

10 June 2024

Dr James Popple  
Chief Executive Officer  
Law Council of Australia

By email: [james.popple@lawcouncil.au](mailto:james.popple@lawcouncil.au)  
cc: [natalie.cooper@lawcouncil.au](mailto:natalie.cooper@lawcouncil.au)

Dear Dr Popple

## AUSTRALIAN MEDIATOR AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYSTEM STANDARDS

I refer to your memorandum dated 20 May 2024 and on behalf of the Law Society of Western Australia appreciate the opportunity to provide input for a possible submission in relation to the Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution System Standards.

The memorandum sought input regarding essentially two matters:

1. satisfaction or otherwise with the Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution System (**AMDRAS**) Standards adopted by the Mediator Standards Board (**MSB**) and as amended after the MSB's consideration of the Law Council of Australia (**LCA**) submissions on the draft version of the Standards; and
2. consideration of the establishment of a national lawyer mediation accreditation process to be run by the LCA's Constituent Bodies.

The Law Society has considered each of the above matters. As to the first matter, the Law Society's position is that, as a general proposition, the draft and finalised AMDRAS standards are longer and more complicated than expected, and that a more desirable approach would have been to simplify and streamline the previously existing documentation. The Law Society specifically draws attention to the proposed introduction of different levels of accreditation (i.e. accredited, advanced, leading and specialist mediators), and suggests that this would significantly complicate accreditation and renewal processes, as well as potentially confusing consumers.

In relation to the second matter, the Law Society has not reached a consensus as to whether the LCA should give consideration to the establishment of a separate national lawyer mediation accreditation process (run by the Constituent Bodies).

If you have any query please contact Susie Moir, General Manager Advocacy and Professional Development on [smoir@lawsocietywa.asn.au](mailto:smoir@lawsocietywa.asn.au) or telephone (08) 9324 8646.

Yours sincerely



Paula Wilkinson  
**President**