



Australian Dispute Resolution Association Inc.

*Supporting and transforming the community of dispute resolution practice By providing leadership, direction and growth.*

ABN 75 535 099 840 ADRA is not registered for GST

ADRA acknowledges the traditional owners of this land and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

## ADRA Draft Minutes for Tuesday 28 March 2023

ADRA - Australian Dispute Resolution Association Inc. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ADRA 28 March Meeting

Time: Mar 28, 2023 04:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439370627?pwd=bDJWbXlSQ1VVTlhQaUp4Unp3VmRqdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 3937 0627

Passcode: 489059

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 205 0468 US

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Meeting ID: 824 3937 0627

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ks3dg3eWj>

## **Board Members:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>President:</b>                    | Dr Katherine Johnson                              |
| 2. <b>Vice President:</b>               | Helen Miedzinski                                  |
| 3. <b>Secretary:</b>                    | Sam Bektas  |
| 4. <b>Assistant Secretary:</b>          | Katherine Johnson                                 |
| 5. <b>Treasurer:</b>                    | Margaret McCue                                    |
| 6. <b>Accreditation Officer:</b>        | Josephine Reyes (?)                               |
| 7. <b>Honorary Membership Officers:</b> | Wendy Buchanan, Jane Houselander,<br>Allan Parker |
| 8. <b>Events Co-Ordinator:</b>          | Sam Bektas  |
| 9. <b>Honorary Student Mentor:</b>      | Nell Kim.   |

## **Guest Speaker:**

### **Meeting attendees:**

Katherine Johnson, Josephine Reyes, Geoff Charlton, Sam Bektas, Mark Rogers, Margaret McCue, Peggy Lim, Mayo Matarazzo, Victor Berger, Jane Houselander

**Apologies:** Nell Kim, Marilyn Waugh, Mary Walker, Andrew Wong, Wendy Buchanan, Dennis Nolan, John Keogh, Ruwan Wathukarage, Helen Miedzinski, Kristan Bekus and Tony Enderby

Meeting commenced at **5.00 pm** as the talk by **Ruwan Wathukarage could not take place.**

ADRA Board resolved that:

### **1. Approval of MINUTES for 28 February 2023:**

- Moved:** Sam Bektas  
**Seconded:** Mark Rogers

### **2. President's Report:**

- **MSB- NMAS Survey:**  
ADRA thanks Christopher Boyle as our first guest speaker for 2023 to answer any questions in relation to the survey conducted by MSB and looks forward to the new initiatives of MSB as a way forward to progressing mediation as a profession in its own right.
- **Venue:**  
ADRA thanks those members who utilize the Law Society room for our monthly meetings and again thanks the Law Society for the use of their room
- **Mediator Standards Board.**  
ADRA thanks Josephine for agreeing to work with MSB to ensure that accredited mediator names are listed on the MSB platform.

ADRA will formulate a separate list for FDRPs as well as a separate list of Divorce Coaches both of who require a complaints handling mechanism but do not require NMAS accreditation. This will become part of the Mediator Profile in the *Find a Mediator* project. Should any FDRP or Divorce Coach wish to have dual accreditation, the applicant must demonstrate to the RMAB that they should also be listed via MSB as

NMAS mediators and fulfill their obligations as FDRPS or Divorce Coaches with the Attorney General's department.

- **Email re Organizational Membership (WMO):**

Discussion was held about the possibility of securing Affiliate membership from overseas organizations and an amount of \$100 Australian was suggested as the joining fee. The Affiliate membership would follow the same procedure as **Memorandum of Understanding** model set out in our Governance report for the Mongolia project and enhanced as part of the *Find a Mediator* project.

Josephine to confirm at the next meeting if \$100 has been accepted by the overseas organizations as appropriate for ADRA membership.

- **Mongolia Project:**

A further training session was held on Saturday 18 March with the two delegates who attended the *Australia Family Law intake project* and Enkhee our in-house Mongolian interpreter. The first sessions of intake with 64 Mongolian families will occur shortly where the delegates will interview each party and then have a roleplay session with the Intake consultant to ensure that all the required steps are taken to encourage and support the families to continue with the mediation process prior to going to Court.

