

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### "WHITHER GO-EST THE INSTITUTE"

Your Institute was founded twenty years ago.

It has flourished well beyond the anticipation of those far sighted individuals who came together to create it.

We can proudly say that it has made its mark not only within Australia where it is the only organisation covering the complete ambit of non-curial Dispute Resolution processes, but internationally where the capacity and ability of our senior arbitrators is recognised as extremely high and our training qualifications and quality control systems are perceived as the best in the world.

The philosophy and resultant structure of the Institute as created by its founders has served it well.

But in 20 years the world has changed. Dispute Resolution particularly in the development of structured mediation and conciliation processes and the greater use of Special Referees by Courts are now in significant use. Arbitration still remains an appropriate commercial dispute resolution process with the advantages of finality and enforceability.

There is greater awareness of the demands of high standards of performance by individuals and organisations in fulfilling community roles and the increasing imperatives of legal duty and obligation.

Perhaps these changes mean that the Institute should change.

Should it be a learned society in the true sense or should it be a commercially driven service organisation or something in between?

What structure, what form or representation, what future should be planned?

The major review of the Institute presently being conducted must bear fundamentally in its decision making and application the long term development and benefit of the Institute.

To mould the Institute to meet real or imaginary problems today may very well create insurmountable problems or difficulties tomorrow.

The touchstone of standard is our present legal framework which has stood the test of time and may continue to serve the best interests of the Institute with little, if any, change. Perhaps it is only administrative procedures that should be changed.

The real challenge for all of us as members is to put foremost and apply with great dedication a constructive, considered and logical approach to the advancement of the Institute. To do otherwise will be self destructive.

If there is a genuine non self-interested desire by all those participating in the review process to advance the Institute, we will all benefit. If not we will all suffer.

**AA de Fina  
President**