



7th April, 2008.

Dr. B Gordon
Principal Research Officer
Community Development and Justice Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia
Parliament Place
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Gordon

Re : Inquiry into Collaborative Approaches in Government

LEADR is an Australasian, not-for-profit membership organisation that promotes alternative dispute resolution and provides mediation training. LEADR has members in all states and territories of Australia, across New Zealand and in many countries in our region, including Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Thailand and Japan. LEADR also has members in the USA and UK.

LEADR submits that sustainable and collaborative approaches and activities in Government could be encouraged by the greater use of alternative methods, particularly mediation, in the resolution of disputes which will inevitably arise within Government and between Government and private sector partners.

Mediation is a process which works to resolve disputes by identifying issues in dispute, then recognising and working through the parties' underlying interests. It is particularly effective where the parties need to maintain an ongoing working relationship.

Dispute resolution is enhanced where mechanisms for dispute resolution are identified beforehand. This may not occur sufficiently where there are common enterprises or initiatives between Government and the private sector.

We submit that the Committee should consider:

- Setting up an informal panel of persons with specialist mediation skills and training who can be available to resolve disputes; and
- Publicising the availability of this service within Government.

The effective operation of cross government initiatives would also be enhanced by the provision of training in dispute resolution for persons involved in such initiatives. It is LEADR's experience that training in mediation is extremely useful for less formal resolution of disputes.

If we can supply any further information that would be of assistance to your deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact me on .

Yours truly,

WA Chapter of LEADR