

# NMC2019

NATIONAL MEDIATION CONFERENCE

15-17 April 2019 National Convention Centre, Canberra



## Call for Abstracts – Submission Guidelines

The Conference Design Committee invites you to submit an abstract for presentation at the National Mediation Conference in Canberra 15 - 17 April 2019 (NMC2019).

NMC2019 provides an opportunity for future leaders, existing practitioners, scholars and leaders to share knowledge, skills and ideas, and the program for the event is designed to showcase mediation, dispute resolution and other conflict resolution approaches through a variety of presentations, discussions, workshops, and other extended activities. The conference program will maximise contact among delegates, between delegates and presenters, and between delegates and our conference partners. The conference will include events that appeal to newcomers to the DR sector, as well as to those with extensive DR knowledge and experience.

The conference program will include concurrent sessions identified as Conference Streams, and will incorporate traditional, oral, single papers, as well as alternative forums, such as collaborative conversations, interactive specialist roundtable discussions, mini-workshops, and panel presentations. The focus will be on learning, contributing, networking and on creating opportunities for collaborative conversations between researchers and practitioners so each can enrich the views of the other.

In alphabetical order, the conference streams are:

- **A:** Approaches to Indigenous dispute management and decision-making processes;
- **B:** Business and construction, workplace and employment;
- **C:** Community-focused mediation, and other community-focused processes;
- **D:** Conciliation, including public and private advisory processes, and statutory programs;
- **E:** Court-connected DR services, including services associated with courts and tribunals;
- **F:** Dispute System Design, online DR, and technological innovations;
- **G:** Elder mediation, and other developing specialist areas of practice;
- **H:** Family mediation and dispute resolution, including Family Dispute Resolution (FDR);
- **I:** Peace-building, transitional justice, reconciliation, and civil society;
- **J:** Research, training, and education: building a rigorous evidence base for DR;
- **K:** Restorative justice and other innovative approaches.

The Conference Committee is fully conscious of the contributions made by intercultural and multicultural considerations to the enrichment of all DR sectors.

Below, you will find detailed information about each stream, including their associated key words.

### Key Dates

- *Early July: distribution of Call for Abstracts*
- *Friday 19 October 2018: final date for submission of abstracts*
- *December 2018: notification of decisions on abstracts*

### Important Information

Please read all the information in this package before preparing your abstract.

- Read all the instructions carefully; the submission process is fully electronic and you must follow the prompts – all fields must be completed.
- Develop your abstract description before commencing the electronic submission process.
- Review your abstract carefully before submitting.
- Submit abstracts that comply strictly with the stated guidelines to have them considered and reviewed.
- **All abstracts must be submitted electronically by Friday 19 October 2018.**

## **Submission**

All abstracts must be submitted online - <https://conlog.eventsair.com/nmc2019/abstractsubmission>

You will be expected to provide:

- Contact details for notification of the Conference Committee's decision on whether (or not) your abstract is accepted for inclusion in the Conference program.
- The title of your abstract (up to 12 words); the title may be edited for inclusion in the Conference program
- A selection of format and stream for your abstract (see lists below)
- A description (up to 100 words); this will be used on the website, and in the NMC2019 app
- An outline of your presentation (up to 150 words) including the number of presenters and an explanation of how time will be allocated between them; this outline will be used only for reviewing your abstract – it will not be published. The outline is crucial to the assessment of your abstract, and its allocation to an appropriate part of the Conference program.

## **Presentation Formats**

The Conference Committee is accepting abstracts for presentations in any of the following formats.

1. *Traditional, oral, single presentations for 30 minutes:* The program will include many opportunities for this style of presentation, which is very familiar to previous conference attendees.
2. *Collaborative Conversations for 60 minutes:* The program will include opportunities for collaborative conversations involving researchers and practitioners. These will be semi-structured discussions and the active involvement of conference delegates will be encouraged. The intent is to foster exchanges of academic and practitioner ideas, research and insights. If you wish to submit an abstract for a collaborative conversation, you must include the subject matter for discussion, as well as some of the key questions to be asked.
3. *Interactive specialist roundtable discussions for 30 minutes:* The program will include opportunities for specialist roundtable discussions that focus on specific areas of mediation practice (e.g. environmental disputes, workplace disputes, strata title disputes, court-connected practice).
4. *Mini-workshops for 60 minutes:* The program will have limited spaces for "mini-workshops"; these will be time-limited to 1 hour per workshop. If you wish to submit an abstract for a mini-workshop, you must include: the title of the workshop, its general subject matter, its target audience (e.g. newly trained mediators, or experienced mediators), how you expect people to participate, and what outcomes people will gain from their attendance.
5. *Interactive Panels for 30 minutes:* Interactive panel discussions are encouraged, especially those that incorporate active delegate participation. These panels may include brief individual presentations by panel members, although the key focus should be on interactive discussions.
6. *Poster Sessions and Exhibitions:* Poster presentations are an opportunity for shorter, simultaneous and more personal presentations during hour-long sessions that are open to all conference delegates.

Poster presenters will have prepared a large, visually appealing presentation that will serve as a springboard for informal discussions and Q&A with delegates. The presenter will remain available for the full hour to discuss and engage with delegates and to permit reading, reviewing and questions about their presentation, on an individual or small group basis.

