

## **Announcement re: Recommendation and Findings of the NMAS Review**

Clause 3 of the MSB constitution obliges the Board to ‘develop, maintain and amend the National Mediator Accreditation System’. In complying with that the Board commissioned Resolution Resources to review the NMAS. The last such review was in 2015.

The conduct of the review was overseen by a sub-committee of the Board. The review was far-reaching and exhaustive. It involved the use of sound and tested methodology and analysis of data derived from the mediation community. That ensured independence and an evidenced basis for the evolution of the NMAS. It included extensive consultation with member organisations, mediators, and other relevant bodies and individuals. The Board is grateful to those who contributed their time and expertise.

Resolution Resources has now delivered to the Board its Findings and Recommendations. That document will be published on the Board’s website [msb.org.au](http://msb.org.au) in the Review hub upon distribution of this circular.

The findings of the review show that mediation in Australia is an ‘emerging profession’ that currently lacks some elements of self-regulation that are definitive of a mature profession, particularly in respect of such matters as complaints handling and discipline.

The path to a fully-developed profession is one that will take some time to travel, and the exact route to that destination is not yet clear. One matter that was not part of the review, yet must be addressed by the Board, is how the structures and processes recommended by the review can be funded. That alone suggests a development process that will take some time.

The Board takes very seriously the task of responding to the review and has already devoted considerable time to it. It appears that it will be necessary to develop short-, medium- and long-term responses. The Board will take the necessary time to fully consider what has been presented and to provide to you, our mediation community, clear messages and appropriate transition periods.

While the Board has received the Findings and Recommendation, it has not yet either endorsed or rejected any of them. Until it has made those threshold decisions, it would be premature and distracting to engage in discussions about the details of how recommendations might be implemented. That is why the review’s supporting documents are not yet being released.

The Board will continue to engage with the community. A process of active engagement will be announced soon. The Board is a members’ organisation. It was established to govern a system for member organisations. It intends to maintain that.

Christopher Boyle  
Chairman