



The Law Society
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

2026 Mock Mediation Competition

Semi Final

Scenario

Background

Party A – Darci and Mika

Party B – Lucky and Carter

Darci, Mika, Lucky and Carter are all in Year 11 at the local high school where they have been together since they all joined the school in Year 7 from three different feeder primary schools. Mika and Darci are non-identical twins.

Darci and Mika came from a primary school with a reputation for having a lower socio-economic background. Raised by their single father, they are used to fending for themselves whilst their mechanic dad is working long hours and getting their school uniforms second hand.

Lucky and Carter came from two independent primary schools. Lucky came from a religious school where their mum and dad also worked and has a very strict upbringing where education and religious devotion is prioritised. Carter came from an independent primary school in the Steiner tradition, and their parents prize independent thinking and creativity of expression.

Despite their very different upbringings, Darci, Mika, Lucky and Carter initially bonded over their love of all thing's motorsport – whether it be F1, Rallying, stock cars or motorbikes – and have been firm friends ever since (until recently). In particular, Darci and Carter were best friends, and Lucky and Mika were best friends – and the four were a formidable team.

Darci and Mika got jobs at a local fast-food restaurant when they were exactly 14 years and 9 months old (year 9); and, through their friendship, Lucky and Carter got jobs at the same place in November and December last year respectively. Lucky and Carter weren't able to start working until later because their parents wouldn't countenance them having jobs until then.

In Year 10, the friends were instrumental in convincing a new teacher, Ms Taylor, a former robotics engineer, to develop a robotics engineering club and ensure that the engineering subject was taught in years 11 and 12. The friends are competing in the Robotics R Us competition for 2026. This competition involves building a robot from a pre-set kit of items to compete against other teams. The initial kit costs \$2,500, but the team were able to obtain a community grant through the local engineering corporation to pay for it. They have progressed from regional to state levels in the competition, and they will be competing in the Asia-Pacific trials in Brisbane in November 2026. The cost of attending the Asia- Pacific trials in Brisbane is \$2,500 per team member. If they advance beyond the trials to the world finals in Hawaii, that will be an additional \$5,000 each.

Incident

The incident revolves around what happened in the lead up to the State level for the Robotics R Us competition and their work at the same fast-food restaurant in town.

Although the team of friends had progressed easily through the regional rounds of the competition in late May, their robot had sustained a fair amount of damage that needed to be fixed for the state round in early July. Carter was on a family holiday in south-east Asia for the whole of June, so wasn't available. Lucky also seemed to 'ghost' the others by not answering messages and using work as an excuse. So, Mika and Darci mainly worked with their dad at home to fix the robot and implement some new improvements. The changes cost them \$440 in total, and whilst Carter sent \$100 to them to cover some costs, Lucky provided no response and didn't offer or send any money. They did, however, all agree to meet two hours before the start of the state round to make sure everyone knew what was going on with the robot.

Because the turnaround time was so short on getting the robot prepared for the state round, Mika and Darci had to reduce their school holiday shifts at the restaurant from 5 x five hour shifts a week to just 2 each. This meant that Mika and Darci didn't have as much money to travel and stay at the hotel for the state round (at the end of the school holidays) with Carter and Lucky, who went for a couple of days.

The competition was on the last Friday of the school holidays. Carter and Lucky arrived on Wednesday and sent messages to Mika and Darci asking them to try to arrive on Thursday so they could prep as a team. Mika and Darci replied that they couldn't because their dad was driving them on Friday morning. Carter responded, "Well that just sucks, how are we meant to learn how to use the thing since you have changed it?".

Mika and Darci's dad took the day off work to drive them up early on Friday morning, taking around 4 hours, and then drove them back after the competition. Unfortunately, they ran into traffic on the way there and arrived with only 10 minutes to run in with the robot and quickly set themselves up for the first round. Carter seemed angry with them and said, "Leaving it a bit fine, aren't you?". To which Mika replied, "Well some of us aren't loaded with money and have to make do."

There were five rounds. The friends' robot won the first four state rounds easily, and Mika and Darci were really pleased with their design changes. But Carter and Lucky sat back and didn't do much with the robot. It took two remotes to work the robot and Mika and Darci ran both remotes in each of the first three rounds. In round four Mika and Darci offered Carter and Lucky the remotes, but both just said, "don't worry, you do it".

Between round four and the grand final round, Carter and Lucky disappeared altogether leaving Mika and Darci to do the maintenance work on the robot. When they turned up just before the round started, Mika asked them where they were. Lucky just shrugged and Carter said, "let's just get this in the bag, we will tell you later".

In round five, their robot got very badly damaged and it seemed they had lost. However, the judges then disqualified their opponent for adding in prohibited components between rounds and receiving outside assistance. It seemed like a hollow victory for Mika and Darci and they didn't celebrate much. Lucky and Carter, however, seemed really pleased, hugging each other and saying, "we did it!".

Mika and Darci's dad then insisted that they had to leave to head home.

Aftermath

Whilst Mika and Darci had to leave with their dad, Lucky and Carter stayed for the weekend and went to a university open day together.

On Monday, at the start of the term, the principal made a school-wide announcement about the success of the team, and Ms Taylor asked the four to meet at lunch to sort out their plans for the national round in Brisbane.

At that meeting Ms Taylor said, “congratulations for all the amazing work and effort you put in over the school holidays to get the robot ready. Now we just need to sort out the robot’s glitches, and each raise \$2,500 by October to pay for the trip to Brisbane.”

Mika interrupted and said, “What work did Carter and Lucky put in Miss? We did all the work over the holidays with our dad and paid for the parts whilst Carter was on holiday and Lucky just checked out.” Darci agreed, “Yes and they didn’t even operate the remotes or service the robot when we got to the competition. I don’t think they deserve to go to nationals with that attitude.”

Carter responded with, “We wouldn’t even have made it to nationals without what we did for you. Those changes you made to the robot were rubbish - we only won because the other team were cheats.” Lucky said, “It doesn’t matter anyway, I wouldn’t want to go to nationals with you all. You were late, you excluded me from everything over the holidays and then wouldn’t give us the remotes or take our ideas on board at the competition. You can all just get lost.” Lucky stormed out and Carter followed.

The robot will need another \$500 worth of parts and 35 hours work to fix it before nationals and all four friends have their Year 11 preliminary finals this term too. There is currently no plan in place as to who will do what.

That afternoon, all four friends were rostered at the restaurant where they worked. Mika was the Junior Manager on duty. Carter and Lucky were on cooking, but were not communicating with Mika or Darci, leading to complaints from customers on the wait times and rushed food presentation. Eventually it caused so many issues that Mika, as the Junior Manager, told Carter and Lucky to go home early. Lucky then reported Mika to the store manager for playing favourites and being impossible to work with.

As it turns out, the store manager and Ms Taylor are friends, and they talked about the situation whilst they were walking their dogs early the next morning. They agreed that Ms Taylor would arrange for the friends to have a mediation and sort out their differences so that they could successfully go to nationals and continue to work together at the fast-food restaurant.