



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.

*Supporting and transforming the community of dispute resolution practice
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Meeting starting at 5.00 pm.

Attendance:

Executive Members:

Geoff Charlton, Katherine Johnson, Mark Rogers, Margaret McHugh, Dennis Nolan.

Board Members:

Andrew Johnson, Paul Lewis, Mark Brady, Jane Houselander, Abe Quadan.

ADRA members:

Luke Leong, Josephine Reyes, John Livingstone, Wayne Black, Jean-Marcel Malliate, Victor Berger,

Student Representative: Hoi Son Le

Apologies:

Peggy Lim, Peter McGee

1. Approval of the Minutes held on 24 September 2024

Moved: Mark Rogers

Seconded: Abe Quadan

1. Co-Presidents' Report: 22 October 2024

1.1 International Conference

Trender has been asked to issue Certificates to all attendees for the CPD hours of attendance at the Conference. There was a misunderstanding in that they only issued certificates to the attendees from Mongolia.

Another Invoice was issued for the Thomson Reuters' sponsorship on 25 September 2024. This will result in further delay in payment of about 30 days from when the Invoice is issued.

1.2 NSW Bar Association

The NSW Bar Association will cease to accredit and reaccredit barristers that are mediators from the end of this month. This represents an opportunity to attract a batch of additional members. To do this, it is recommended that the membership fee for new members be \$110 in the first year and that accreditation and re-accreditation fees be \$120. This will apply to both barristers but also, on the basis of fairness, to newly trained mediators. So far two barristers, including Mary Walker, have applied.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Board resolve that the fees for new members be \$110 in the first year and that accreditation and re-accreditation fees for new members be \$120.

There was much discussion on this issue and 1.3. The consensus was that **it was better not to change the existing fees of \$80 for non-practising mediators and \$180 for practising mediators. Barristers will have to pay the current ADRA rates.**

1.3 Catholic Care Mackay

ADRA received an Email from the General Manager Mediation Services of Catholic Care Mackay advising that it is in the process of training 8 of their stakeholders in mediation. It is likely they will seek Accreditation from, and membership of, ADRA. Because ADRA's Organisation membership was limited to 3 members, we were unable to respond in a timely way and they have said they will look elsewhere.

Once passed, we will reach out again to Catholic Care Mackay saying we can readily accommodate their needs if they are still seeking membership for their trainees.

Trender can issue a single Invoice to Catholic Care Mackay and provide access to its stakeholders to the forms on the Website. We speculate whether this has been prompted by the Attorney General's review of FDRP Regulations. If so, we could receive similar approaches.

There was much discussion about this but it was resolved that the number of members that an organisation membership may cover, be unlimited, that the membership fee for organisation membership be raised to \$300 to cover three members only, plus \$180 for each practising member in excess of 3.

Moved: Mark Rogers

Seconded: Paul Lewis

Subsequent to the meeting, Tony (Trender) said it is too hard for an automated system to accommodate discounted prices for the first year and then a different amount thereafter. As the majority consensus of the Board in second year, was that such large organisations can afford to pay normal member rates for members in excess of 3, the \$120 in first year was changed to \$180 for all years.

1.4 International Members

Linda Heng from ResoX Singapore has joined as a member. She also applied for accreditation but it turned out that what she was seeking was not to practice in Australia but to be certified as being trained according to the Australian requirements of NMAS / AMDRAS. Abe Quadan has also identified that some of his trainees in Asia would welcome receiving such certification. A difficulty for ADRA is the mechanics of checking that their training conforms with NMAS / AMDRAS.

After much discussion, **it was decided** that ADRA should offer the ability for internationally trained and international practising mediators to become members of ADRA by paying the same fee as Australian non-practising members. Trender is to be asked to add wording to that effect to be on the website.

Moved: Abe Quadan

Seconded: Dennis Nolan

Subsequent to the meeting, Tony (Trender) said that if ADRA wanted to separate overseas members from non-practising members, then a separate category of 'International Members' could easily be created within

the website. It is proposed that this be done with an annual membership fee of \$100.00. This will be an item for next meeting's Agenda.

1.5 Katherine's travels:

My travels to Thessaloniki in September 2024 came about to attend the second Mediation Festival on 23-25 September, noting that I was the keynote speaker at the first Mediation Festival which was held online in 2023. I was very honoured to be asked to present again and to accept an award for **Services to World Mediation as an Interdisciplinary Mediation Pioneer** from the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and ADR Hellenic. I was especially honoured to accept the award along with two more recipients: **Michel Kallipetis, KC** from Quadrant Chambers London, and past Chair of *UIA World Forum of Mediation Centres* and **Catherine Cotsaki**, acclaimed primary mediator who set up the first Mediation Panel in Greece.

