'Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade' | 11 - 15 September 2016 | Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The National Mediation Conference will be held from Monday, 12 – Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

The conference will be a vibrant forum appealing to a broad range of interests with three full days of concurrent presentations and ample opportunities for information sharing and networking.

In addition, there will be one day of pre-conference workshops on Sunday, 11 September 2016 at the Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach whilst the DR Research Forum will be held post-conference on Thursday, 15 September 2016 at Bond University. Attendance to the DR Research Forum is included in the cost of the conference.

The conference is seeking abstracts for presentations at concurrent sessions and sessions at the DR Research Forum. The Abstract Template, to be followed, enables you to complete your submission online via the conference website.

The theme of the conference is '*Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade*'. The Conference Organising Committee is particularly interested in presentations that support this theme. The concurrent sessions will be grouped into the following general streams and presenters should nominate which stream they consider appropriate, for example, their presentation, dialogue session, reflective process, workshop or poster.

As streams are dependent on the availability of rooms within the venue at any one time the broad streams may, for example, include:

- Court and Tribunals DR Processes
- DR Practices in the Workplace, Communities and with Multi Parties
- Family Mediation Elder Disputes, Wills and Estates, and FDR
- International Approaches to Peace and Conflict management
- Mediation Practice including Blended, Cultural, Non-traditional and Inclusive DR Practice
- Telephone, Online Dispute Resolution and New Technologies
- System Design, Public, Private and Statutory DR
- Training, Education, Standards Ethics and Reflective Practice

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

You will be asked to create an account to log into the Abstract Submission Portal and submit your abstract. Please keep a record of your login details as you will need to use these details to make any amendments to your abstract and register for the conference closer to the date.

Changes can be made to your abstract submission until **Tuesday, 15 March 2016**.

Please be sure to review all of the information and instructions regarding abstract submission prior to completing the submission in the portal. If you have any difficulty submitting your abstract online, please contact:

NMC 2016 Conference Organisers
International Conferences & Events Pty Ltd
Level 1, 100 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005
T: +61 8 6160 6187
E: program@mediationconference.com.au
W: www.mediationconference.com.au

- Read all instructions carefully and follow prompts. Make sure you complete all fields.
- It is usually helpful to develop your abstract description prior to starting the online form.
- Review your abstract carefully before submitting.
- Abstracts that do not meet the stated guidelines will not be reviewed.
- All abstracts are due by **Tuesday, 15 March 2016**

OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT ONLINE

The following information must be provided during the online submission:

- Abstract Title
- Requested Stream
- Presentation Type and Length
  - o 30 Minutes: Concurrent Presentation
  - o 30 Minutes: DR Research Forum
  - o 45 Minutes: Concurrent Presentation
  - o 60 Minutes: Round Table Presentation
  - o 90 Minutes: Workshop
- Abstract Author(s) Qualifications and Affiliations
- AV Requirements
- Short 50-word biography of presenting author(s), including experience in facilitation and presenting of materials

Due to limited program slots, the Conference Organising Committee may determine if necessary to assign your session a format or length of time different from the one you select.

You are also required to indicate the following within the official abstract submission:

Abstract
An abstract of 450-500 words is required. This abstract should be concise and if possible reflect the theme of the conference in the content as well as the process of the presentation. This abstract will be used in the online interactive program and conference app.

Are you willing to accept another session format?
Please note the alternate format may be a poster presentation.

Are you willing to be considered to be part of a multiple presentation session?
Multiple presentation sessions may consist of 45 or 60-minute sessions, for example, in which two presenters share their thoughts, expertise, innovations or a presentation on a common topic. Alternatively, any other type of solo or joint facilitation that involves participants is interesting, educative, practical and/or informative for use of a 45 or 60 min session.

Scheduling request for a particular date or time
Please note the Conference Organising Committee cannot guarantee any particular schedule requests, and will be subject to availability.