The delegates were very proud that they were affiliated with ADRA in their attempts to better the education of Mediators in Mongolia through their newly formed Mongolian Non-Government Agency for Family relations which was now co-operating with the *Family Authority for Youth and Child Development*. They appreciate that the project will take considerable time to educate not just the mediators but the general public at large.

- **World Mediation Organization:**

As stated in the last minutes, Josephine Reyes is very prominent in WMO and currently assisting them with their World Project. Discussion was held about the possibility of securing Affiliate membership from overseas organizations that are part of the *World Mediation Organization* and the possibility of a *World Mediation Forum* occurring in Sydney after the one to be held in the Philippines next year. Holding the Forum in Sydney could also increase ADRA's membership. Josephine to confirm at the next meeting.

- **Women and Leadership Project:**

Katherine confirmed with the organizer of the scholarship that the sum of up to \$5,000.00 was only to be awarded to a woman to participate in their leadership course. Katherine forwarded the relevant emails to the Board for anyone interested to participate. Nothing further to report.

- **World Law Alliance:**

Katherine has informed WLA of our current upgrading circumstances and they are willing to wait until we are ready to join in future projects. Discussion was held about inviting the World Law alliance to also be an Affiliate member of ADRA. Katherine to follow-up. Nothing further to report.

- **CADR:**

Nothing further to report. Since the meeting held last year between the groups there has been no follow-up Minutes which were supposed to be sent by Resolution Institute. Katherine has had follow-up meetings with Mary Walker and Amber Williams from Resolution Institute and will follow-up once the upgrade of the website is completed.

The idea of establishing CADR was discussed again and although a very good idea, there does not seem to be enough interest from the other major groups to continue at this stage. Katherine to discuss this with Mary to see if interest can be rejuvenated or whether we should place this project on hold.

- **Website Business:**

Trender is about to start the *Find a Mediator* project as authorized at the last meeting. Margaret to ask for a grant from the relevant bodies to assist ADRA to publish its old documents on its website. Katherine explained that the current plug-ins are not working so it is still not possible to access the old files easily. Katherine asked if we could go with another more reliable provider for plug-ins but has not yet received a reply.

**Moved:** Margaret McCue

**Seconded:** Josephine Reyes

### 3. **Mediator Practice Network (MPNs) sessions.**

Josephine and Mark Rogers agreed to conduct a 4-hour workshop on **Friday 28 July 2023** via ZOOM from 2:00 pm – 6:00pm, instead of conducting 4 one-hour sessions. Both agreed to send a brief resume, a topic and a synopsis of the session for the flyer to be created and then distributed by Sam on social media.

Josephine stated that Sue Waterhouse was interested in participating and/or training at our MPN's and the Board unanimously agreed to that suggestion. We look forward to Sue's participation.

At the previous meeting, John Keogh suggested that ADRA should attract young professional and corporations to participate in ADRA and agreed to follow-up for another MPN session in September 2023. A subcommittee was formed consisting of John Keogh, Victor Berger and Margaret McCue. Margaret reported that she had identified 20 Dispute Resolution organisations that may be willing to assist us in enhancing our vision. She said that the subcommittee was looking for national partner Law Firms as ADRA is a national organisation. Victor then reported that he spoke to John Keogh yesterday who suggested a video be played about a mediation and an analysis of that video could constitute the content of the MPN for September. Katherine suggested that such videos may still exist at UTS Library and Victor agreed to investigate that possibility. The subcommittee will report back in April.

**Moved:** Mark Rogers

**Seconded:** Josephine Reyes

### 4. **Student Engagement Committee:**

The Board agreed to close the Student Subcommittee and engage in projects with young professionals, starting with the MPN session suggested by John Keogh above. As stated in the previous minutes, Katherine has attempted several times to contact Fiona Donnelly and Nicky McSpadden in relation to the Granville Boys program and at last we received a joint email from them apologizing for not emailing sooner and explaining that they are far too busy to be further involved with ADRA or any other organization.

Victor interpreted their reply as a 'dead-end' and canvassed the possibility of contacting them again to learn how to do what they did, so that it could be replicated elsewhere. The Board agreed that Victor was free to contact them to see whether any further action could be taken at this time, and Victor further agreed to contact the

Law Society and/or the Bar Association to see if they were willing to sponsor a high schools mediation competition as an alternative to Nicky and Fiona's work.

