

## **BUILDING DISPUTES PRACTITIONERS SOCIETY**

The Building Disputes Practitioners Society was formed in 1979. Its members include arbitrators, architects, barristers, builders, building consultants, engineers, quantity surveyors, solicitors and others having a direct or indirect interest in the resolution of disputes within the building, construction and engineering industries.

The objects of the Society are:

- a) To provide a forum for the discussion and consideration of problems affecting the resolution of disputes arising out of building, construction and engineering works.
- b) To advance the knowledge and expertise of persons concerned with resolution of disputes arising out of building, construction and engineering works.
- c) To advance reform in the law relating to resolution of such disputes.
- d) To promote justice in the administration of building, construction and engineering law.

Each year, as a means of furthering these objects the Society regularly holds seminars and meetings featuring eminent speakers on topics of interest to Society members. The Society also holds an Annual Dinner featuring a topical guest speaker. Membership of the Society is open to any person who has an interest in building, construction and engineering disputes.

Membership enquiries may be directed to the Secretary, Peter Megens of Wainright Ryan & Co, 534 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, Victoria 3132 (Phone No: 03 874 7377, Fax No: 03 873 4984) or the Treasurer John Coghlan, Box 542, Blackburn, Victoria 3130 (Phone No: 03 878 2244, Fax No: 03 894 1725).

## **ADRAA CHANGES ITS NAME**

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Association of Australia has changed its name to the Australian Dispute Resolution Association. This change has been made to reflect the view that dispute resolution methods such as arbitration, conciliation, mediation and expert appraisal are now part of the mainstream armory of dispute resolution techniques and should not be regarded as "alternative".

## **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR ADRA MEMBERS**

The Australian Dispute Resolution Association has developed the following code of professional conduct for its members:

1. Members involved in any aspect of dispute resolution must act with diligence, competence and fairness in the interests of persons they serve and maintain a standard of professional conduct.
2. Members must abide by the codes of profes-

sional conduct which apply to them as members of professions and occupational groups and by law, whether by employment or otherwise.

3. Members should co-operate to establish, develop and maintain standards of dispute resolution practice and the education, qualifications and performance of practitioners.
4. Complaints to ADRA about members will be referred to the member's professional body, employer or regulatory agency for disciplinary action.
5. The Board of Management has power under its Constitution to expel any member for proper cause.

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## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION ORGANISATIONS**

- Ruth Charlton

Earlier issues of the Newsletter have commented upon the development of dispute resolution organisations, which may be of some assistance to the construction industry, e.g. the Australian Commercial Dispute Centre's expansion to other States, the Institute of Arbitrators, Australia's development of training courses for and published lists of conciliators and mediators, the establishment of LEADR - Lawyers Engaged in Alternative Dispute Resolution-etc. Certainly, there has been a recent proliferation of organisations involved in dispute resolution. The construction industry tends to look to ACDC, the Institute of Arbitrators and to construction legal practitioners and experienced construction industry dispute facilitators for guidance and assistance in the selection and implementation of appropriate methods of dispute resolution.

In this brief article, Ruth Charlton, Editor of the ADRA Newsletter and Editor of the Law Book Company's Australian Dispute Resolution Journal, comments upon yet several more dispute resolution organisations, which may provide some services of interest to the industry.

The Australian Dispute Resolution Association is the national body linking all those with ADR interests and involvement Australia-wide. As well, other organisations cater for more local or specialised ADR interests, whether as service providers or membership organisations. The following may be of interest:

**The Conflict Resolution Network**, has its headquarters in Chatswood, NSW and was set up as a peace programme of the United Nations Association of Australia. It offers internal courses in conflict resolution together with an advisory service on all aspects of conflict management. The Network hires outsiders as facilitators for meetings