



*Australia's leading ADR organisation since 1975*

## Media Release

5 March 2009

### No dissent: Kirby elected to peak dispute resolution body

Retired High Court Justice, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG has been elected to the Council of Australia's leading alternative dispute resolution (ADR) organisation, the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA).

It is the first time in the Institute's history that a former High Court Judge has been elected to the position and one that gives prominence to the conduct of the Institute's affairs.

IAMA's Acting Chief Executive, Gianna Totaro, said the distinguished jurist had an historic connection with ADR and the Institute.

"In 1976 as the first Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission, Michael Kirby delivered the keynote address, *'The Law and Commercial Arbitration'* at our Inaugural Dinner in Canberra. The views he outlined in that paper are as relevant today as they were thirty plus years ago.

"Having regard for his visionary intellectual leadership and commitment to social and legal reform, it is a great honour and privilege for us at the Institute to welcome him back in his new role as a member of the IAMA Council. "

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG said, "Big things are happening worldwide and in Australia in the fields of arbitration and mediation. I will be keen to assist the Institute to ensure that Australia is out in front in the services it offers and not only for wealthy parties." Ends.

#### Media Contact

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#### About the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

[www.michaelkirby.com.au](http://www.michaelkirby.com.au)

#### About the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia

The Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia (IAMA) is the nation's largest, independent and most experienced alternative dispute resolution (ADR) organisation. Founded in 1975, IAMA facilitates efficient dispute resolution for all sectors, and provides services in all forms of ADR including arbitration, mediation, conciliation, adjudication and expert determination. It also plays a key role in industry and consumer schemes. With offices in all states and territories, it is involved in the professional development, training and accreditation of ADR practitioners across Australia and internationally. More details about IAMA can be found at [www.iama.org.au](http://www.iama.org.au).

The Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia

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