

## DISPUTES FOR MEDIATION

### Disputes suitable for mediation in NSW schools

- Gossip and rumours
- Name calling
- Problems involving relationships between students
- Teasing
- Territorial power struggles
- Loss of property
- Disputes involving family members (at the school) eg siblings.

*Caution is needed in assessing the suitability of cases for peer mediation. Mediators have found that in some situations, where the conflict originated from home it was difficult to resolve.*

*Peer mediators reported that the easiest conflicts to resolve are those between otherwise good friends, as the parties to the conflict are generally eager to find a resolution and there is a good friendship base on which to build solutions.*

*As the nature of a conflict is not always evident at the outset, it is important that peer mediators are skilled at recognising when they are unable to assist.*

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

### Disputes NOT suitable for mediation

If during a mediation any disputant reveals information about any of the following situations, the mediation must be terminated and the coordinator must be informed.

- Sexual assault
- Violence involving a weapon
- Illegal substances
- Any other compulsory notification.

The coordinator must follow DET policy and procedures related to these matters. The training for student mediators includes procedures to follow when terminating a mediation.

(New South Wales Department of Education and Training *Peer Mediation - Introductory Module*, 1997)