

A Word from the CEO

Welcome to 2011 and our new-look bulletin.

2010 was a big year for ADR in Sydney and in Australia, and an even bigger year for AIDC with our move to 1 Castlereagh Street in Sydney.

We are delighted that so many people have hired our magnificent new rooms and facilities for their arbitrations and mediations. We have successfully hosted international and local arbitrations and mediations and various other ADR hearings and we look forward to welcoming even more of you to the Centre in 2011.

ADR is becoming increasingly popular in all spheres and is clearly the way of the future as reported in media from around the world.

ACDC's case management work continues and we are pleased to report that the majority of the cases referred to ACDC administered mediation in 2010 settled and in most of those that did not, the parties successfully narrowed the issues in dispute between them, saving time and money in the subsequent arbitration or litigation.

Our training courses continue to attract a diverse range of participants from various professions from across Australia and internationally. ACDC's October mediation course participants included professionals from the banking and government sectors in Indonesia and Tanzania.

Our training program is set to expand with a range of new professional development courses for ADR practitioners and enthusiasts. In March we will be launching the first of these courses.

Pre-Mediation: Planned and Premeditated presents an opportunity for experienced practitioners and newly qualified mediators to make the most of their pre-mediation sessions. The ACDC (March 2009-March 2010) on-line mediation survey revealed that 25% of the surveyed parties were unsure or did not have a good understanding of the mediation process prior to entering into an agreement to mediate.

The findings suggest that the pre-mediation process is not always provided or, if it is, it is not sufficiently comprehensive about the process. We know that a well-planned and well-conducted pre-mediation session can provide an excellent means through which to manage expectations, educate participants about the process, and assess suitability to give and gather information.

Further course developments will be announced in future bulletins.

Michelle Sindler *CEO, AIDC*