

LEADR NZ supplies mediation services to NZ escrow service

SafeKiwi™, a New Zealand escrow service for financial transactions has enlisted LEADR NZ provide mediation services.

Christchurch businessman Mike Pero launched the [SafeKiwi™](#) internet-based 'escrow' financial service in March this year to provide a safe holding place for funds during a financial transaction.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs recently reported that New Zealanders are defrauded of close to \$500 million a year.

An escrow account is a legal arrangement in which one party deposits funds under the supervision of a neutral third party, until the terms of an agreement have been met and the funds can be released.

To deal with disputes that may arise, Pero has involved LEADR NZ to provide easy access to a national network of accredited mediators.

"Mediation is an efficient way to resolve disputes," said Mr Pero, "and is particularly useful when two parties need to preserve an ongoing relationship."

"I have had experience as a participant in mediation processes in both personal and business matters, and recommend it as the first course of action," said Mr Pero, who is well-known for his eponymous chain of mortgage brokerage franchises.

"If all disputes started with mediation I'd imagine Kiwis would collectively save many millions of dollars."

SafeKiwi™ is marketing its service to companies, corporations, individuals and government departments and, in particular, expects the service to be popular with small businesses and sub-contractors. The Public Trust is custodian.

LEADR NZ Chair, Carol Powell said the SafeKiwi™ website directs parties who have a dispute to the LEADR NZ "find a mediator" service. Approximately 170 fully accredited mediators are currently listed on LEADR NZ's website.

Ms Powell said her members anticipate increased interest in their services because of the SafeKiwi™ association.

“It provides opportunities not only for individual members but also for the promotion and growth of mediation, and alternative dispute resolution, generally.”