

## CONSIDER MEDIATION

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There is no doubt about it – litigation is expensive, stressful and prolonged. It always involves an element of risk - the judge may not quite see your situation in the same light as you - and you may end up with an unsatisfactory result. You could be hit with an award of costs against you if you lose.

Mediation is an alternative means of dispute resolution. It is increasingly popular because it addresses the shortcomings of litigation. It allows the parties to a dispute to come to their own settlement by means of a neutral third party (the mediator) helping the parties generate options and constructive solutions to their dispute. It is an effective, pragmatic and constructive process. It also has a high success and satisfaction rate. It can be instituted at any stage of a dispute or litigation, but the earlier the better if you wish to limit costs and delay to the process of achieving a successful outcome.

LEADR (short for Leading Edge Alternative Dispute Resolvers) is the most recognised organisation in Australasia for training and accrediting mediators. For more about mediation refer to [www.leadr.co.nz](http://www.leadr.co.nz).

Partner Allison Adams is a LEADR accredited mediator. She specialises in family law disputes but can mediate on other matters. Anna has a Masters in Business Studies (Dispute Resolution), has completed the LEADR mediation training and the LEADR course for mediators in industrial relations. If you, or someone you know, are locked into a dispute, Allison or Anna are available to mediate.