

Christopher Boyle - 2021 Election of MSB Directors

Mediation is an emerging and rapidly developing profession. Its institutions must seek a path through unexplored territory, and the Mediator Standards Board is central among those institutions.

It has been a privilege to serve as a director of MSB Ltd for the last three years. That it has been three years surprises me as I write it: I still feel fresh in the role and I learn from every meeting of the Board and any encounter with member organisations, mediators, or researchers. I now feel that I can make a significant contribution to the work of what has been an exceptionally harmonious board, in a way that complements the individual and deep capacities of the other directors.

The current review of the National Mediator Accreditation Standards and System is a very substantial task. The Board has engaged qualified consultants to research, report, and advise. But ultimately it is the Board that must consider the outcomes of that process and find the responses that best aid the development of the profession. As a member of both the Review and Research sub-committees of the Board, I am committed to doing what I can to find the best possible outcomes. Because that process will still take some time to complete, I believe that continuity of knowledge is important, and that the best value for the Board and the profession is that I continue to be a member.

Of course, the review is a part only of the work of the Board. There is much else that involves promoting the acceptance and use of mediation to governments, other professional bodies, and commercial and community organisations. For example, last year, the MSB made a submission to the Commonwealth Department of the Attorney General on whether Australia should accede to the *Singapore Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation*. It has recently been announced that Australia has become a party to the Convention. While success has many fathers, I might surmise that the MSB's submission—to which I contributed—played a part.

I hope that I can have the support of member organisations to continue to serve as a Director. If I am re-elected, I will of course always be available to discuss the work of the Board with member organisations and individual mediators.

Christopher Boyle

September 2021