

Code Conciliator's Annual Report

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Conciliator

I was appointed as Code Conciliator in 2017.

The Film Exhibition and Distribution Code has been preventing and resolving disputes between Australian distributors and exhibitors since 1998.

Training on the Code

Clause 18 of the Code states that distributors and exhibitors must provide training on the Code for relevant staff. In July I conducted an online training session for MPDAA members. Lori Flekser suggested improvements to the delivery of these training sessions, including providing case studies, short online training modules or videos and providing training material on the FEDCAC website for members to provide to new staff.

Through the efforts of Lori Flekser a training sub-committee was formed in 2024. The sub-committee includes myself, Lori Flekser and an Exhibitor and Distributor representative. This group has met once to discuss training options (including written material, short videos, etc) that would meet the requirements of Clause 18 of the Code.

Secretariat Enquiries

The Code Secretariat has historically taken enquiries from exhibitors and distributors about issues that might escalate into disputes, and assisted to resolve complaints at an early stage. The vast majority of enquiries have, over the years been resolved at the Secretariat level, avoiding the need for conciliation. The role of the Secretariat has been vacant for some time. Sainty Law, has continued to provide the administrative portion of that role. The 1300 phone line for the Secretariat has been forwarded to the Conciliator's office. My office has not received any calls during the period of this report.

I urge the Committee and the signatories to continue to support the Code, and fair and equitable dealings between exhibitors and distributors.

Number of Disputes

No enquiries were escalated to the Conciliator in the past 12 months.

Operation of the Code

The Code, which was created in 1998 at the instigation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, provides a framework for fair and equitable dealings between exhibitors and distributors.

Nina Harding

Film Exhibition and Distribution Code Conciliator

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