

## SCRAM reaches more schools in 2009

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### The Schools Conflict Resolution and Mediation (SCRAM) program reaches more schools with an expansion into the Northern Territory.

On 3 April 2009 at the NT Supreme Court, the Community Justice Centre launched the SCRAM program as part of Youth Week.

A very enthusiastic congregation including school principals, Karen Dey and Peter Shoyer (Directors from the Department of Justice), Lisa Coffee (Acting NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner) and members of the NT Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians welcomed the SCRAM initiative into NT. One commented that they saw it as:

*"A way to proactively apply the skills to issues such as bullying"*



From left to right: Ippei Okazaki, LEADR Accredited member and Senior Policy and Project officer CJC; AJ Kulatunga, Party 'A' and NT *Young Achiever* of the Year 2008; Selena Uibo, mediator and Intake Officer CJC; and Donald Young, Party 'B', NT *Young Achiever* of the Year Finalist 2008 and YMCA Youth Parliament member.

In 2009, five NT schools Dripstone Middle School, Palmerston High School, The Essington School, Sanderson High School and Our Lady of the *Sacred Heart* College in Alice Springs have embarked on the journey of exploring conflict by understanding difference through the use of mediation.

The enthusiasm toward the program is summed up by the experiences and comments of the attendees at the NT SCRAM program launch who said: "The role-play was hilarious; it was so much fun playing the parties."

SCRAM is an interactive role play competition for Year 9 & 10 high school students. The students are taught mediation principles, skills and process to develop peaceful dispute resolution awareness and skills. SCRAM aims to influence the school and the community through the skills the students learn. It provides an enjoyable and dynamic way of introducing students to the mediation process.

SCRAM is a non-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of ADR organisations, service providers, educational institutes and individual professional mediators. SCRAM is an interschool mediation competition and currently operates in Western Australia and NSW.

WADRA- SCRAM is sponsored by Edith Cowan University (which also administers the program), LEADR, IAMA, Legal Aid WA, CAB, Relationships Australia and Centrecare. Many private practising mediators volunteer their time to coach the students or adjudicate the simulated mediations.

The Law Society of NSW sponsors and delivers the NSW SCRAM program. In NSW, teachers are trained in mediation and coach the students with the help of over 100 lawyers and mediators representing both public ADR Service providers and private law firms provide voluntary assistance throughout the year to adjudicate each round.

The development of Northern Territory SCRAM has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Office of Youth Affairs which has promoted the program to schools and mediators across the Territory who are willingly donating their time and sharing their knowledge to the next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to Ippei Okazaki and team at the Northern Territory Community Justice Centre for all their efforts to launch SCRAM in the NT. All the best as you embark on this journey with young Australians in NT.

The SCRAM program serves a double purpose. While it is focused on creating a pleasant experience in which students can learn about conflict and mediation, it also offers mediators opportunities to practice and enhance their own mediation skills. Participation in SCRAM is a recognised professional development activity under the NMAS [National Mediator Accreditation System].

If you are keen to get involved with SCRAM, all state programs welcome direct, indirect, and in-kind support and/or sponsorship.

If your state is not in the list below and you are interested in establishing a SCRAM program, the people listed below will be happy to offer some guidance.

State	Program name	Website and contact details
Western Australia	WADRA-SCRAM	<a href="http://www.scram.business.ecu.edu.au">www.scram.business.ecu.edu.au</a>  <b>Contact</b> Julia Carr, Coordinator: <a href="mailto:j.carr@ecu.edu.au">j.carr@ecu.edu.au</a> Julie Mercer, Convenor: <a href="mailto:julie.mercer@optusnet.com.au">julie.mercer@optusnet.com.au</a>
New South Wales	Law Society NSW SCRAM	<a href="http://www.lawsociety.com.au">www.lawsociety.com.au</a>

Northern  
Territory

Community Justice Centre

**Contact**

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