

# MEDIATION

**Mediation is a process that seeks to resolve complaints with the assistance of an impartial person – the mediator.**

The mediator does not decide who is right or wrong and does not tell either side what they must do. Instead, he or she helps those involved to discuss the issues and seeks to facilitate a mutually agreeable solution.

Our approach to mediation follows the steps set out below.

1. The CEO or MPIO will appoint an appropriate mediator to help resolve the complaint. This will be done under the direction of Gridiron Australia and in consultation with the complainant and the respondent(s). The mediator will be an independent person in the context of the complaint, however this does not preclude a person with an association with Gridiron Australia acting as mediator.
2. The mediator will talk with the complainant and respondent(s) about how the mediation will take place and who will participate. At a minimum, the mediator will prepare an agenda of issues to be discussed.
3. All issues raised during mediation will be treated confidentially. We also respect the rights of the complainant and the respondent(s) to pursue an alternative process if the complaint is not resolved.
4. If the complaint is resolved by mediation, where appropriate the mediator may seek to ensure the parties execute a document that sets out the agreement that has been reached. This agreement will be signed by the complainant and the respondent(s). We expect the parties involved to respect and comply with the terms of the agreement.
5. If the complaint is not resolved by mediation, the complainant may:
  - write to the CEO or MPIO to request that the CEO or MPIO reconsider the complaint; and
  - approach any relevant external agency, such as an anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission, to resolve the matter.

We recognise that there are some situations where mediation may not be appropriate, including:

- when the people involved have completely different versions of the incident; when one or both parties are unwilling to attempt mediation;
- when there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the people involved; matters that involve serious allegations.

