



THE  
INSTITUTE *of*  
ARBITRATORS & MEDIATORS  
—  —  
AUSTRALIA  
Australia's leading ADR organisation since 1975

20 June 2008

**Dear Members**

**Re: National Mediator Accreditation System**

A National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS) was introduced this year on January 1 2008, following the Attorney General's acceptance of Approval Standards and Practice Standards for the NMAS prepared by Professor Tania Sourdin. The documents outlining the NMAS Standards and Ethical Guidelines for Mediators are available on the NADRAC website at <http://www.nadrac.gov.au/> and also on the IAMA website.

The National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC) met on 5 March 2008 to ratify this system and to establish a National Mediator Accreditation Committee of which IAMA is a member. You will find documents pertaining to this meeting on the NADRAC website.

As one of the National Mediator Accrediting Bodies, IAMA will have the power to accredit mediators under the NMAS. In order to be accredited under the Approval Standards, applicants must:

- a) Provide evidence of good character
- b) Undertake to apply with the Practice Standards
- c) Provide evidence of relevant insurance, statutory indemnity or employee status
- d) Provide evidence of membership with an appropriate association
- e) Provide evidence of mediator competence by reference to education, training and experience

Under e) members applying for accreditation must either have completed a mediation education and training course that is compliant with the NMAS or be assessed as "experience qualified". We believe that IAMA members are likely to fit into 1 of 3 categories:

1. IAMA accredited, working mediators who will meet the "experience qualified" threshold.
2. IAMA accredited mediators who will have done a course with us but who have not yet had sufficient practice experience to meet the "experience qualified" threshold.
3. Members who have not completed a course but who wish to become accredited.

Enclosed with this letter is an application to be assessed as an "experience qualified" mediator. Please read the NMAS guidelines to ascertain whether you will meet the threshold and if you believe you do, then send us your application.

For those members yet to undertake training, IAMA has reshaped our National Mediation Course so that it complies with the training threshold outlined in the NMAS. This involves an additional day of training and a more rigorous assessment process. All graduates of the National Mediation Course from now on will meet the education and training requirement.

For those members in the second group who wish to upgrade your education and training, you could attend the final two days of the new National Mediation Course to upgrade your qualifications. The dates for future courses are posted on our website, or you could contact your local Chapter.

Members will also note c) that Nationally Accredited Mediators must be able to demonstrate evidence of relevant insurance, statutory indemnity or employee status. IAMA is currently investigating appropriate indemnity schemes.

There are also quite stringent Continuing Accreditation Requirements outlined in the NMAS involving 25 hours of mediation (including simulated mediations) and 20 hours of CPD over a 2-year cycle. IAMA is currently developing CPD events, which will assist members in maintaining their National Accredited Mediator status.

I urge you to read the NMAS guidelines and either apply for accreditation or upgrade your training as outlined. Do not hesitate to contact IAMA staff if you would like further information.

**Yours sincerely**

**Angela O'Brien**  
President

The Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia  
ABN 80 008 520 045. Incorporated in ACT

National Office, Level 1, 190 Queen Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000, Australia. PO Box 13064 Law Courts, Victoria 8010, Australia. Telephone: +61 3 9607 6908 Facsimile: +61 3 9602 2833  
Email: [national@iama.org.au](mailto:national@iama.org.au) Website: [www.iama.org.au](http://www.iama.org.au)