**Moved:** Margaret McCue

**Seconded:** Victor Berger

## **5. Treasurer's Report: Statement from 11 February 2023 to 10 March 2023:**

The latest figures up to 11 December 2022 are **\$11,456.41** in our Society cheque account and **\$45,000.00** in our Term Deposit. Our PayPal and Stripe funds are transferred to the cheque account monthly. This equates to a total of **\$56, 456.41**

**Moved:** Mayo Matarazzo

**Seconded:** Jane Houselander

## **6. Membership Officer's Report** (sent via email)-

(1) February:

New Subscription and Renewal Order

09/02/2023 Maren Nickel  
10/02/2023 Janaya Wiggins  
10/02/2023 Angela Leah  
20/02/2023 Geoff Charlton  
23/02/2023 Robyn-Ann Mathews  
27/02/2023 Marten Johns

(2) March:

02/03/2023 Bianca Bennett  
15/03/2023 Sarah Harvey  
15/03/2023 Tony Enderby (Student Member)  
17/03/2023 Carolina Hernandez  
19/03/2023 Evan Gainsford  
21/03/2023 Sammy Bektas

**Moved:** Margaret McCue

**Seconded:** Sam Bektas

## **7. Accreditation Officer's Report:**

Josephine Reyes reported that there were no accreditations for March, except for an application by **Sarah Harvey** who paid for her accreditation but has not yet lodged her accreditation form. Josephine confirmed that she would follow-up on Sarah's accreditation form once completed and that she would update the register with the assistance of Jenny Watson from MSB on Friday 3 April. Discussion was held on prompting members to renew their membership via campaign monitor.

**Moved:** Sam Bektas

**Seconded:** Margaret McCue

## **8. Governance Report:**

The Board resolved to re-authorize a motion put at the October 2022 meeting:

*that the Treasurer, Margaret McCue be duly authorized to do all things necessary to become a signatory on ADRA's account and that Margaret McCue be duly authorized to have full access to ADRA's electronic statements. The existing account holders, except for Wendy Buchanan, will continue to have full authority.*

Wendy will no longer have signatory authority but the Board warmly thanks Wendy

for her remarkable support of ADRA over the years.

Margaret sent a motion for the Board to consider over the next 7 days which was attached to this agenda. The Board resolved that it would hold a special meeting after the 7 days to determine the motion. Katherine and Andrew could then go to a Commonwealth Bank branch to sign the new Authority required for Margaret to become a signatory. This has been a work in progress and Margaret will report back next meeting.

**Moved:** Mayo Matarazzo

**Seconded:** Mark Rogers

## 9. Secretary's Report

Correspondence covered by President's report. Sam requested that any email sent to ADRA via its email address should include that address in any response so that a chain of responses is kept on the ADRA site. The Board agreed.

**Moved:** Margaret McCue

**Seconded:** Mayo Matarazzo

## 10. General Business:

- **An Events Calendar has been sent to the Board for the upcoming year:**  
**April:** Amanda White,  
**May:** Geoff Charlton,  
**June:** Allan Parker,  
**July:** Professor Gabrielle Appleby,  
**August:** *AGM*,  
**September:** Andrew Wong,  
**October:** Planning Meeting, (**Ruwan Wathukarage**)  
**November:** *Xmas Party*.
- Victor stated that *Mediate.com* have agreed to become an Affiliate organization of ADRA provided that we include them on our website under an Affiliate tab which when clicked would go straight to their website. In turn, they are prepared for ADRA to be an Affiliate of their organization with a reciprocal link that goes to the ADRA website. The Board agreed and thanked Victor for his diligence in organizing this.
- Victor also agreed to contact *Sydney Law School* to ask them if they too wished to become an affiliate of ADRA under the same conditions above.
- There being no further general business the meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.  
**Moved:** Sam Bektas  
**Seconded:** **Margaret McCue.**

Meeting ended: 6.30 pm.

Minute Taker: **Dr Katherine Johnson**

Next meeting's special Guest: **Amanda White** on

**MONDAY 24 APRIL via Zoom** and in Room 3001 at the Law Society for those in the city as **Tuesday 25 April is ANZAC DAY.**