

PEER MEDIATION IN SCHOOLS

Good practice guidelines for peer mediation initiatives

Good practice guideline	Criteria and examples
Program is embedded in the school culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful behaviour management programs already exist at the school, with peer mediation complementing conflict resolution initiatives • Integrated into the curriculum, with conflict resolution taught as part of PDHPE or other KLA • Provides a voluntary and non-punitive option for students to use in resolving conflict
Strong awareness and support for peer mediation in the school community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers support the initiative and consider peer mediation an option for conflict resolution • Parents are aware of the initiative and support their child's involvement in peer mediation • Students know who the peer mediators are and have trust in them as mediators
Peer mediation is implemented within an environment of strong student leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are acknowledged as having an important role to play in the structure and decision making process at the school • Student leaders play an active role within the school • Students are represented on school committees
Supportive school executive are willing/able to commit the necessary resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ongoing yearly budget for the initiative, including training for students and teachers, and period allocations for coordinator(s) • A comfortable, private and neutral mediation room • Ongoing promotion of the initiative via assemblies, posters, newsletters, P&C meetings, staff and welfare meetings
Adequate training for teachers and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers, coordinators and students receive specialist peer mediation training • Training is conducted in a neutral venue outside school • Training conducted together with other schools to share costs and promote a support network • There is a fair and transparent process for selecting peer mediators
Ongoing support for student mediators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic scheduling of mediations to avoid overusing the same mediators • Debriefs with student mediators after mediation sessions • Refresher training for students mediators to update skills • Scripts and guidelines are provided for student peer mediators
Committed school staff coordinate the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one coordinator is committed to making peer mediation work
Regular monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the extent to which the initiative achieves the intended "good practice guidelines"

Evaluation of the Peer Mediation Program in NSW Government Schools (2003)