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The 5th National Mediation Conference

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The ADR Bulletin

Editorial

The 5th National Mediation Conference

Peter Condiffe

This second special edition of the ADR Bulletin will, I think, provide you with some very stimulating reading. Sharon Press, President of the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), provides an overview of some of the significant challenges that the ADR movement faces. She identifies six major trends:

- institutionalisation;
- regulation / codification;
- legislation;
- innovation; and
- internalisation and co-ordination.

Readers will find many parallels with what is happening in Australia.

Associate Professor Tania Sourdin provides some further cause for thought to those of us who are seeking the answers to the dilemma of evaluation. In her paper she provides a useful summary of several major recent efforts in this important area. She concludes optimistically that there may be 'a more coherent policy approach emerging and the Government and other key sectors are supporting quantitative and qualitative research in the ADR area'.

Bruce Argyle and Kerry Williamson's article titled 'Mediation Approaches Involving Larger Groups' should be of interest to those who are called upon to work outside the traditional two party paradigm. Behind the authors' comments lies over 10 years' experience of work with families, schools, communities and workplaces. Recognising the increased complexity faced by mediators in these situations their agency, Regional Extended Family Services (REFS), has adopted a number of strategies and approaches to achieve more positive outcomes.

The articles in this special edition, along with those in the previous edition of the Bulletin, have highlighted not only the depth of the ADR movement in Australia, but also its diversity. They display both the long way we have come and point to the many exciting challenges ahead.

See you at the next conference! ●

'The articles in this special edition, along with those in the previous edition of the Bulletin, have highlighted not only the depth of the ADR movement in Australia, but also its diversity. They display both the long way we have come and point to the many exciting challenges ahead.'

Peter Condiffe, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia.

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From the Foreword by The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, Justice of the High Court of Australia.

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