



# SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **NATIONAL AWARD FOR WA SUPREME COURT MEDIATION PROGRAM**

The Western Australian Supreme Court has won a national award for its innovative mediation program. The Court was successful in the “Courts and Tribunals ADR Group of the Year” category at the Australian ADR Awards 2017.

The Principal Registrar, Ms Larissa Strk, accepted the award on behalf of the Court at a ceremony in Sydney late last week.

Chief Justice Wayne Martin congratulated the Court’s registrars and judges for their commitment to the mediation program which has seen it develop into a national leader.

“This program relies on the expertise and energy of a dedicated group of registrars and judges, who ensure it helps people to resolve their issues without having the cost and delays of going to trial,” he said.

“Our mediators conducted over 520 mediations last year. The high rate of resolution saved the Court over 900 days of court time, and saved litigants a great deal of money, time and stress.

“The success of our mediation program means that only a tiny proportion (less than two per cent) of the civil cases commenced in the Supreme Court go to trial.”

The Supreme Court mediation program was established 25 years ago, and now mediation is conducted in almost every action in the Court’s civil jurisdiction. The mediators, who receive regular training, often work outside the Court’s usual operating hours to help parties resolve their dispute.

“Most disputes are a long time in the making, so it can take many hours to achieve a lasting resolution, and our mediators are prepared to make that effort,” the Chief Justice said.

“Parties are regularly brought back again and again where they need more time to come to an agreement.”

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