

The Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution Accreditation Standards (AMDRAS) - Guidelines for Leading Mediator Accreditation

Purpose

This Guideline provides a guide to enable Registered Practitioners to qualify for accreditation as a Leading Mediator under AMDRAS. It also provides a guide and format for Registered Accreditation Providers (RAPs) to advise and assist in this process. This is to ensure consistency and uniformity.

Please check PART 4 - Training and Accreditation Framework (TAF) and in particular s. 16.

To qualify for accreditation as a Leading Mediator

The operative section is AMDRAS Part 4, s.16 which reads:

Clause 16 Leading Mediator

(a) To qualify for accreditation as a Leading Mediator, a person must:

- (i) be an Advanced Mediator; and
- (ii) have 6 years' experience and 250 practice hours as an Advanced Mediator; in addition to the 150 practice hours to become an Advanced Mediator.
- (iii) as part of their ongoing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) commitments, provide mentoring, coaching and related services to Registered Practitioners;

or

be recognised by the Board as an Honorary Leading Mediator (AMDRAS) for their past and continuing contributions to the dispute resolution sector and leadership in the field and who additionally, may be exempted from meeting all or part of their practice and/or CPD requirements.

(b) A RAP may apply to the Board for approval of a pre-existing framework that acknowledges experience, commitment, and leadership in the field, and that qualifies a person as holding Leading Mediator accreditation status.

Applications for Accreditation

There are two ways of applying to become a Leading Mediator as follows:

1. As per s. 37 Applications for accreditation are made to a RAP. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of s.16(a) the RAP can issue a certificate.

Note that there are no specific training requirements to be satisfied to become a Leading

Mediator, but the applicant must be an Advanced Mediator and have 6 years' experience and 250 practice hours as an Advanced Mediator, in addition to 4 years' experience and 150 practice hours as an Accredited Mediator, which is a total of 10 years' experience and 400 practice hours overall.

If not, the applicant is not eligible for accreditation as a Leading Mediator under s.16(a). It is noted that a number of RAPs have in place "Advanced Mediator" schemes which are or may be equivalent to the AMDRAS Advanced Mediator scheme. Practitioners in this category may apply under s.16(a) and the RAP will need to consider if the applicant has received the equivalent of the requisite training and 6 years' experience and 250 hours practice hours as an Advanced Mediator, in addition to 4 years' experience and 150 practice hours as an Accredited Mediator, totalling 10 years' experience and 400 practice hours overall, equivalent to that of an AMDRAS Advanced Mediator.

The RAP can seek advice from the Board in any particular case before making a determination in relation to the application.

2. The applicant could alternatively make an application for consideration under s.16 (b). This "s. 16(b) application" is then submitted to the AMDRAS Board for approval. The s. 16(b) application is equivalent to applications for alternative pathways under Part 4, Division 8 but requires the RAP to submit this for approval to the Board to ensure consistency across the accreditation system in the absence of specific training requirements for Leading Mediators and also in acknowledgement of the gravitas of these appointments. Once approved by the Board the RAP may issue an appointment.

Note: Examples of how this will work in practice are included in a FAQ titled "You want to become an AMDRAS Leading Mediator" available on the AMDRAS website.