
MSB NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2021

This newsletter is circulated to our member organisations, current and former MSB Directors, and to NMAS trainers/coaches/assessors who have expressed an interest in receiving them. The newsletter is also uploaded onto the MSB website.

We recommend that member organisations share this with their administrative and training teams. Organisations are also welcome to include a link to this newsletter in their own communications with mediators.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A very happy new year to you. While the holiday season looked different for us all we hope that it was restful, peaceful, and joyful.

2021 promises to be another big year for the MSB community, particularly with the review process well underway.

We look forward to working with you again this year.

COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES

There are more opportunities than ever to connect with us. This year also provides an incredible opportunity to be involved in the NMAS review process.

How to stay connected:

- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for regular updates
- Subscribe for updates and opportunities to be part of the NMAS review process at www.nmasreview.com.au

The Calendar Hub on www.msb.org.au provides another important opportunity for our members to share information about training and CPD offerings. The Calendar Hub is a popular page on our website and will also be shared as a resource via our LinkedIn posts. Please ensure that you update the calendar so that people can find and register for events with you. If you would like help with this please contact the MSB Secretariat, who will be happy to provide guidance.

PROVIDING VALUE TO NMAS ACCREDITED MEDIATORS

There are a number of resources available to our member organisations that can be passed on to accredited mediators. We encourage you to check that you are attending to the following:

- **NMAS Pins:** These can be worn by mediators as a way to show that they are accredited and to promote the NMAS. When accrediting new mediators be sure to make contact with the MSB Secretariat so that a new batch of pins can be posted to you.
- **Certification Trademark:** NMAS accredited mediators and MSB member organisations are provided with a revised Certification Trademark each renewal period. This shows the date of accreditation/membership and can be used on letterheads, signatures, business cards, and online profiles. Please ensure that you have downloaded the current versions and are providing them to your mediators. If you need any help, please contact the MSB Secretariat.
- **Calendar Hub:** A centralised calendar on the MSB website, where prospective and current mediators can access information on the training and CPD opportunities available. Member organisations can update this as regularly as required.
- **MSB Marketing:** In 2020 the MSB developed promotional material and contributed to articles published in a number of professional publications. We will do this again in 2021. We encourage our members to share links to these and to contact us if you would like to include NMAS promotional materials in your own publications.
- **The NMAS Review Website:** Anyone interested in being part of the review process can subscribe for updates and opportunities by going to www.nmasreview.com.au. We encourage all of our members to share this link with their members.

NEW FAQs ON THE MSB WEBSITE

The MSB continues to update the FAQ page, in order to assist our member organisations and the mediator community. We will soon be uploading FAQs that address the following, and we encourage member organisations to become familiar with these and in particular with the sections in bold, to ensure that your practices align:

- I am an experienced Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP). How do I become NMAS accredited?

*You will need to work with a Recognised Mediator Accreditation Body (RMAB) to ascertain whether you meet the requirements for accreditation under **2.5 (b)** or **2.5 (c)** of the Approval Standards. These sections refer to recognition of comparable prior education and experience.*

*In addition, an RMAB will require you to undertake an assessment in accordance with Section **2.4** of the Approval Standards.*

Please note that if you are working as an FDRP for an organisation, this assessment cannot be undertaken in the workplace by a supervisor or colleague. This scenario would not meet the requirements of 2.4 (c) and in particular the requirement to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

Instead, your RMAB will work with you to provide an opportunity for assessment that does meet requirements.

- Can I be accredited by more than one RMAB?

No. You can only apply for accreditation and seek re-accreditation through one RMAB. Only one RMAB can collect an accreditation fee from you and upload you onto the National Register of NMAS accredited mediators.

You can, however, change RMABs if you choose to do so.

Another RMAB might list you on their dispute resolution panel/s, as a member of their organisation, or as an employee. Nothing in the NMAS prevents this. They cannot, however, list you on the National Register or collect an accreditation fee from you. Only the accrediting RMAB can do these things.

A note for RMABs – An RMAB might inform the MSB that a mediator accredited through another RMAB is listed as a bonafide member, panelist or employee in order to meet the criteria for being an RMAB (Part IV, 1.7 of the NMAS). The RMAB cannot, however, list the accredited mediator on the National Register or collect an accreditation fee from the accredited mediator. Part IV of the NMAS outlines RMAB qualifications and responsibilities.

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.

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:

Bianca Keys (Chair) – NSW
Dr Andrew Bickerdike (Deputy Chair) – VIC
Doug Murphy QC (Hon Treasurer) - QLD
Christopher Boyle (Hon Secretary) – WA
Linda Kochanski - QLD
Peter Condliffe PhD – VIC
Stephen Dickinson - SA
Dr Rebecca Shenton Wilson - VIC