



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

April Newsletter 2022

In the spirit of reconciliation, The Australian Local Government Women's Association Victorian Branch acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge and respects their unique ability to care for Country, and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



It was wonderful to catch up with so many women from across the country at the National conference in Queensland.

There are various interesting initiatives being undertaken across the states as well as stories that make you realise we are incredibly fortunate, to be able to make a difference in the lives of our communities. One of our fellow Councillors who inspired us all was Shirley Garlett, Councillor for Timber Creek ward in NT - Timber Creek is located 286km southwest of Katherine along the Victoria Highway and is 195km east of the Western Australian border along the same highway.

Shirley was first elected in 2017 and then again in 2021. This was the first conference outside of her state that she had ever been to. It had taken her 2 days of travel just to get here. We all knew, not only that she really wanted to be here, but also that she really wanted to connect with other women in local government. The stories and experiences we all shared were amazing and I am grateful for all the learnings I have taken away.

Our State conference is now open for bookings and we can't wait to see you all and reconnect in Shepparton in June.

Warm regards,
Cr Kylie Spears
ALGWA Vic President

April Online Forum

Thursday 28 April 2022 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join an open conversation about the challenges of becoming pregnant whilst in an elected role. This online forum is about starting a conversation about an issue that is relevant as more women become elected whilst in childbearing age.



[April Online Forum Tickets here](#)



Bookings are Open

What to expect from this year's Emerging Creatively ALGWA Vic Conference

Tickets are out now for the 2022 ALGWA Victoria Conference in Greater Shepparton Sunday 5 and Monday 6 June, go to , www.visitshepparton.com.au/algwa-vic-conference-2022 to secure early bird tickets today!

This year we will be *Emerging Creatively* and invite you to join ALGWA Vic and Greater Shepparton City Council for a conference reflecting on the challenges and opportunities which have arisen from the past year.

Already booked your ticket? Make the trip easier, book your accommodation and extend your stay. Greater Shepparton has a number of unique places to stay. There's a diverse range of hotel and motels, comfortable self-contained accommodation, all relaxing and secure locations to suit all lifestyles. Find out more www.visitshepparton.com.au/stay

ALGWA Vic Cultural Project Submission

As promised ALGWA Vic has submitted a submission to the State Government's Local Government Culture Project with input from its membership. The Culture Project has an objective, *'to make local government a safer space for women and to encourage more women to nominate for election as the Government aims to reach gender parity in local councils by 2025.'*

- Respectful relationships training
- Consistent template for Codes of Conduct across all councils
- Extending ALGWA Vic's award-winning Mentoring Program
- Focus on 'continuous improvement' not just 'corrective action'
- Mandatory candidate training to be overhauled, modular and to begin sooner in the election cycle
- Equitable training and professional development budgets across all councils

We feel strongly that the review panel should examine the 'Set the Standard: Report of the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces' by Commissioner Kate Jenkins, as many of the structural and systemic barriers to women's participation and safety in those environments, are prevalent in local government.

[Read the submission here](#)

Who is joining the Intern Team?

Commencing 23rd March 2022



Hi,

My name is Georgia and I am currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Criminology at Deakin University studying in my final year.

I am so excited to be commencing an internship with ALGWA Vic as part of the social media team. I am extremely passionate about policy work and the political sector within Australia, and am eager to pursue advocacy work for women working within politics today.

I look forward to connecting and engaging with like minded individuals, within the supportive and empowering community that is ALGWA Vic.

Hi Everyone,

My name is Bianca Coppa and I am a second-year student at Swinburne University. I am studying a Bachelor of Social Science, Major in Behavioural Studies.

I am thrilled to start my internship with ALGWA Vic and will be working on the Gender Parody across Victoria Project. I aspire to a career in politics and am very passionate about gender studies and social justice issues.

I look forward to connecting with you all!

