



WELCOME

Welcome to our first update for 2019.

We hope that the year so far has been productive and fulfilling.

The Board has certainly hit the ground running, and we hope that you find this newsletter informative.

NATIONAL MEDIATION CONFERENCE

The MSB is pleased to confirm that it is the principal collaborator for the National Mediation Conference (NMC) 2019. Over the years the NMC has provided an important conversation space for the development and launch of the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS). The history of the NMAS is interwoven with the NMC and we are excited to have this opportunity.

The NMC will take place in Canberra from 15-17 April. With several concurrent streams and hundreds of delegates, the conference promises to be both a stimulating CPD opportunity and a wonderful place to connect with fellow practitioners.

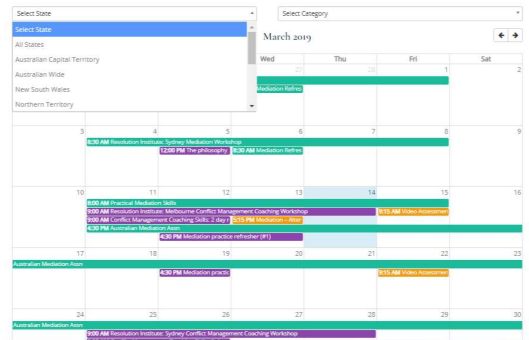
The Board's directors will be making themselves available to chat with members and mediators throughout the conference. Our Chair, Mark Hebblewhite, will address delegates before a plenary session, and other directors will chair some of the sessions. Directors will be able to be identified by distinct lapel pins.

Most importantly, the MSB has chosen to create a space where you can take some time out from the hustle and bustle. We would love you to grab a coffee and find your way to our lounge area during the conference. This space is being created so that you can have a chat with our Directors, ask questions of our Secretariat, and add to our 'wishing wall'.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the board to connect with members and non-

members, and be part of important conversations that look at how far we have come, and the next evolutionary steps for the NMAS.

We look forward to seeing you there - <http://nmc2019.com.au/>



CALENDAR HUB

During our 2017/2018 Outreach discussions across Australia, we received feedback regarding CPD accessibility, particularly for those in regional parts of the country.

Our members were concerned to ensure that their own members have access to CPD that goes beyond their offerings.

In response to this feedback the MSB created a central calendar (The Calendar Hub), listing NMAS mediation and assessment courses, and CPD for renewal of accreditation. Our member organisations are able to upload events onto this calendar so that mediators can find the various opportunities available to them on one page.

We encourage our members to upload information in a way that is consistent with other listings. The Board will continue to offer guidance to our members so that the calendar presents in a user-friendly manner.

To access the calendar – <https://msb.org.au/events>

CERTIFICATION TRADEMARK FOR MEDIATORS & MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

As each of our Recognised Mediator Accreditation Bodies (RMABs) renew their MSB membership and confirm their continuing compliance with the membership criteria, they are being provided with a NMAS certification trademark.



This trademark is being provided in 2 versions – one for the member organisation, and one for accredited mediators to use during their accreditation period.

Mediators are licensed to use the trademark over a 2 year period, demonstrating that they meet the training and experience criteria for accreditation. The trademark is being made available in a way that allows experienced mediators, who have been accredited under the system for some time, to make this evident via the years of accreditation shown under the trademark.

NMAS accredited mediators are able to contact their RMAB to access the certification trademark.

TRAINING PROJECT UPDATE

Our Training Project aims to develop greater consistency in the training and assessment of mediators in Australia.

This project is being undertaken on a consultative basis to ensure that the Board makes decisions in a way that supports our members in providing the best services possible.

The first stage of the project involved the development of a committee of experienced trainers across Australia. This Committee has been instrumental in identifying the key areas of focus for the project.

The second stage of this project saw a dialogue established with a number of member organisations that are providing training that meets the NMAS. These organisations have been most cooperative and forthcoming in providing their template documents and feedback.

The MSB has engaged a Project Officer to assist in the collation of these templates and feedback, and in the identification of key areas of disparity.

The Board will now be approaching each area in order to develop guidelines and templates that we will make available to our members. Our goal is to make these documents available to our members by the end of 2019.

This project also raises questions that will require the Board's consideration for the next revision of the Standards, when that is undertaken.

We thank you for your input so far, and for your enthusiasm and patience with this important process.

We also encourage our member organisations that have not yet contributed and would like to, to contact our Secretariat at coordinator@msb.org.au

HAVE YOU GOT A QUESTION?

Have you or one of your members got a question for us?

You may well find the answer in the FAQ section of our website.



We continue to develop this so that it is a helpful resource for all.

Be sure to take a look, and feel free to share this link with your members:

<https://msb.org.au/resources/faqs>

If you can't find what you need, please don't hesitate to contact our Secretariat, Jenny Watson at coordinator@msb.org.au or start a conversation with any of our directors:

Mark Hebblewhite (MSB Chair) - VIC

Bianca Keys (MSB Deputy Chair) - NSW

Linda Kochanski (MSB Hon Secretary) - QLD

Doug Murphy QC (MSB Hon Treasurer) - QLD

Andrew Bickerdike – VIC

Peter Condliffe - VIC

Greg Rooney – SA

Christopher Boyle – WA

Helen Bishop - NT



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