



## Media Release

20 December 2021

The Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria (ALGWA Vic) is delighted to have won the 2021 National Awards for Local Government, Women in Local Government Award.

The National Award was for ALGWA Vic's *Mentoring for Success*, which supports newly elected women Councillors by connecting them with mentors who are experienced Councillors or former Councillors.

*Mentoring for Success* is the largest formal mentoring program for elected Councillors in Australia, involving 60 women mentees from more than 50 Victorian Councils.

ALGWA Vic President Cr Kylie Spears said she was very excited the program had been recognised nationally for the positive results it has achieved for women in local government in Victoria.

"We know the learning curve is incredibly steep when you step onto Council," said Cr Spears. "But guidance and support from an experienced mentor provides practical ways to navigate the intricacies of local government.

"The program has expanded as newly elected Councillors experienced the value and importance of the program. Initially the Victorian State government funded the program for 20 women. The massive demand led to an expanded program with 60 women matched to experienced women mentors," added Cr Spears.

As we are moving through the evaluation stage, we are finding that many of the women want the valuable mentoring support to continue beyond the initial 12 months. We are now exploring ways to ensure that this can happen." The 2020 program was based on the highly successful smaller 2016 program for 20 new Councillors.

ALGWA Vic is a non-party political, **local government organisation** open to all women (and men) interested in supporting women's success in local government. Its members are Victorian Councils, Councillors and Council Officers who recognise the importance of gender equality. ALGWA Vic's executive are volunteers.

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For further information please contact Cr Kylie Spears 0436 003 660