  
Enclosed for your review is a draft copy of our Mediation Domestic Violence Policy. Your input to the final document would be greatly appreciated before the ADRA Board decides on the final form of the policy.

The policy is our response to mediator and broad community concerns throughout Australia (and internationally) regarding the ability of violence victims to effectively negotiate for their interests in the mediation process. These concerns led to ADRA's October 1991 Conference: Mediation and Domestic Violence - Protection and Empowerment Issues which provided a forum for differing viewpoints to be heard and constructively united in the afternoon workshops. The Policy also incorporates the mediation guidelines recommended at the Conference by presenters from the National Committee on Violence Against Women.

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Given the inclusive experience of Mediators, Mediation Agencies, Domestic Violence Policy Makers, and those whose work involves domestic violence care and referral ie. Refuge Workers, Counsellors, Lawyers and Court Administrators... the incorporation of the workshops outcome into the policy provides promise of its usefulness. Feedback from ADRA members should further ensure its usefulness.

It will be evident to some agencies that they will be limited in how much of the policy they can immediately implement within their current resources. Many agencies already use a fair number of the policy features. It can also be anticipated that other agencies may want to modify the policy to fit the regional and cultural influences of their clients. As a beginning, it is envisioned that the policy will be a working reference which will provide a framework to discover and learn...as well as lend support to the development of mediation. Review of the Policy will occur as experience dictates.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
Anne Duffield

Your responses will be compiled by me and I will report the results to all members either through the ADRA Newsletter or by separate mail ( please... update our records if your address has changed). In addition, I will present a summary of the member's responses for discussion at the monthly Family Mediation Division luncheon 22 April, 1992 held at Sydney University Law School, 13th Floor, 173 - 175 Phillip Street, Sydney.

To meet this deadline, I need your comments returned to me by 27 March, 1992 to:  
3 / 11A Mount Street  
Clovelly NSW 2031

I look forward very much to hearing from you and my thanks in advance for your time and effort. And, should you be interested, the entire conference proceedings have been recorded and published by ADRA. Order "Conference Papers" and include a cheque payable to ADRA for \$25.00 from:

Debbie Oddi, Treasurer  
C/- Thorntons Solicitors  
307 Pitt Street, 12th Floor  
Sydney NSW 2000

Warm Regards

*Margaret Burns*  
Margaret Burns