

## Registration fee for nationally accredited mediators

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### Background

After significant consultation, the Mediator Standards Board has decided to introduce a registration fee for all nationally accredited mediators. The registration fee of \$100 including GST will be payable at time of accreditation or re-accreditation for a two-year period commencing from 1 March 2012.

In 2011 the MSB engaged consultants to consider funding options for the MSB. Of all the options considered, the most viable was to introduce a national registration fee payable by all nationally accredited mediators and to retain a membership fee for all member organisations of the MSB. This means that all those within the mediation profession and field who have an interest in a robust system of national accreditation are contributing to its ongoing development.

### Gaining and maintaining national accreditation

To gain and maintain national accreditation, nationally accredited mediators need to meet the threshold training and assessment or experience requirements as specified in the *Approval Standards*.

In addition they need to meet all of the following criteria for both accreditation and re-accreditation:

- be of good character
- comply with ongoing practice standards and with any legislative and approval requirements
- maintain relevant insurance, statutory indemnity or employee status
- maintain membership or a relationship with an appropriate association or organisation that has appropriate and relevant ethical requirements, complaints and disciplinary processes as well as ongoing professional support (this may be the RMAB itself but may also include other relevant memberships or relationships)
- maintain mediator competence by reference to education, training and experience
- in the case of re-accreditation, show that they have met the 25 hours of mediation practice and 20 hours of continuing professional development in each two year period
- pay their registration fee

## Listing on the national register

Mediators who RMABs are satisfied meet all the above requirements are eligible for national accreditation. Nationally accredited mediators will be listed on the national register on the MSB website. We hope to have this register established by about the middle of 2012.

### ***Q: Is listing on the national register compulsory? What if I would prefer not to be listed on the register?***

The goal of national accreditation is to deliver quality mediation services. Important elements of quality that a national register can deliver include:

- Consumers being able to check the credentials of the mediators whose services they intend to use;
- Consumers being able to make a complaint against a mediator.

For these reasons, all nationally accredited mediators will be listed on the national register.

### ***Q: If I have paid my fee, but I don't meet some of the other requirements for national accreditation, will I still be listed on the national register?***

To be listed on the national register, you must meet ALL the requirements for national accreditation. Paying the registration fee is one requirement.

### ***Q: What if I overlook paying my fee or submitting my application for re-accreditation? Will my name be taken off the register?***

There will be a short period of grace before removal. Contact your RMAB for further information.

### ***Q: What if I am already accredited or re-accredited and my two year accreditation period does not come due for some time? What can I do to be listed on the national register?***

If your accreditation is current before 1 March 2012, you will be included on the register. When you apply for re-accreditation after 1 March 2012, you will be required to pay your registration fee to remain nationally accredited and included on the register.

## Fee details

- **\$100 including GST** at the time of accreditation or re-accreditation, and thereafter every two years on each succeeding re-accreditation
- From 1 March 2012

RMABs may decide to collect this every two years at the time of registration or in two annual instalments. RMABs will retain \$10 to contribute to the administrative expenses of collecting these fees and remit the remaining \$90 to the MSB.

### ***Q: What if I am accredited by two RMABs? Do I have to pay the registration fee to each RMAB with whom I am accredited?***

You need only pay your registration fee to one RMAB.

An RMAB that collects your registration fee will be responsible for keeping your record updated on the national register. The *Approval Standards* do not require you to undertake a separate accreditation process with each RMAB. Under the principle of mutual recognition, RMABs recognise that you are accredited by another RMAB. RMABs may ask you to provide evidence of your accreditation from another RMAB in order to update their records and include you on their panels.

***Q: What happens to my fee if I change from one RMAB to another RMAB?***

Your fee is for the two-year period in which your accreditation is current. Moving from one RMAB to another will not require an additional fee. The RMAB may request evidence of payment of the fee to your previous RMAB.

***Q: What if I decide to discontinue my national accreditation or if I do not continue to meet all the accreditation requirements? Will I be refunded my registration fee?***

Once paid, your fee cannot be refunded.

**How the MSB will use the fees collected from its member organisations and from nationally accredited mediators?**

The MSB will use the fees initially to establish and then maintain a register of nationally accredited mediators. As well, the MSB will oversee the development of the Standards, will support ADR organisations in implementing the Standards and will promote the use of nationally accredited mediators by government, not-for-profit and corporate organisations.

**Additional information**

If you require additional information please contact your RMAB.