Presenter Contact Details (for all presenters listed in the abstract)

ABSTRACT REVIEW CRITERIA

The Conference Organising Committee will give priority to the following considerations:

1. Introduction of new and innovative concepts and processes
2. Importance of the subject-matter to the mediation or dispute resolution field or a sub-set within the field
3. The extent to which the theme *'Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade'* has been considered
4. The content and the process of the presentation and subject area should appeal to the diversity interests of the delegates.
5. Effective allocation of time to cover all proposed topics, adult education activities, creative experiences and the presenters ideals for the objectives and outcomes of their session

REVIEW PROCESS

Each abstract will be assigned to a subject area or stream for review. Members of the program sub-committee or the chairs of a particular stream will review all abstracts submitted in the stream and make a provisional recommendation. The Conference Organising Committee will review the stream chairs' recommendations and makes the final determination as to which abstracts will be included in the conference program.

Notification of decisions will be sent to presenters by mid-April 2016. Please do not contact the Conference Organisers prior to this date.

TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS

The Conference Organising Committee is accepting abstracts for presentations for each of the following conference components:

Concurrent Sessions
There are a number of slots for 30, 45, 60 and 90 minute presentations. The presentations may generally fall into one of the subject area "streams" which focus on the substantive areas identified. Alternatively, it may broadly be related or stand alone and will be allocated to fit best in the streams of the day.

Please indicate which timeslot you're are seeking. Note 30 minutes may be a standard paper presentation, a participative discussion or Q&A; 45 minutes enables a number of facilitators or presenters working with the participants to generate and exchange of ideas; 60 minute sessions may involve a round table of discussants to contribute 20 minutes each with a period set aside for questions and discussions or facilitated session that encourage exchange of ideas that challenge the interests and insights of the participants; 90 minutes may involve a workshop presentation that engages audience participation, practical skills or techniques for future applications'.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations are an opportunity for shorter, simultaneous and more personal presentations during networking sessions within the conference program for all attendees.

Poster presenters will prepare a large (800mm (W) x 1000mm (L)), visually appealing presentation which will serve as a springboard for informal contact discussion and Q&A. The presenter must remain available during the networking sessions to discuss and engage with interested participants and to permit attendees to read, review and ask questions about any presentation on an individual or small group basis.

The poster sessions will be scheduled between conference presentations in order to give everyone the opportunity to participate.

DR Research Forum Presentations

The DR Research Forum is directed at DR research and focussed on student, academic and consultant researchers and evaluators as well as policy makers and those who manage DR programs. The Forum will take place post conference on Thursday, 15 September 2016 at Bond University. The Conference Organising Committee is committed to offering presentation opportunities for the largest possible number of participants. Presentations are likely to be limited to 20-30 minutes each where appropriate.

IF YOUR ABSTRACT IS ACCEPTED

If technology is going to be used a copy of any proposed format, or PowerPoint, (although we encourage limited use of PowerPoints, in any presentation), will be required by **Wednesday, 31 August 2016**. Additional materials such as handout material, popular or academic articles, white papers, and bibliographies relevant to the discussed topic or facilitated session are the responsibility of the presenter to provide.

Presenters are encouraged to provide a written paper, if appropriate, to support your participative session. If you intend to provide a paper that you wish published on the conference website, you are required to provide this no later than **Friday, 29 July 2016**.

All materials submitted by the presenter will be posted to the conference website for the conference attendees in advance of the conference. Attendees will be provided with access to the conference website to enable them to review and print any documents they desire to bring with them to the conference.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

☐ Read and understand the Abstract Submission Guidelines

☐ Create an Abstract Submission Portal account

☐ Complete ALL questions in the online portal

☐ Submit your abstract using the official Abstract Template

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, 15 March 2016	Call for Abstracts submission deadline
Mid-April 2016	Notification of submission outcomes to authors
Thursday, 30 June 2016	Speaker registration deadline
Friday, 29 July 2016	Written paper deadline
Wednesday, 31 August 2016	Conference presentation and additional materials deadline

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?

All queries should be directed to the Conference Organisers:

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