



aiflam

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY LAW
ARBITRATORS AND MEDIATORS

AIFLAM - Chair's Report AGM 6 November 2025 Crystalbrook Byron Bay and online on Zoom

Board Planning for 2025

A meeting of elected State Representatives to the Board was held online in early January 2025. This identified the most pressing priority for the Board was to recruit for ongoing Secretariat staffing. We are delighted to have been able to engage the services of Judyanne Thrower as our Executive Officer and have discovered that she truly is capable of anything we have asked of her – including organising the Byron Bay Conference. Many thanks again to our member Leanne Kelly (from WA) who stepped in on a temporary basis last year.

New Website

This has long been an unfunded priority but after the planning day has now moved up to a funded project. We welcome suggestions and input from members!

Transition to AMDRAS

We transitioned as an accreditation body (RAP) on 1 July 2025 and have adapted and developed our mediation training courses to meet the new guidelines so we can roll out new training next year. We aim to deliver 2 basic mediation courses, the first in Hobart from 16 March 2026 and the second online. The Advanced Mediation training gives us an opportunity to roll out advanced training in reflective practice in small groups online and face to face. The AMDRAS Board has now released protocols for recognition of those already at an advanced or leading standard and AIFLAM will shortly enable existing members to apply for recognition. An exciting opportunity exists for AIFLAM to seek recognition of family lawyers as a category of mediation specialty. This will give clarity to the different roles of FDRPs and lawyer mediators.

Arbitration Developments

New regulations were introduced this year to streamline processes for Family Law Arbitration. By 30 June 2026, all registered arbitrators will need to submit a Statutory Declaration to AIFLAM to remain on the list of arbitrators we manage on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department, satisfying the requirements for CPD and relevant practice. We ran a successful arbitration registration course in June and are seeking expressions of interest for another Advanced Specialist Arbitration Course to be run in conjunction with Bond University.

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners

AIFLAM has made minor changes to its complaints scheme to comply with the requirements for FDRP Complaints. The Attorney-General's Department has been

working with complaint handling bodies and various lawyer complaint bodies have indicated that their schemes do not satisfy the requirements of the FDRP Regulations. AIFLAM's complaint scheme has been approved.

Board changes

After the constitutional amendment at last year's AGM, representatives from the FCFCOA, Family Law Section and Attorney-General's Department formally transitioned to observer status. We welcomed Vincent Tan as the new WA board member after the resignation of Colin Kaeser. Board members Chanel Martin from SA and David Harper from TAS did not seek re-nomination. Our FLS observer Jamie Burreket has been replaced by Alison James. I thank all of them for their contributions.

I also acknowledge the work of the sub-committees, in particular Arbitration Sub-Committee with Chair the Hon. Steven Strickland KC whom we welcome back to the Board as the elected SA representative.

The new AIFLAM Board at the conclusion of the AGM on 6 November 2025, elected unopposed:

- The Hon Colin Forrest SC - QLD representative
- Emma Swart - VIC representative
- Maurice Edwards - NSW representative
- Debra Parker - ACT representative
- The Hon Steven Strickland KC - SA representative
- Vincent Tan - WA representative
- Tessa Czislawski - NT representative
- Linda Connelly - TAS representative

Nominee observer representatives to the Board:

- Kathleen Denley - AG's Department
- Justice Jarrett - FCFCOA - Div 1
- Judge Suthers - FCFCOA Div 2
- Philip Looney KC - FLS
- Alison James - FLS

Emma Swart
5 November 2025