
A note from the Board of Directors of AMDRAS (formerly MSB) as we approach 1 July 2024.

Transition from NMAS to AMDRAS

The Board continues to work towards the implementation of The Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution Accreditation Standards (AMDRAS).

We appreciate the continuing engagement of the mediation community to realise the objectives of the review of the NMAS that the Board began in 2019.

The Review was undertaken to ensure:

- users of mediation services could rely on the quality and consistency of services provided by accredited mediators,
- that mediation continues its emergence and development as a profession, and
- that the excellence and specialist skill of individual mediators can be appropriately recognised as this profession and its framework evolves.

The Board of Directors is confident that AMDRAS will fulfill these core objectives while strengthening our community's commitment to professionalism and quality standards.

Intention of Recent Amendments

A note on name change and Constitutional Amendments.

The Special General Meeting of the company on 5 June resolved to change the name of the Company from Mediator Standards Board to 'Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution Accreditation Standards Board Limited' and to change the Constitution in certain details.

There has been some feedback expressing concern that the constitutional changes reflect a dilution of support for mediation as the core process with which we are all concerned. The Board would like to state this is emphatically not the case, as the text of AMDRAS shows.

Facilitative mediation – is and continues to be the core skill on which specialisations are built.

Strengthening Communication & Resources

It has become clear over the last few years that the needs of member organisations and mediators to communicate with the Board have grown.

The capacity of the Board to respond promptly to enquiries has been limited by the remarkably frugal administrative structure of the Board's secretariat. It is recognised that greater resources of that kind are needed. The Board is presently considering this. As is the case now, a portion of the per-mediator accreditation fee will be returned to the member organisation to reflect costs incurred in maintaining registrations.

Support Throughout Transition

NMAS remains in effect until 30 June 2025. The transition period allows accreditation and training providers time to understand the new system and make any necessary changes to meet the new Standards.

The NMAS to AMDRAS Transition Rules set out the transition process. The Board will actively engage with member bodies to provide guidance, further resources and support as needed to ensure transition to AMDRAS is seamless.

Ongoing Engagement and Continuous Improvements

One of the significant benefits of the AMDRAS structure is greater flexibility to accommodate clarifications and adjustments and the AMDRAS Board is committed to continued engagement with our member organisations.

It is noted that there were a considerable number of changes made to the consultation draft of the standards sent to members late in 2023 to acknowledge the valuable feedback we received during the consultation period.

We welcome any comments you may have and please contact us if you have any queries.



Sincerely
Dr Peter Condliffe
AMDRAS Chair (formerly MSB)

On behalf of the [Board of Directors](#)

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