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News from NADRAC

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The National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC), which advises the Australian Attorney-General, has a challenging year ahead. Its current projects aim to assist court use of ADR, support the delivery of ADR services to indigenous peoples, develop a more coherent legal framework for ADR, develop a system for the accreditation of mediators, enhance the use of ADR by government agencies and improve ADR research and data collection.

Information on two of NADRAC's projects follows.

Referral to ADR

Readers may have already received in the mail a new joint publication by the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and NADRAC on court referral to ADR.

The paper, which was authored by Kathy Mack of Flinders University, was launched on 18 February by the new NADRAC chair, Justice Kellam. It provides a thorough analysis of existing research to identify key criteria or factors on which courts and tribunals could base decisions about when, how and which disputes should be referred to ADR.

Former NADRAC chair, Professor Laurence Boulle, had no hesitation in saying that 'this is the best writing available on this topic'.

The paper is available at NADRAC's website, and printed copies may be obtained from the AIJA.

Accreditation of mediators

NADRAC will be holding a national workshop on the accreditation of mediators as part of the 2004 National Mediation Conference to be held in Darwin from 30 June to 2 July 2004. In preparation for this workshop, NADRAC will be issuing an options paper and seeking information about current developments in mediator accreditation. For more information, e-mail nadrac@ag.gov.au.

More information

Information about these and other projects may be obtained from NADRAC's web-site at www.nadrac.gov.au.

News on other projects will be provided in future issues of the ADR Bulletin. ●

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