

25 July 2007

## Letter from the LEADR Chair

Dear Members,

I am delighted that one of my first opportunities to communicate with you is to invite you to renew your membership with LEADR if you have not already done so. The support I have received from LEADR has underpinned my motivation to practise and to promote excellence in ADR. I would hope and anticipate that this would be your experience also.

I feel very privileged to hold the position of Chair of the LEADR Board. My previous experience as a member of the WA Executive, then as a member of the Board has given me insights into what a strong membership organisation is able to achieve.

I was initially attracted to LEADR by its altruistic objectives: fundamentally to promote the benefits of ADR and through this lens, to provide benefits to members. I remain committed to these objectives. I encourage you to read them at (<http://www.leadr.com.au/documents/LEADR%20Constitution.doc>) and to let me know of initiatives that you would like the Board to consider. The objectives guide the Board in establishing medium and long term directions and anchor the day to day work of the busy and dedicated LEADR office staff.

There are a number of exciting national ADR developments. LEADR is active in all.

- We will be an RMAB (Recognised Mediation Accreditation Body) as described in the National Mediator Standards, with accreditation anticipated to commence from 1 January 2008.
- LEADR is holding its 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Wellington NZ in September this year. David Hoffman who you may recognize as an editor of the highly regarded book *Bringing Peace into the Room* is one of the keynote speakers.
- LEADR provided detailed feedback regarding the Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner Guidelines.

Your web site and your regular *Updates* are abuzz with endeavours and accomplishments from Chapters throughout Australasia, as well as current case law review and articles of interest and valuable information.

It is your feedback through your membership which keeps LEADR vital and proactive.

We will soon be conducting a survey to better understand you and what you value most about being a member of LEADR. It will help us greatly if you can take the time and respond.

I also encourage you to let me know at [chair@leadr.com.au](mailto:chair@leadr.com.au) (which the CEO has access to) of your ADR concerns and big ideas. One of mine is that I look forward to the day when LEADR initiates a campaign to elect ADR practitioners to public office!

Once again, I invite you to renew your membership and be part of our important endeavour to promote ADR. Together with your dynamic and energetic Board and CEO, I look forward with anticipation to my term as Chair.

Margaret Halsmith