I also met with many esteemed and fascinating speakers from around the world including Ross Stoddard Co-President of the *UIA World Forum of Mediation Centres*, Attorney-Mediator Dallas, TX, USA. It seems that Evi Avlogiari, the Founder of the Mediation Festival, cherry-picked the best Mediation speakers she knew from around the world and brought them altogether for an unforgettable and fun experience.

The **UIA World Forum of Mediation Centres** was created in 2001. Every nine months it brings together some of the best commercial mediation practitioners and officers of commercial mediation centres from around the world, together with lawyers, business managers, academics, trainers, and others interested in learning and sharing insights about the development and use of the mediation process. Usually there are participants from 15 to 20 or more countries in attendance, often from four or five continents, each bringing a different perspective on the use and development of mediation in their jurisdiction.

Now that ADRA has a focus on international Mediation, this may be one group that we may like to join. Their current 33rd conference is being held in October 2024, in Vienna.

There was much that happened during the trip which resulted in another two awards: the **Mahatma Ghandi award for Leadership** presented by

the Mayor of Oxford, England and the **Oxford University Mental Health Ambassador** award.

Suffice it to say that a new platform for linking Dispute Resolution to Mental Health was formed to empower the average citizen to manage their circumstances such that they are mindful of the impact of any dispute on their psychological well-being. This is an exciting initiative that could develop into a movement that would better serves each field. I think it is time for Mediators to understand more about the psychology behind dispute resolution and to see Mediation as an interdisciplinary field. The two workconfs that ADRA will hold in 2025 will go some way to manifesting this dual platform.

1.6 General Notifications

1.6.1 Indonesia Arbitration Week

A reminder that the Indonesian Arbitration Board will be organising two International Events. They are **INDONESIA ARBITRATION WEEK 2024 on 2 - 6 December 2024** in Jakarta, Indonesia and **INDONESIA MEDIATION SUMMIT 2024 on 7 - 8 December 2024** in Jakarta, Indonesia. ADRA Members who are interested should contact Sabela directly.

Moved to adopt Co-Presidents' Report: Jessica Rossell
Seconded: Mark Brady

2. Treasurers report

Society Cheque account - as at 17 October 2024 is **\$ 15,297.46**.

The current balance in our **term deposit** is **\$ 37,367.08**. The balance includes interest paid in October: **\$ 438.19**.

Total Funds: \$52,884.54

Governance: Progress of constitutional amendments

The governance committee is meeting on 24 November 2024 to settle some proposed amendments that require review. They will also be adopting the IT code of Conduct drafted by Tony to prevent the type of difficulty ADRA faced earlier this year.

Moved to adopt Treasurer's Report: Dennis Nolan

Seconded: Mark Rogers

3. Membership Officer's Report

Date	Member Name
September 17	Patrick Black
September 24	Matthew Gregg
September 24	Hanna Dickinson
September 26	Melissa Howie (Melissa Howie Consulting)
September 27	Jessica Eldridge
October 2	Dr Gary Banks
October 20	Marilyn Waugh (First Step Mediation Pty Ltd)

Dennis Nolan
Membership Officer

Moved to adopt Membership Officer's Report: Geoff Charlton
Seconded: Mark Brady

At the last meeting, it was suggested by Jessica Rossell that it would be helpful to have a graph comparing this month with the same month last year and to have a rolling annual membership applications to see if they were going up or down. This has yet to be investigated but initial response is that a year on comparison will not be available from the past, and only from 12 months after implementing this recommendation. **Katherine Johnson said she will talk to Trender to see what is possible in a simple way.**

4. ACCREDITATION REPORT

The following applications for accreditation have been approved since the last Board Meeting:

Mary Walker

Katherine Johnson

The registration of the accreditation of Mary Walker is subject to the AMDRAS Secretariate transferring her accreditation from the Bar Association to ADRA.

The following application for accreditation has been received but not yet processed as completion of the form is awaited:

Gary Banks

Naomi Holting

An enquiry by a new member from the NSW Bar was received and he was advised how to complete ADRA's procedures.

Outstanding tasks:

1. By 30 June 2025, revise and add accreditation forms to meet new AMDRAS requirements and separate categories of accreditation.

Geoff Charlton
Accreditation Officer

Moved to adopt Accreditation Officer's Report: Katherine Johnson

Seconded: Josephine Reyes

5. SECRETARIAL REPORT

Kim Howatson of the Attorney General's Department has suggested she conduct a workshop at our 25 February 2025 meeting to outline the changes proposed for the FDRP Regulations.

