



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**
VICTORIAN BRANCH

Patron Honourable Linda Dessau, AC, Governor of Victoria
President Cr Kylie Spears : 0436003660
P.O. Box 603 Templestowe 3106, Victoria
Correspondance to Executive Officer admin@algwa.com.au

 ALGWA-Victoria  @Algwavic  /algwa_vic

Australian Local Government Women's Association Vic Branch Tackles Culture And Conduct

Political culture, conduct, sexual harassment and women's political empowerment are all hot topics and all will be on the agenda at the Australian Local Government Women's Association Victorian Branch conference.

A record number are expected to attend this year's annual Victorian conference held at the City of Yarra from April 30 to May 1.

2020 marked the centenary of the first woman elected to local government in Victoria. Following the election of Mary Rogers in November 1920 to Richmond Council, more than 2000 women have followed in her footsteps, although the road has not always been straight or easy.

In the centenary year, the highest percentage of women (43.8%) in any Australian state were elected to Victorian councils in October 2020.

Whilst Victoria might be leading the country in female local government representation, there remain huge cultural, conduct and retention issues. Similar to federal politics, local government needs to change its structures and cultures to move in the 21st century to continue to attract and retain women at the decision-making table.

The conference - Culture, Conduct & Retention - the Next 100 Years of Women in Local Government will provide insights and perspectives into the current state of play and the way forward.

Among those speaking in the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner, Dr Niki Vincent, Winsome McCaughey, representatives of the Victorian Auditor General's Office talking about the recent report on sexual harassment in local government. The conference will be opened by the Local Government Minister Hon Shaun Leane MP, and delegates will also hear from the Shadow Local Government Spokesman David Morris MP and Dr Samantha Ratnam from the Greens.

"The ALGWA conference will be a celebration of the past one hundred years but will also lay the path for the next 100 years building on the increased number of women elected in 2020. We know that culture and conduct impact women's participation in public and political life; local government is no exception. said ALGWA Victorian President Cr Kylie Spears.

"The conference is a great networking and learning opportunity for both officers and councillors in a safe and supportive environment. The discussions are topical and will both inform and empower participants," she added.

For further information, contact ALGWA Vic Executive Officer Cr Michelle Kleinert, on 0400 902 822