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MEDIA RELEASE

Leading dispute resolution bodies strike Trans Tasman agreement

Australasia's leading alternative dispute resolution (ADR) bodies, the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA) and the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand have signed a memorandum of co-operation to promote the utilisation of arbitration, mediation and other ADR methods in the region.

The agreement was struck following the Australian Attorney-General Robert McClelland and New Zealand Justice Minister Simon Power announcement earlier this year that both countries will introduce legislation as a priority to make resolving legal disputes across the Tasman cheaper, more efficient and less complicated.

AMINZ President, David Carden said: "The relationship between Australasia's leading dispute resolution bodies, IAMA and AMINZ, is strengthened by the recent agreement and will provide increased opportunities for members of both organisations and the public."

IAMA President, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG said: "One of the benefits of ADR is that it has the flexibility to be adapted in all jurisdictions."

Details of the ADR agreement will feature in the opening ceremony of the AMINZ Annual Conference to be launched by the NZ Attorney General, the Hon Christopher Finlayson at the Grand Hall of Parliament House, Wellington on Thursday 6 August.

The conference will also address issues such as the use of mediation in Family Court disputes; mediation and negotiation in a tough industrial environment; international mediations involving cross-cultural differences; mediation in rural conflicts and the best use of expert evidence in arbitrations.

Michael Kirby will take part in a session on the processes of reasoning and decision-making.

"The way decision-makers actually arrive at their conclusions is a subject very little studied in the judiciary, except in terms of the reasons that are published to support the judges' orders. But how can reasons be improved? What factors really influence decision-making? How can decisions be both candid and interesting? My new involvement in ADR is obliging me to face squarely issues that tend to be brushed under the carpet in the conventional world of judicial opinion-writing", he said.

In addition to meetings with the Attorney General and the NZ Governor-General, His Excellency, Sir Anand Santyanand, the former High Court judge of Australia will also take part in a panel discussion with New Zealand judges and QCs on the writing of arbitration and adjudication decisions.

This is a topic on which he has spoken in the judicial context. As he emphasises, "arbitrations have to be less formal, more speedy and common sense is at a premium."

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Please note: All AMINZ conference enquiries and interviews in Wellington, 6-8 August are to be directed to
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THE
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AUSTRALIA

Australia's leading ADR organisation since 1975

About the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA)

The Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA) is the nation's largest, independent and most experienced alternative dispute resolution (ADR) organisation.

Founded in 1975, IAMA facilitates efficient dispute resolution for all sectors, and provides services in all forms of ADR including arbitration, mediation, conciliation, adjudication and expert determination.

It also plays a key role in industry and consumer schemes.

With offices in all states and territories, it is involved in the professional development, training and accreditation of ADR practitioners across Australia and internationally.

More details about IAMA can be found at www.iama.org.au



About the Arbitrators' & Mediators' Institute of New Zealand (AMINZ)

AMINZ is the largest professional institute in New Zealand for people working in the area of dispute resolution. Its members include arbitrators, mediators, adjudicators, conciliators, facilitators, investigators and expert witnesses who come from a variety of sectors.

The Institute is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting high quality dispute resolution services by its members to the public. We provide referrals and information to members of the public and organisations in the public and private sectors.

The Institute is a major coordinator of dispute resolution education and its professional qualifications are recognised internationally. It has close ties with many similar organisations overseas.

More details about AMINZ can be found at www.aminz.org.nz