

### A Word from the CEO

Welcome to the March edition of The AIDC Bulletin.

This month we are launching our 2011 professional development program

These interactive skills workshops and seminars will focus on a range of mediation issues and skill-sets. They are designed to provide professionals with the opportunity to learn, network and discuss issues as well as help practitioners meet the National Mediator Accreditation Standards CPD requirements and maintain professional currency. Be sure to check our website and book early as the available places fill up fast.

Current Perspectives on International Mediation and ADR on 10 March 2011 from 5.30pm to 7pm will be an interactive discussion and information session reporting on the emerging trends around the world. As organisations the world over increasingly look to alternative dispute resolution as an integral part of good business practice, mediation is clearly one of the processes of choice for disputing parties. Mediation and other ADR strategies are vital components of today's toolkit for effective and efficient dispute management. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences from the recent ICC Mediation Conference in Paris where I and other practitioners and in-house counsel from all over the world examined the trends and challenges for mediation and ADR. How will this affect our business and what will our role be in these processes in the future?

Pre-Mediation: Planned and Premeditated presents an opportunity for experienced practitioners and newly qualified mediators to maximise the value of their pre-mediation sessions for both the mediator and the disputing parties. We are very pleased to have Australian Dispute Resolution Association (ADRA) board member, Val Sinclair, conduct this important workshop.

An ACDC trainer, coach and assessor of conflict resolution and mediation skills, Val says: "*CPD is important for practitioner skills development and to assist practitioners to meet the ongoing mediation accreditation requirements. Pre-mediation training is not usually fully covered in mediation training courses. This is a chance to do this. I have personally found professional development to be extremely valuable in my practice.*"

Polishing the Private Session provides an opportunity for experienced practitioners and newly qualified mediators to hone their skills to ensure their private sessions remain productive, purposeful and facilitative.

The Business of Mediating is designed for mediators interested in setting up their own consultancies as well as those who would like to enhance the operational side of their existing practices.

Bookings are now open also for our upcoming Mediation Training and Accreditation . Our training manager, Lynne Richards, has just completed another very successful week of mediation training with the participants joining us from across Australia and overseas. It has been great to see the enthusiasm with which the participants have met an exhilarating week and their eagerness to take their experiences and new skills back into their workplaces better able to meet the diverse challenges they face.

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Speaking of students, I understand that *Lawyers Weekly* will be launching the *Lawyer2B Annual* on 10 March. An extensive guidebook for law students, it should feature profiles on Sir Laurence Street QC KCMBG (a very prominent mediator and Chairman of ACDC's Inaugural Planning committee in 1985 - 6) and Julian Burnside QC. For further information, you can visit the LW website on [www.lawyersweekly.com.au](http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au)

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