



ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON. DARYL WILLIAMS AM QC MP

NEWS RELEASE

2 May 2002

45/02

APPOINTMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

I am pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC).

NADRAC has been set up to provide me with expert advice on ways of resolving disputes without the need for a judicial decision.

The new members are Professor Tania Sourdin, Mr John Spender QC and Ms Lynn Stephen. Each has considerable expertise in their fields of endeavour, complementing the expertise of existing members.

Professor Sourdin is currently Director, Academic Quality and Programs, in the College of Law and Business at the University of Western Sydney and is soon to take up a new position as Professor, Law and Dispute Resolution, at La Trobe University. She is a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the NSW Fair Trading Tribunal and is a mediator with the NSW Retail Leases Dispute Unit. Professor Sourdin has broad expertise in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and has researched and published extensively in the area. She also has specific experience in business and consumer ADR.

Mr Spender QC was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1974 and has sat as an Acting Justice of the NSW Supreme Court. He has practised extensively in corporate and commercial law and other areas of litigation. He served four terms as a member of the Federal Parliament until 1990 and was Australian Ambassador to France between 1996 and 2000. Mr Spender has undertaken mediation training with LEADR, Bond University and Harvard Law School; he will return to Harvard in July 2002 to assist in mediation training. He is a mediator in private practice.

Ms Stephen is coordinator of the Community Mediation Service in Bunbury, Western Australia. This service deals with a range of neighbourhood and family matters. Ms Stephen has qualifications in nursing and health science, has completed a graduate certificate in family mediation and has undertaken other mediation training courses in Australia and the United States. She has also received a Churchill Scholarship to study family mediation in the United States and the United Kingdom. Ms Stephen has made a valuable contribution as a member of the Group Family Law Pathways Advisory Group and brings to NADRAC a rural and regional perspective on ADR issues.

Mr Warwick Soden, Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia, has also been reappointed as a member of NADRAC for three years. I welcome the new members to the Council and look forward to NADRAC continuing to contribute to the development of high-quality alternative dispute resolution services for all Australians.

More information about NADRAC is available at