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## **MSB NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021**

This newsletter is circulated to member organisations, current and former Directors, and interested NMAS trainers/coaches/assessors. It is also uploaded to the [MSB website](#).

We recommend that member organisations share it with their administrative and training teams and include a link to the newsletter in their own communications with mediators.

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### **MEDIATOR SELF-CARE**

The Board is pleased to see so many of our member organisations focusing on supporting mediators who are currently living in lockdown, by working hard to offer more online content. It is pleasing to see organisations offering accredited mediators the opportunity to take part in conferences, webinars and workshops that focus on the importance of looking after ourselves in the work that we do.

There has perhaps never been a time in which mediator self-care has been more important in light of uncertainty with bookings and workloads, and, for many a real sense of “Zoom-Fatigue” and screen fatigue in general.

To learn more about the various offerings of MSB member organisations head to our [Calendar Hub](#).

We hope that you find energy, inspiration, and connection during these challenging times.

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### **NMC2021**

The history of the National Mediation Conference (NMC) and the National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS) have intertwined on many occasions. The NMC was home to important conversations that led to the development of the NMAS. The Board acknowledges this history and that’s one of many reasons why it played a key sponsorship role with NMC2021.

Despite the need for a 100% virtual conference, this NMC had a lot of heart.

We thank the First Nations People of the Central Australian Region for welcoming us all. As well as talking circles, a movie night, dinners, networking opportunities, virtual exhibitions, there was plenty of very special content.

MSB Chair, Bianca Keys, opened day 2 of the NMC and also presented a session highlighting current activities of the Board and the importance of diverse voices and inclusion.

Importantly, and helpfully, the NMC will keep recordings of all sessions available to registrants for 12 months. If you missed the MSB sessions or any other session you can go back and watch them now. In fact, if you didn't register there is still the opportunity to do so, and to access all of the wonderful resources from NMC2021. Visit the personalised link provided to you by the organisers.

The NMC Board, the Design Committee, Program Committee, and Elders are to be congratulated for making NMC2021 a truly special one.

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## NMAS REVIEW – EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY RESULTS

The review process follows a particular methodology that provides various opportunities for participation. This has so far included the Effectiveness Survey, which aimed to gauge general levels of satisfaction with the NMAS and general information on demographics and mediator workloads.

There were over 500 complete survey responses and some very interesting results. The Survey Results have been divided into 4 parts (or 4 reports). The first of these reports is now ready for you to access in full on the NMAS Review website – [www.nmasreview.com.au](http://www.nmasreview.com.au)

To keep up to date with findings as they are released (in part and then in full) follow the Mediator Standards Board on LinkedIn and keep an eye on the MSB Website.

We also encourage you to visit and subscribe to [www.nmasreview.com.au](http://www.nmasreview.com.au) so that you can be part of the most inclusive part of the review – The Main Survey.

The Main Survey will be released once the Pilot Survey is completed. We are currently working with the review team at Resolution Resources regarding the timing of release, as we want maximum engagement. With lockdowns and screen fatigue we are conscious that now might not be the best time for optimal engagement. But do bear with us – because we want ALL of your responses in the mix. We want to see you and your experiences reflected in the data that emerges, and in the recommendations for any changes to the NMAS.

We also encourage you to visit [www.nmasreview.com.au](http://www.nmasreview.com.au) to read about the review process so far, and to access a [recorded conversation](#) between MSB Chair Bianca Keys and Resolution Resources.

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## AGM 2021

The Mediator Standards Board will hold its Annual General Meeting on the 27th October 2021. During the AGM an election will be held for 3 director roles on the Board.

It is the member organisations who nominate and elect new directors, and nominations are open until 22nd September 2021.

For more information on the AGM, the nomination process, and what it means to be a director on the MSB visit the [AGM website](#).

On this website you can access information and timelines for the AGM, guidelines for directors, the MSB Constitution, and a recorded conversation with present and past MSB Chairs about life on the Board.

We hope you find this website informative, and we welcome your nomination. Please note that even if you are not elected, your nomination signals your interest in being part of what we do. This opens the door to involvement in forums, committees/reference groups, project officer roles, and potentially appointment as a director for a shorter period of time.

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## **MSB IN THE MEDIA – A SPOTLIGHT ON ACCREDITATION**

You may have noticed our marketing efforts for 2021. For example, Lawyers Weekly have featured a media release regarding our annual research grant, the first of which has been awarded to Dr Lola Akin Ojelabi, Associate Professor at La Trobe University. Dr Akin Ojelabi will focus her research on reality testing. Lawyers Weekly have also published an article on the importance of mediator-specific training and selection of a NMAS accredited mediator.

You will soon see similar educational and marketing materials in HR publications and in the public sector.

We are committed to the professionalisation of mediator work, and to highlighting the importance of seeking accredited mediators with appropriate training, competency, experience, insurance, complaints handling, and good character.

We encourage you to share what you see with your own networks so that we can highlight the important work that accredited mediators do.

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## **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](mailto: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/WA

