

## **Australian Dispute Resolution Advisory Council Inc**

### **Annual Report**

**Year end 30 June 2022**

#### **ADRAC Council Membership**

As at 30 June 2022 the Council consisted of:

1. Dr Lola Akin-Ojelabi
2. Dr Andrew Bickerdike
3. Alysoun Boyle
4. Dr Kate Chetty (Hon Sec/Public Officer)
5. Margaret Halsmith
6. Susan Hamilton-Green
7. Tom Howe PSM QC
8. Ruth McColl AO SC (Chair)
9. Jovanka Naumoska
10. Jamie Orchard
11. Helen Shurven
12. Steven White.

The CV and photograph of each member and past members is displayed on the Member page of the ADRAC website: [www.ADRAC.org.au](http://www.ADRAC.org.au).

#### **Secretariat**

Joseph Petry, Isobel Leonard and Fiona Smith of the Australian Government Solicitor provided invaluable secretariat and pro bono support to ADRAC throughout the year.

ADRAC acknowledges, and is grateful for, the support of the Australian Government Solicitor in enabling ADRAC to be well served with a lawyer from AGS acting in the role of Executive Secretary and also in providing administrative support for its activities.

#### **Council Meetings**

The Council of ADRAC met, by teleconference, on the following dates:

1. 14 July 2021.
2. 18 August 2021
3. 15 September 2021
4. 19 October 2021
5. 22 November 2021 (AGM)
6. 22 November 2021
7. 9 February 2022
8. 24 March 2022
9. 17 May 2022
10. 29 June 2022

## Finances

The Australian Resolution Advisory Council (ADRAC) received subscription fees of \$1,200 for the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

Total expenses for the financial year were \$5,173. Legal costs amounted to \$4,400, 85% of total expenditure.

ADRAC made a deficit of \$3,973.

Cash balance at the end of June 2022 was \$3,198 demonstrating a stable financial position despite a deficit.

Directors receive no remuneration.

## Projects and Submissions

### Conciliation Report

The Conciliation Report, *Conciliation: connecting the dots*, was launched by Senator the Honourable Amanda Stoker at a ceremony kindly hosted by the AGS at its Canberra offices. The launch was in person and was also publicly broadcast by video link.

The launch was attended among others by Michael Kingston, the Australian Government Solicitor, Katherine Jones, the Secretary of AGD and Louise Vardanega, the AGS Chief Operating Officer and Tom Howe PSM QC, Chief Counsel Dispute Resolution, Australian Government Solicitor, and a member of the ADRAC Council.

### ADRJ article

After "Conciliation: Connecting the Dots" was completed and published, the ADRAC council recognised that, although the Report addressed important statutory, regulatory, and policy issues, it did not adequately acknowledge the scope of the collected information's contribution to research in the area of conciliation. It was agreed that a supplementary piece be written that would address the knowledge and research gaps revealed by ADRAC's analysis, including suggestions and recommendations for future research, and that this piece be submitted to the ADRJ for publication under ADRAC's collective authorship, with the intent that the Report and the article be companion pieces. The article was written by council members Dr Alysoun Boyle and Dr Lola Akin-Ojelabi and approved by the ADRAC council. The article was accepted for publication, and appeared in mid-2022 in Volume 32 Issue 1 of the ADRJ

### Reconciliation Action Plan

ADRAC developed a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with the assistance and guidance of Reconciliation Australia. Prior to the RAP registration, Reconciliation Australia introduced fees related to the registration of RAPs. As ADRAC is an unfunded, volunteer organisation with no funding, it was not in a position to register the RAP or to pay fees for the ongoing annual registration.

ADRAC considered the RAP an important document for reconciliation and strategic planning purposes, and so re-drafted it slightly so that it could be an internal document, for use as a roadmap for ADRAC heading into the future. ADRAC also developed a timeline of reconciliation commitments, which are aligned to the RAP, which are highlighted and discussed at ADRAC meetings.

#### Amendments to the Charter/Deductible Gift Recipient status

The Council recognised that the ADRAC Charter needed up-dating both to be consistent with the RAP, ADRAC's future path and the possibility of acquiring charitable status. The Council deferred substantive amendments pending resolution of the charitable status issue. That matter was still pending at the end of the financial year.

#### Wiki Papers

ADRAC published a Wiki Paper on Apologies in civil liability claims prepared by council members on its website.

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