

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, alternative dispute resolution continues to serve an important role in promptly resolving matters and assisting the Courts to manage the disruption to case management caused by the pandemic.

ACICA GUIDE – MANAGING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19: USE OF ARBITRATION TO MITIGATE RISK

On 29 April ACICA released a guide for the business and legal community titled *Managing the Impact of COVID-19: Use of Arbitration to Mitigate Risk*. A copy of the Guide is available here:

<https://nswbar.asn.au/the-bar-association/publications/inbrief/view/08b347d11316f1372f3414b4c40f971f>

ONLINE PLATFORMS AND VIDEOCONFERENCING

Online platforms and videoconferencing technologies are crucial to ensure ADR can continue at this time. These include:

[NSW Bar Dispute Resolution Centre](#)

As of 1 April 2020, the Bar Dispute Resolution Centre has been open and available. The centre can provide video-conferencing services at no additional charge, as well as virtual courtroom arrangements using WebEx technology. Contact Margaret James on (02) 9231-3644 or email bookings@nswbardrc.com.au for further information.

[Australian Disputes Centre](#)

ADC Sydney is currently providing an online concierge service, [ADC Virtual](#), which is currently available for online dispute resolution that can be accessed from home or the office. Contact info@disputescentre.com.au for bookings or information.

[MODRON](#)

MODRON Spaces is a software platform that helps facilitate online dispute resolution and they currently offer a 14-day free trial. Visit their website for more information.

[Zoom](#)

Zoom is an online platform that facilitates online meetings and video conferences. The free package allows you to host a meeting of up to 100 participants for 40 minutes. There are also a variety of other packages determined by the features the tier includes at a cost.

[Microsoft Teams](#)

Microsoft Teams is a group chat program that allows you to work remotely while staying connected with members of your team. This is increasingly being used by the Courts.