

disputes are sorted out. Mediation is a great way for people in disagreement to talk to each other. When people disagree about things, having a person who does not take sides can help people see things a bit more clearly.

The NNTT has mediators who understand that Indigenous decision-making processes are unique and that no one size fits all. We know that agreement-making and dispute management processes must represent the values of the group and the laws and customs of the native title holders. Sustainable solutions to native title disputes are only possible when they take into account culture, local needs and capacity.

Before the NNTT agrees to mediate, all the parties involved in the dispute will have to agree that they want to try mediation to manage or resolve the issues.

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Dispute resolution

The NNTT has mediators experienced in native title who can help you resolve your native title dispute.

If everyone agrees that they want to find a solution, NNTT mediators can work with the parties to design a culturally responsive and appropriate mediation process.

Mediation

Every conversation the parties have with the NNTT about the dispute is really important.

If everyone involved is well informed and fully prepared to discuss the issues, the right process can be developed for everyone to talk freely with the goal of finding agreement.

The mediation process should support your community's values, needs and cultural authorities. NNTT mediators can assist the parties to work together to agree on things like:

- choosing a culturally appropriate location in which to hold mediation meetings
- making sure the right people are at the table
- making time for consultation with decision-makers who are not at the table
- ensuring that any decisions or agreements are only made when the parties are clear about the process they are following and understand what they are agreeing to
- recognising the leadership, authority and direction that might be provided by Elders – especially if they are not involved in the actual mediation
- that men's and women's business may need to be managed differently and separately
- the time it might take for people to meet and discuss issues and make decisions.

The NNTT understands that the parties have the right to manage their own decisions and disputes. The right mediation process can get people talking together to identify and explore the causes of the dispute and decide on potential solutions.

NNTT mediators are committed to the principle of self-determination for all the parties who participate in mediation. We are committed to supporting PBCs and native title holders to find their own solutions to resolve or manage native title disputes.

You can contact the NNTT for any further information about the matters discussed in this fact sheet:

- **National Native Title Tribunal** – GPO Box 9973 in Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney
- If you need someone to contact you about a PBC matter, email PBcassist@nntt.gov.au or telephone (07) 3304 5000.
- Information is also available at www.nntt.gov.au

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