



Australian Dispute Resolution Association Inc.

Established 1987

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AUSTRALIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION ASSOCIATION INC.

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER, 2001

6:30PM AT COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE
Level 8, GOODSELL BLD,
8/12 CHIFLEY SQUARE SYDNEY

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
3. President's annual report
4. Treasurer's report and receipt of auditor's statement
5. Election of Board members, 2001-2002
6. Appointment of auditor
7. Any business in respect of which notice has been given

Drinks and cocktail food will be provided after the meeting

RSVP- FOR CATERING PURPOSES (0414 708229)

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Treasurer's Report

ADRA commenced this year with considerable reserve funds. The decision of the board to establish a City Office and provide increased services to members has been made possible by being able to draw on these funds. The board has been able to purchase items such as a computer, filing cabinets, furniture and bookshelves for the office. In addition the office now has ADRA signs and telephone and fax connections have been established. ADRA has also engaged the services of an administrative assistant on a needs basis. The investment of these funds has improved services and facilities for our members.

Membership revenues are higher than last year and expected to be higher still in 2000 with an increase in fees and members. All expenditure items are lower than last year with expenditure on postage remaining the same. The total expenditure amount is much the same as last year and this includes the cost of establishing the city office and purchasing office furniture and equipment. The establishment of the city office however also establishes new and ongoing costs. In 1999 the cost of maintaining the office is still low but this would be expected to increase in future years.

As ADRA's activities and costs increase forward planning and the preservation of funds in reserve is essential. It is recommended that the incoming ADRA board give priority to identifying the current needs of members and to planning a cost effective way within an appropriate fee structure to meet these needs.

Val Sinclair

Policy Sub-Committee Report

The Policy Committee has been working on a number of projects this year. At the beginning of the year the group set a number of tasks and is now pleased to report that the majority of these tasks have been completed

A major task this year has been ADRA 's continued involvement with the Let's Talk group and our facilitation of the development of a Let's Talk Code of Conduct for Mediators. The Let's Talk Report will give a detailed report about this exciting development and future directions for the Let's Talk group.

The Policy Committee has been working to assist with ADRA's establishment of a city office and the provision of new services for members. In accordance with these developments and ADRA's role in the ADR community, the committee agreed to put forward a proposal to the State Government for funding to support ADRA's activities. Recently, Val Sinclair, David Holst and Ian McKendry met with Jeff Shaw the Attorney General of NSW to put forward the proposal. The Attorney General was very interested in ADRA's activities. Our proposal is being favourably considered and we are soon to be advised of the outcome of our meeting.

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(We) The committee has also been working on a database for use by members. They are currently compiling information on all Mediation Training courses available in Australia.

The policy committee is conscious of the need for ADRA to keep pace with the rapidly changing ADR community and in particular the changing needs of our practitioner members. We welcome contributions and suggestions from all members.

Val Sinclair

Let's Talk Report

The Let's Talk Group have been meeting regularly since late March 1998 to discuss issues in relation to ADR practice. The idea for this group originated at one of ADRA's a Peak Body Project facilitation meetings. Let's Talk is a non-commercial and non-proprietary net-work which provides regular opportunities to representatives from ADR organisations to discuss areas of common interest and develop initiatives which may benefit the fast growing ADR community as a whole.

The outcome of the early meetings was the identification of the desirability of a nationally accepted Code of Conduct for mediators. The Draft Code of Conduct has now been completed and circulated for comment to a number of organisations including NADRAC. In November, 1999 the final Professional Code of Conduct will be made available for endorsement by interested organisations.

The success of the Let's Talk formula to facilitate group discussions between ADR Organisations has been recognised by Victorian ADR practitioners. Let's Talk was approached by ADR Link Victoria with a request to use the Let's Talk name and structure for their Victorian group. A Victorian Let's Talk group has now been established. We look forward to continuing communication between the groups with the possibility of joint projects in the future.

The next project planned by the Let's Talk group is to commence discussions in relation to Competency Standards for mediators. Any organisations interested in participating in future discussion meetings are welcome to contact one of the following:

ACDC	(Sally Browning)
Accord Group	(David Newton)
ADRA	(Val Sinclair)
Centacare	(Yolande Schilt-Smith)
Community Justice Centre	(Margie O'Tarpey)
Conflict Resolution Network	(Christine James)
Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators	(Robert Huggins)
Interrelate	(Tibor Mokany)
Law Society of NSW	(Micheline Dewdney)
LEADR	(Babette Smith)
Mediate Today	(David Holst)
Mediation Family Court	(Karen Barker)
Relationships Australia	(Jon Graham)
UNIFAM	(Paul Crowley)

Val Sinclair

Training and Education Sub-Committee Report

ADRA's 1999 Seminar series aimed to again offer a range of speakers from the many areas of current ADR and in particular mediation practice. This year's seminars included presentations on the use of ADR in different areas of practice and workshops and presentations which focused on practice issues.

In April ADRA arranged a night at the theatre for members to see David Williamson's latest play "Face to Face". The play explored the use of Community Conferencing and was based on experience and research with the Youth Justice Conferencing Scheme. The play was a great success with practitioners and the general public, achieving a great balance between entertainment and the promotion of ADR. ADRA's first lunchtime seminar on Youth Justice Conferencing was arranged to follow this production. In 1998 Jenny Borgen first spoke to members about the introduction of the Young Offenders Act and the implementation of Youth Justice Conferencing in NSW. The April seminar was an update on the first year of operation of the Act and the impact of the legislation on victims, young people and the community. The talk was extremely well received. In May ADRA was fortunate to be able to offer a dinner talk on "Transformative Mediation" with internationally renowned authors Professor Joseph Folger and Robert Baruch Bush. The dinner was held in conjunction with their training workshop. In June ADRA presented a stimulating workshop by Allan Parker on agreement generation. Allan challenged the group by asking practitioners questions such as: "are they so focused on the dispute that they miss the many points of agreement." Practitioners found this workshop very rewarding. In July Dr Alan Tidwell gave a lunch time seminar on "Problem Solving for One". During this session Alan outlined a new way of working with one person when the other party to a dispute is not willing to participate in resolution processes. The session presented an innovative and valuable way of working with one party to a dispute. In August Linda Fisher took the focus off clients and placed it on the mediator. Her workshop incorporated personality testing to assist the group in defining the characteristics of a 'good' mediator and in evaluating the criteria for what is a 'good' and what is a 'competent mediator' This was a thought provoking and challenging exercise for practitioners. Although they were unable to reach complete agreement the discussion was valuable and continued long after the session.

In September ADRA presented a dinner and talk with Professor Laurence Boulle on the development of ADR Standards. Professor Laurence Boulle as the chair of the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC) was able to give progress on NADRAC's forthcoming Discussion Paper for the ADR Community on standards. The evening provided a pleasant forum for discussions on ADR Standards and we thank Laurence for his excellent presentation and the interesting open discussion it generated.

Our last two lunchtime seminar speakers for 1999 will be David Rollinson speaking about Environmental Dispute Resolution on 14th October and Karen Barker speaking about Family Court Mediation on 9th November. We look forward to seeing you there.

ADRA has continued to offer lunchtime seminars and Saturday workshops free to members. This has been possible due to the generosity of the various speakers who have provided their services voluntarily. We also thank Stella Cornelius whose generous support has enabled ADRA to use meeting rooms above our King Street office to hold 1999 seminars and workshops.

The ADRA Board looks forward to any comments and suggestions from members as to your training and education needs and proposals for topics or speakers you would like to be included in future programs.

Val Sinclair