Separately, I have asked Trender to show me how documents such as Board Minutes can be added to the Website. As part of this, I will review the current listings on the Website as to whether they are appropriately categorised. I will be assisted by Andrew Johnson.

Geoff Charlton
Secretary

6. Mediator Practice Network

Andrew Johnson drafted a google document to send to Board members for their input about how best to conduct the Mediator Practice Network (MPN) sessions. Geoff is to send the original document drafted for the MPN sub-committee meeting to Andrew as Abe will be overseas. Andrew will then forward the original via a Google document to the Board for their input. This document will allow each Board Member to see what the others are thinking so that they can add to the list instead of repeating the same information/suggestions.

Nothing further to report. Next committee meeting is in January.

MPN Subcommittee:

Abe Quadan (Convenor), Geoff Charlton, Andrew Johnson.

7. General Business

- 7.1 Katherine to discuss the following events from her trip to Greece:
 - 7.1.1 UIA – conference in June/July 2025 on Gold Coast Australia – Michel Kallepitis
 - 7.1.2 World Mediation Forum – Ross Stoddard – Conference in Sydney on 5 & 6 September 2025 – Discussion about a new platform of Mental Health and Dispute Resolution.

Katherine said that ADRA’s involvement will merely be one of publishing and supporting the theme for the events.

- 7.2 Peter Condliffe, the Chair of AMDRAS, has sent the application forms for the alternative path to become a Leading Mediator or an Advanced Mediator under the new AMDRAS provisions which will be distributed amongst the Executive once received. Advanced mediator = 4 years +150 hrs of mediation; Leading Mediator = 10 years +400 hrs of mediation. It will be suggested to Peter that Leading mediators and Advanced mediators could mentor/supervise newly accredited mediators in their first year as part of an apprenticeship scheme like new barrister readers at the NSW Bar, after which they can set up their own practice – more discussion to formalize this procedure is underway between Geoff, Katherine, Peter and Jessica Rossell on 25 October at 10.00 am via Zoom.
- 7.3 A Mongolian delegation is coming in December to review how the Family Court, Family Centres, Child protection and Legal Aid operate.
- 7.4 Katherine proposed that ADRA hold a half day conference in March and August on Mediation and Mental Health. Speakers would be Dr. Belinda Khong and Andrew Johnson for March and Amanda White and Andrew Wong for August. The title of the sessions will be forwarded later.

Events Proposed for 2025”

Tuesday 25 February 4.00 pm Kim Howatson AG’s Department -re Changes to the Family Law regulations

Monday 24 March @ 2:00 pm either Law Society or NSW Bar Association
Dispute Centre,

Mediation and Mental Health - Belinda Khong and Andrew Johnson –

WorkConf

Tuesday 29 March@ 5.00 pm ADRA meeting

Tuesday 22 April @ 3.30pm: ADRA hosting AMDRAS RAP (Registered Accreditation Providers) to discuss proposed newly accredited mediators apprenticeship scheme

Tuesday 27 May @3.30 CADR meeting following up on AMDRAS results from April

Tuesday 24 June @ 5.00 pm ordinary ADRA meeting

Tuesday 22 July @ 5.00 pm ADRA's AGM – Dinner at the Palace

Monday 25 August @ 2,00 pm (Law Society or Bar Association) Amanda White and Andrew Wong Mediation and Mental Health - WORKCONF

Tuesday 26 August @5.00 pm: Election of New Board

Tuesday 23 September @ 5.00 pm – ADRA Planning meeting.

Tuesday 28 October @5.00pm – Follow-up Planning meeting

Tuesday 25 November @ 5.30 pm XMAS Party at the Palace

7.5 Discussion was held on whether to have a discrete Officer called the International Liaison Officer or whether that role fell to each Board Member when dealing with overseas organizations. Abe Quadan said he could fill this role as an adjunct to his mixing in Asia with other mediation organizations. Katherine Johnson noted that members of ADRA were already attracting other members internationally and domestically, so we were all liaison officers. Mark Rogers noted that we should not rush into setting up new positions as we could have problems with the interpretation of the role as we did earlier this year. Margaret suggested that we already had the mechanisms in place to handle new members and no new position was required. It was decided to defer this issue for further discussion at the February meeting.

Meeting ended at 6.40pm

PLEASE NOTE: The next Board Meeting of ADRA and End of Year Gathering will be held on **Tuesday 26 November 2024** by both Zoom and attendance at the Palace Restaurant - Shop 38, Level 1, Piccadilly Tower,

133-145 Castlereagh St, Sydney NSW 2000.

This is the last meeting for 2024 and will be Xmas party for ADRA members at the cost of \$55/person.