

# COUNSEL-LED MEDIATION IN THE FAMILY COURT



## ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION THROUGH LEADR

**Accreditation through LEADR is achieved via a two step process:**

- ⇒ **Training**
- ⇒ **Assessment of Skills**

### TRAINING

Described in a recent NZ Lawyer article as....."hugely influential in the development of mediation in this country"\* , LEADR's flagship 5 Day Mediation workshop is an intensive skills based programme taught by practising mediators. The 5 day workshop provides participants with a framework encompassing the theory and practical skills of mediation and conflict resolution. This training meets the requirements for the:

- ⇒ Australian National Mediation Standards
- ⇒ International Mediation Institute
- ⇒ Hong Kong International Arbitration Council

2010 workshops are scheduled in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland with additional dates and locations offered subject to demand. See [www.leadr.co.nz](http://www.leadr.co.nz) for details.

*LEADR also recognizes other equivalent training provided it meets the threshold outlined in the Australian National Mediation Standards. See [www.leadr.com.au/accreditation](http://www.leadr.com.au/accreditation)*

*\*see NZ Lawyer, 19 Feb 2010, Is it Rude to talk about who would win? By The Honourable Robert Fisher, QC.*

### ACCREDITATION

Applicants may be accredited upon successful completion of an assessment which will require participation in a simulated mediation role play of not less than 1.5 hours duration.

The practitioner will, for the purposes of assessment, be videoed or observed by one or more assessors approved by the LEADR accreditation committee. This assessment measures whether the applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated an understanding of the process and the skills required.

*Applicants may also seek to be accredited on the basis of being "experience qualified". N.B. The waiving of the requirement for a role play assessment by virtue of being "experience qualified" is not common.*

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## **ADVANCED SKILLS — FAMILY MEDIATION**

This intensive 2 day workshop, designed for accredited mediators or equivalent, is supported by a 1 day follow up seminar and begins with an overview from Judge Peter Boshier, Principal Family Court Judge, on the Early Intervention Process in the Family Court.

The 3 days has a mix of specialist skills training complemented by the knowledge requirements set out in the soon to be published Counsel-led mediation guidelines from the Ministry of Justice i.e.:

- ⇒ Family Systems theories and child development
- ⇒ Gender Awareness
- ⇒ Domestic Violence and power imbalances, and how to deal with unequal bargaining positions:
- ⇒ How to deal with highly emotional clients:
- ⇒ The challenges of dealing with unrepresented clients;
- ⇒ Community based organisations and support groups offering families help;
- ⇒ The legislation applying to Family Court disputes
- ⇒ An awareness of cultural issues
- ⇒ An awareness of disability issues

## **ABOUT LEADR**

LEADR is an internationally recognised membership organisation for dispute resolution professionals with standards of accreditation, continuing education, ethical standards and a code of discipline which binds all members. LEADR also has a wider education role and promotes the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

LEADR operates in New Zealand and Australia and across Asia and the Pacific. It is a non profit organisation.

LEADR provides an accredited mediator referral service to the business, government and legal communities.

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