

Applications for Mediators

The Accord Group has been appointed under section 25 of the Franchising Code of Conduct to manage the Office of the franchise sector Mediation Adviser.

The Accord group are inviting applications from commercial lawyers for inclusion on the panel of mediators. The panel will be restricted to 80 mediators nationally and will be reviewed every year.

To be eligible for inclusion on the panel, mediators must:

- have formal mediation training equivalent to your state or Territory standard for mediator solicitors,
- be prepared to carry out any mediations referred by the Office of the Mediation Adviser for \$1,000 per mediation for all

preparation and the first 4 hours, plus \$200 per hour per party for each addition whole hour,

- be prepared to conduct the mediations in accordance with the procedures the Mediation Adviser has established and in accordance with the Franchising Code of Conduct,
- have commercial experience

In addition to the above prerequisites, the following factors will also be relevant to our decision:

1. experience in the franchise sector,
2. number of commercial mediations the applicant has conducted,
3. number of franchise mediations the applicant has conducted.

4. number of mediations the applicant has conducted involving disputes between small and large businesses,
5. experience in dealing with multi-party mediations,
6. any other information the applicant considers relevant.

Resumes can be faxed or emailed to the Office of the Mediation Adviser on:

Fax: 02 9264 8268

Email: codedisputes@accordgroup.com.au

Change of Company Business Address

Australian companies must now notify ASIC of any changes in address of their principal place of business within 14 days of the change. Companies were previously not required to notify us of these changes, but had to include the information in their annual return.

Notifying us of these changes will mean increased certainty for small businesses

throughout Australia. It will help you know where the main work of the companies you're dealing with is being carried out, and help businesses wanting to deal with you be more confident for the same reason.

These changes flow from amendments to the Corporation Law which came into effect on 1 July 1998. One of the reforms

includes the requirement that companies notify ASIC when there is a change to the company's principal place of business, where that place of business is not the same as the registered office.

All companies have a principal place of business and are required to have a registered office. Sometimes these are at the same address. Other companies use a law firm or an accounting firm as the address of their registered office. But if a company only reports that it has a registered office, the Law views that this is also the principal place of business.

Where the principal place of business is separate from the registered office and you change that address you should notify ASIC within 14 days of the change. Late fees are charged for late notice, the same as for any other changes. To notify ASIC of a change to principal place of business, use form 203.

Annual Returns - a reminder

Australian companies should lodge their annual returns with ASIC by 31 January 1999. Avoid late fees by making sure your return is forwarded in good time.

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