



President's Message

Rowena McNally, National President

Welcome to the final edition of *The Arbitrator & Mediator* for 2014.

As we near the end of 2014, we also approach the beginning of another exciting chapter in IAMA's development. On 1 January 2015, Australasia's two largest membership organisations for ADR practitioners, IAMA and LEADR, will become a single entity. Our joint vision is of increased use of effective dispute resolution, setting new benchmarks in training and education, as well as promoting high standards of practice. As a single entity, we will achieve economies of scale that will enable us to be more responsive to our members' needs, more responsive to the market's needs and more able to influence policy decision-makers.

With reputations for high standards of practice, both organisations are founded on a strong professional membership base. The members of both organisations come from many professions and practise a wide variety of dispute resolution including adjudication, arbitration, mediation, conciliation, facilitation, community engagement, neutral evaluation, conflict coaching and restorative justice. This breadth of ADR and the expected combined membership of more than 3,500 ADR professionals provides the new organisation with the expertise and capacity to promote and to provide ADR in all its forms throughout the region.

This edition of the Journal includes articles that should appeal to and inform our arbitrator and mediator members, including one article that looks at future possibilities by analysing the use of mediation skills in Collaborative Law.

As 2014 draws to a close, once again I thank our National Councillors, our Chapter Chairs, Chapter Committee Members and all our IAMA staff and volunteers who have worked so hard in support of IAMA during this year. I also want to thank all those people who have given IAMA its organisational strength over the last 40 years, those people whose professional commitment and dedication has given us the capacity to remain at the forefront of ADR in Australia.

