

Community Mediation Services is available to all residents throughout the State of South Australia.

Mediation Services assist people in difficult situations to find positive solutions.

Our client services are free, confidential and unbiased.

The Service is committed to excellence in client services.

Community Mediation Services

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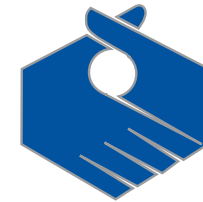
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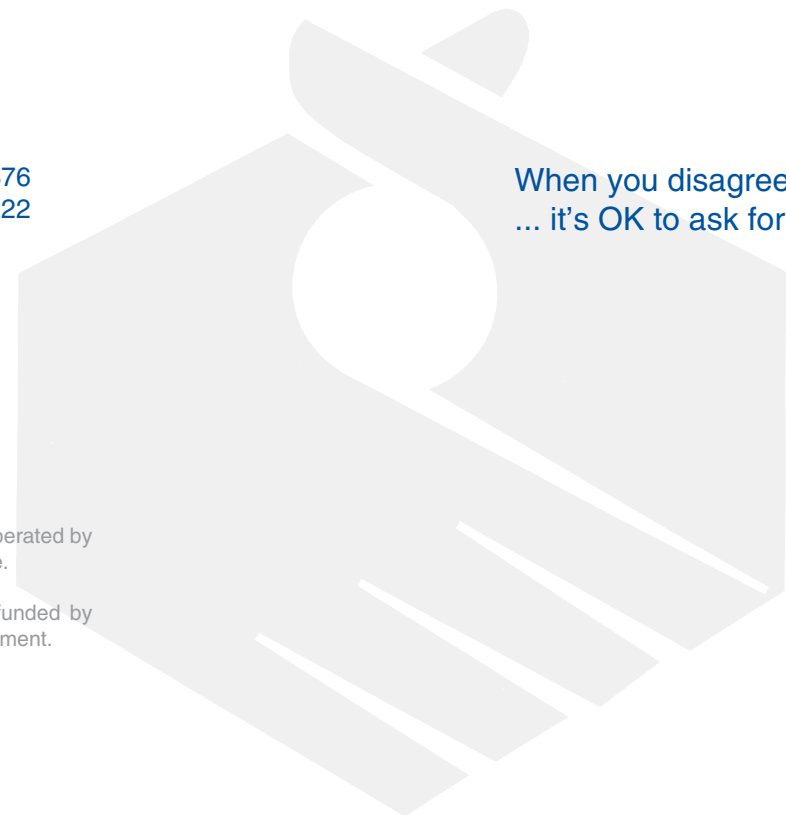
Community Mediation Services is operated by Southern Community Justice Centre.

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2009

Neighbourhood Disputes



When you disagree ...
... it's OK to ask for help



■ Kinds of Disputes

Community Mediation Services provide assistance in neighbourhood, community and other civil disputes.

Areas of assistance include:

- Abuse or Harassment
- Animals
- Clubs and Associations
- Community Groups
- Fences and Boundaries
- Landlord and Tenant
- Noise
- Personal Family Issues
- Property Damage
- Retaining Walls
- Strata Titles
- Trees and Vegetation
- Water Drainage

All matters are considered and referrals made where necessary.

Our Mediators are professionally qualified and skilled in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Interpreters can be arranged if necessary.

■ What We Do

In many cases mediation can provide a more effective solution than legal action through the courts. Mediation is more likely to enhance and preserve positive relationships between people.

Community Mediation Services can assist as follows:

- providing information about positive and constructive alternatives to the legal system.
- discussing the options available to **all** parties in the dispute.
- negotiations with the other party to discuss options to a resolution that will suit everyone.
- encouraging people to explore options together to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.
- referring to other agencies where appropriate.

We are available to talk to interested groups and offer training in conflict resolution and communication.

■ Benefits of Mediation

- Mediation is a voluntary process. People willing to explore positive options can work together to resolve problems.
- Mediation saves on lengthy and costly legal proceedings.
- Mediators are trained to be impartial and non-judgmental.
- Mediation sessions are confidential, conducted in private and can be arranged at a time to suit all parties.
- Mediation can contribute to the early resolution of problems, which assists in reducing stress and anxiety.
- All parties take responsibility for their role and are given the opportunity to resolve their own disputes.
- Disputes settled out of court usually result in friendlier ongoing relationships.