### PEER MEDIATION IN SCHOOLS

#### Good practice guidelines for peer mediation initiatives

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| Program is embedded in the school culture | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • More than one coordinator is committed to making peer mediation work |
| Regular monitoring and evaluation | • 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)*