Poster sessions and Exhibitions will be scheduled at times that do not conflict with other conference events, to ensure that all delegates have the opportunity to participate in these valuable sessions.

*Please note that, because of the anticipated submissions, and to encourage broad participation, an individual may be a presenter in no more than two sessions during the entire conference.*

## **Duration of Presentation Sessions**

Abstracts will be accepted for presentations that are: 30, 45 or 60 minutes in duration. It is assumed that presentations of 45 and 60 minutes will include multiple presenters, as noted above. Abstracts for mini-workshops are to be for 60 minutes.

More detail about each stream is provided on the last page, as are keyword clusters relevant to each stream. When submitting your abstract, please check for (and specify) the most suitable stream. You will need to consider the format of your presentation, as well as the conference stream in which you think your abstract should be included.

### **Number of Presenters in Each Session**

Although there is no specific target or limit for the number of presenters to be included in any specific abstract, the number should be appropriate to the nature of the abstract, to its stated subject matter, and to its proposed duration. As a guide, it is suggested that for 30-minute programs no more than one or two presenters be listed, for a 60 minute-joint presentation there would be no more than three presenters. The Conference Committee may accept abstracts that deviate from these suggestions; however, the number of presenters should be clearly justified, and the panel be demonstrably organised to enable the individual presentations to create an interwoven session.

### **Abstract review criteria**

The Conference Committee will give priority to the following criteria:

1. The introduction of new and innovative concepts not previously canvassed or fully explored in the sector;
2. Where applicable, the rigour of any research that will be included in the presentation, or on which the proposal relies;
3. The inclusion of credible demonstration of the importance of the subject matter to the mediation, or DR field, and to the preferred Conference Stream;
4. The inclusion of intercultural, cross-cultural and/or multicultural considerations;
5. The potential appeal of the abstract to a broad spectrum of delegates; the abstract should include appropriate comments if it would appeal more to one cross-section of the sector (e.g. newly trained practitioners, or experienced practitioners);
6. The demonstrated capacity of the abstract to allocate appropriate time for coverage of the topic, and, if for a panel, to include all presenters; and
7. The title of the abstract conveying to delegates what they can expect from the session.

### **Review Process**

A sub-committee of the Conference Design Committee will conduct initial reviews of submitted abstracts. According to their recommendations, abstracts will progress for consideration by the Conference Design Committee who will make final decisions about an abstract's acceptance into the Conference Program.

*Notification of decisions will be distributed in December 2018.*

**Please note:** *Following assessment of submitted abstracts, the Conference Committee may decide that it is more practicable to combine some streams. This will not detract from the importance of each original stream.*

The Conference Committee may also decide to include your abstract in a stream that is different from your original preference.

**For more information, please contact Conference Logistics on 02 6281 6624 or [nmc2019@conlog.com.au](mailto:nmc2019@conlog.com.au).**

## **Conference Streams and Keywords**

- **A:** Approaches to Indigenous dispute management and decision-making processes.

*Key words: Governance; peace-building; evaluation; effective policy & services.*

- **B:** Business and construction, workplace and employment.

*Keywords: DR clauses in contracts; business, construction and workplace arbitration; industrial and employment DR; innovation in business and workplace DR; international commercial dispute resolution; evidence in commercial and business disputes.*

- **C:** Community-focused mediation, and other community-focused processes.

*Keywords: Conflict coaching; alternative approaches; environmental DR; multi-party, consultative, and whole-of-community processes; innovative approaches; evidence-based approaches.*

- **D:** Conciliation, including public and private advisory processes, and statutory programs.

*Keywords: Evidence-based approaches; conciliation, evaluative mediation, advisory dispute resolution, hybrid dispute resolution; statutory programs and processes; conciliation training, standards, and accreditation.*

- **E:** Court-connected DR services, including services associated with courts and tribunals.

*Keywords: Mandatory DR; judicial DR; artificial intelligence; theoretical frameworks; evidence-based approaches; current developments.*

- **F:** Dispute System Design, online DR, and technological innovations.

*Keywords: Theoretical frameworks; current developments; sociocultural influences; innovative approaches & applications; artificial intelligence; evidence-based approaches.*

- **G:** Elder mediation and other developing specialist areas of practice.

*Keywords: Elder mediation; age-related issues; Elder abuse; Elder law; new specialist approaches; evidence-based approaches.*

- **H:** Family mediation and dispute resolution, including Family Dispute Resolution (FDR).

*Keywords: Child inclusive and child focussed processes; family and domestic violence; parenting plans, including shared parenting; parental responsibility; property and financial matters; mandatory FDR; confidentiality; lawyer assisted FDR; family group conferencing.*

- **I:** Peace-building, transitional justice, reconciliation, and civil society.

*Keywords: Sociocultural influences, including: intra-cultural, cross-cultural and multi-cultural approaches; discourse analysis; evidence-based approaches; innovative approaches.*

- **J:** Research, training, and education: building a rigorous evidence base for DR.

*Keywords: Research design, empirical methodologies, program evaluations; standards & accreditation; innovative research; evidence-based approaches to training and education.*

- **K:** Restorative justice and other innovative approaches.

*Keywords: Circles, conferencing, mediation; theoretical frameworks; current developments; innovative approaches; evidence-based approaches.*