

President's Message



This is a Special Silver Anniversary issue of *'The Arbitrator'*, to mark the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. It is a time when we should celebrate the progress we have made and reflect on the opportunities and challenges which face us in the future.

This issue contains a re-print of an article by Charles Cullis-Hill, which appeared in the first issue of *'The Arbitrator'* in August 1981 (Vol 1 No 1), entitled *'The Founding of the Institute'*. Charles Cullis-Hill was deeply involved in establishing the Institute, and was a President of the Institute and its first Life Fellow.

We are indebted to Justice Stephen Charles for agreeing to the publication of a most interesting Address which he delivered on the Official Opening of our new premises in the old High Court building in Melbourne, in which he deals with the history of arbitration in Victoria from the early days of the colony and the colourful history of the High Court's occupation of the premises (which might be appropriately subtitled *'blood on the walls'*).

This issue also contains the full text of the Address which I delivered to the Chapter Silver Anniversary Dinners in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra between 2 September and 19 October 2000, entitled *'The Institute in the 21st Century - The Way Ahead'*. You will see from the text of my Address that Council has a number of new initiatives planned which we hope will be of benefit to the Institute and its members, and increase public perception of the important role which we can play in providing expeditious and cost effective dispute resolution services to the community.

Some of those new initiatives are already under way. We have now finalised the basis on which a compulsory CPD requirement will be introduced for graded arbitrators, accredited mediators and applicants for transfer to Member or Fellow. This is an important step for the future of the Institute. It will demonstrate to the Courts, the legal profession and the wider community that the Institute is serious about ensuring the quality of our graded arbitrators and accredited mediators in particular. In doing so, it will promote public perception of the Institute and its members as proponents of the highest standards of professional excellence in the resolution of disputes.

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Another new initiative which is presently under way is the introduction of industry-funded Consumer Dispute Resolution Schemes, administered by the Institute. We have completed the initial draft of the proposed rules for the Model Scheme, which will be circulated for comment in the near future, prior to introduction of a pilot Scheme. This initiative should provide a valuable public service to consumers and enhance our standing in the community.

Finally, this is the last issue of our journal with the name '*The Arbitrator*'. From the next issue, the journal will be re-named '*The Arbitrator and Mediator*', in keeping with the name of the Institute and our increasing focus on a broader range of extra-curial dispute resolution processes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hunt', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Hunt, *President*