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

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

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

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

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

8. clear guidelines for where peer mediation fits into school structures including:
   • **Student Welfare Policy**
   • conflict resolution procedures within the School Discipline Policy
   • other relevant policies or programs eg Anti-bullying Plan

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.