



The Law Society  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

# 2026 Mock Mediation Competition

Quarter Final

Scenario

# Background

## Party A – Quinn and Kai

## Party B – Vaida and Yi

Quinn, Kai, Vaida and Yi all completed year 10 together last year at the local high school. Quinn and Kai have been at school together since kindergarten, whilst Vaida and Yi started at the high school in year 7 when their families moved into the area.

Due to their families' religious and cultural backgrounds, they have all had very strict upbringings which originally led them to bond as friends. These rules were particularly hard at high school as they were often not allowed to stay out late or enjoy certain activities their peers did. Because of this, they became extremely close and spent a lot of time together.

Over time, their parents got to know each other and began trusting the group of friends. This meant that at the end of year 9 the parents agreed that the group could go for an overnight hiking camping trip in the local National Park. They dropped the friends off on Saturday morning and picked them up on Sunday afternoon.

The friends enjoyed their hike but never told their parents that there had been an incident at a camping ground on the Saturday night where other hikers had offered them alcohol. They had all had a sip before deciding it was a bad idea, and proceeding to hike an additional 3km in the dark to the next camp site. When their parents had asked why their trackers were off overnight, they told them they were just conserving battery and forgot to turn them back on. They all agreed on this story so that their parents wouldn't stop them going away again.

They all play in the school basketball teams, but Vaida and Yi have proven to be very good. They often train in the Regional and State teams and travel for games. Quinn and Kai have felt a little left out and often upset when Vaida and Yi ditch them for basketball plans and to hang out with other friends.

In year 10, as a reward for doing well at school, their parents suggested the friends should spend a two-night trip down the coast. They booked a unit at a popular coastal town. The cost for each of them was \$750. This was made up of \$500 each for the accommodation and \$250 extra each to pay the large bond the unit property manager wanted them to pay because they were four school kids taking on accommodation.

Quinn was responsible for gathering the money and making the payment, so they were the main contact on the booking.

# Incident

Quinn's mother drove them all down on Friday, and booked herself accommodation in another part of town.

After checking in, the group went to the beach. Vaida didn't want to swim, so sat on the beach to look after the others' bags and took pictures for social media. Later that evening, they ordered takeaway pizza and played board games. Quinn's mother checked in on them at 8pm, staying for about an hour.

The next day, the friends explored the town and headed to the beach again. Whilst there, some of Vaida and Yi's basketball friends arrived and hung out with them for a while. The basketball group seemed keen to have a party that evening, and they all agreed to meet at 6pm, conscious that they would need to return to the unit for Quinn's mother's nightly check-in. This earned a few giggles from the basketball friends.

Whilst getting ready for the party, Quinn and Kai were surprised by how much effort Vaida and Yi were putting into their appearance. They were even more shocked when Vaida and Yi also produced bottled vodka and juice to take with them.

At the party with the basketball friends, whilst Quinn and Kai enjoyed their soft drinks, they noticed everyone else seemed to be sipping their drinks like they were alcoholic.

At 7.45pm, Quinn and Kai ushered Vaida and Yi back to the unit before Quinn's mother arrived. They managed to pull themselves together until Quinn's mother left but were clearly very drunk. Soon after, the basketball group turned up. They produced a lot more alcohol, turned the music up really loud, and made everyone play drinking games which ended up in a drunken game of full-contact basketball.

Quinn and Kai tried their best to clean up after everyone and keep the party under control, but at about 11:30pm, the police turned up following a noise complaint from the neighbours. The basketball group, Vaida and Yi all then left, leaving Quinn and Kai to clean up the unit. They did their best, but there were spills on the carpet that wouldn't come out, an expensive looking lamp was broken, and there was some damage to the bedroom doors.

Vaida and Yi came home later that night and, in the morning, pretended like nothing had happened. When Quinn and Kai asked them to help clean up more, Vaida and Yi just said, 'that is what the bond is for' and ensured they were outside when Quinn's mother arrived so that she didn't come inside the unit.

# Aftermath

Quinn's mother was not overly concerned by how quiet Vaida and Yi were on the way home and believed that they were just tired having been up late playing board games.

When home, Quinn received an email from the agent saying the cost of cleaning the carpet to remove the stains, replacing the lamp and the patching the door was \$1,550, so they would be losing their bond of \$1,000 and also needed to pay an extra \$550, otherwise they would be taken to the small claims court.

Panicked, Quinn messaged the group. Kai replied quickly suggesting they all contribute \$140ish each to get it over and done with and ensure their parents didn't find out. Vaida and Yi saw the message but didn't reply for a week. In this time, Kai had transferred \$150 to Quinn.

Quinn sent another message to follow up and Vaida responded saying, "Look, I don't have the money and there is no way a few spills cost that much to fix up. Just tell them to take us to court, my parents will back me".

Quinn and Kai were furious and highlighted how angry their parents would be when they found out about the party and the fact they'd gone out drinking. Vaida responded by saying that 'real friends' wouldn't rat them out like that, and that they really needed that bond money back for new basketball shoes.

When Yi finally responded to confirm that they didn't have the money to contribute either, Kai reluctantly offered to make up some of the difference.

Quinn made the payment to the agent, and their parents didn't find out anything.

Over the rest of the school holidays, the friends only met up twice to make sure their families wouldn't get suspicious that something that happened, but they were awkward meetings and there was a clear divide between Quinn and Kai and Vaida and Yi.

When they returned to school at the start of year 11 and resumed school basketball training, things started to get really heated between the two groups at training. Their coach noticed that they were at odds with each other but became really concerned when Kai 'accidentally' thumped Vaida against a wall whilst completing an attacking movement in a drill and Quinn had to pull Kai off Vaida.

The next day, the coach talked to each of them individually and then called the four together to say that they needed to attend mediation to resolve the animosity between them, ensure they can work as teammates, and potentially attract the scholarships they need to go to university at the end of year 12.