

ADRAC

Annual Report

Year end 30 June 2015

1. This is the first report of the Australian Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (ADRAC) following its inaugural meeting on 21 July 2014.

Commencement of ADRAC

2. On 6 June 2014 seven people met in rooms at the University of NSW Law School to explore the formation of an ADR think tank. The seven people were:
 - a. Craig Pudig
 - b. Tom Howe QC
 - c. Margaret Halsmith
 - d. Shirli Kirschner
 - e. Andrew Bickerdike
 - f. Professor Tania Sourdin
 - g. Jeremy Gormly SC
3. A draft Charter was discussed as were questions relating to legal entity, size of a council, name, funding, function and operation.
4. Subsequent meetings led to the incorporation of ADRAC. ADRAC was incorporated on 24 April 2015 with its first face to face Council meeting held in the offices of the Australian Government Solicitor 21 July 2014.

The NADRAC Heritage

5. The seven members had all been members of the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council (NADRAC). NADRAC had been a council appointed by the Commonwealth Attorney-General to give advice and work generally to encourage ADR.
6. NADRAC had done fine work in the ADR field since it was commenced in 1995 but it was abolished on 8 November 2013. Fortunately its publications are still available on the website the Attorney-General's Department and through ADRAC's website www.ADRAC.org.au.
7. It was the value of and need for work such as that done by NADRAC which led to the formation of ADRAC as a new body.

Council Membership

8. A group of persons eminent in the ADR field agreed to sit as a selection committee to choose additional members to make up a council of eleven persons. The Selection Committee consisted of The Hon. Murray Kellam (former Chair of NADRAC), Professor Tania Sourdin (former longstanding member of NADRAC who opted to be a member of the Selection Committee rather than the Council), Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw and Mr Albert Monaschino QC then Chair of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Australia). The selection committee was assisted by Jeremy Gormly SC Interim Chair of ADRAC. Advertisements were placed calling for detailed Expressions of Interest.
9. Eighty Expressions of Interest were received and considered by the Selection Committee. In addition to the 6 members who were to form the first tranche of the membership, the Selection Committee selected 5 new members being:
 - a. Alysoun Boyle
 - b. The Hon. Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC

- c. Adrian D'Amico
- d. Dr Kathy Douglas
- e. Debbie Hastings

Secretariat

10. The AGS offered and Matthew Varley a lawyer of that office agreed to act as Executive Secretary for ADRAAC which has proven to be of great benefit to the work and organisation of ADRAAC.

First Meeting and Office Holders

11. At the first face-to-face meeting held by kind favour at the offices of AGS, on 21 July 2014 office holders were elected as follows:
 - a. Jeremy Gormly SC: Chair
 - b. Tom Howe QC: Honorary Secretary
 - c. Shirli Kirschner: Honorary Treasurer
12. Five subsequent meetings were held by ADRAAC either face to face or electronically.

The Goals and Charter of ADRAAC

13. ADRAAC formulated a draft Charter which can now be found through ADRAAC's website www.ADRAAC.org.au.
14. ADRAAC considers its role to be one of thought leadership in the field of ADR. It aims to encourage the use of ADR in innovative ways that benefit disputants and assist ADR practitioners in high standards and the professional applications of ADR.

Finances

15. By kind donation from Relationships Australia (Victoria), NADRAAC held \$450.

First Project

16. ADRAAC's first project was determined by the Council to be an online mapping of ADR in Australia initially considered as a Wikimap. Other projects were considered which would follow the mapping. Mapping topics were considered at a meeting of the council held by kind favour of the Australian Taxation Office. Arrangements were made for members to prepare contributions for the project. Consideration was given to asking eminent ADR persons to write contributions.