

NSW Department of Education and Training
A PEER MEDIATION NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR SCHOOLS

A NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR SCHOOLS

Based on research and the experience gained from the Dispute Resolution Project (1995).

Prior to implementing a peer mediation program, a school needs to consider:

1. **the need for a peer mediation program** ie What evidence do you have that a program is needed in your school?

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2. **decision making processes for the program** ie What decisions will need to be made and who will make them regarding:

- recruitment and selection of mediators
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- disputes suitable for mediation
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- time for mediations
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- suitable location for mediations
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- administrative tasks to be undertaken
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- referral process for mediation
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- coordination of the program ie monitor, review and evaluate
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DET Dispute Resolution Pilot Project Report (1995)

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3. how to promote the program to the wider school community

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4. involvement and support for the program by the school executive and staff

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5. involvement and support for the program by the rest of the school community

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6. funding and resources (eg time allocation) to support the program

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7. links to the curriculum eg English, HSIE, PDHPE

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8. clear guidelines for where peer mediation fits into school structures including:

- *Student Welfare Policy*
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- conflict resolution procedures within the School Discipline Policy
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- other relevant policies or programs eg Anti-bullying Plan
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- Anti-racism and Anti-discrimination procedures
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- student leadership programs
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9. current research in peer mediation and conflict resolution education

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10. support available from regional and local networks

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**PEER MEDIATION is intended to build on existing school programs,
not to replace or supersede them.**