

LPITAF (Legal Practitioners Interest on Trust Accounts Fund) Grant from the Queensland Government.

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ADR information package (DVD format)

Mediation and ADR are an important part of the legal services industry in Australia and are increasingly accessed legal alternatives in Queensland. ADR processes, particularly mediation and related methods like conciliation, are used in almost every court and tribunal in Queensland and are offered by barristers, solicitors, courts and tribunals, private providers, community organisations, family law specialists and providers like the Dispute Resolution Centre, Relationships Australia, Centacare, Lifeline and Legal Aid.

Despite the wide availability of ADR options however, client, practitioner and public knowledge remains limited. Moreover there have been recent significant changes that have created a complex range of mediation practices in Queensland. These include:

- Changes to family dispute resolution
- New mediator accreditation initiatives of the Queensland Bar and Law Society
- National mediator accreditation initiative
- Increase in different types of mediation and ADR practice models.

Consumer awareness (and in some cases lawyer awareness) of ADR has not kept up with these changes.

Accordingly ACPACS proposes to develop a DVD information and education package on ADR for distribution to providers of ADR services and their clientele. The DVD and accompanying booklet on ADR processes in Queensland will provide a unique and targeted, educational and awareness tool for the community, legal client and practitioners.

The package will contain one DVD with various modules explaining and demonstrating commercial, family and community ADR - primarily mediation, conciliation and conferencing. It will feature practitioners in the Queensland ADR community. An explanatory booklet with references to local resources will accompany the DVD.