



VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Business Partnerships Forum Places Fill Fast

Places for a forum of Local Governments, major businesses and community organisations are filling fast.

The **Piecing it together: local government's role in community business partnerships Forum** is sponsored by the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the City of Maribyrnong and the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA). It will be held on Wednesday 12th August at Rydges on Swanston in Melbourne.

"With over 100 registrations already confirmed, the exploration of practical tips and lessons for local governments and community organisations contemplating partnerships with businesses, has clearly struck a chord," the VLGA's Acting CEO Darren Ray said.

"A Practical Guide will be launched at the Forum so I encourage interested local government, community organisation and business identities to snap up the final spots," Mr Ray added.

"Maribyrnong City Council is proud to be presenting this forum in association with the VLGA. Engaging with business can bring a range of valuable skills and resources to our community as seen through Council's partnerships with companies including IBM and NAB. The "Piecing it Together" forum is a great opportunity to generate discussion about what the role of local government can be in creating successful outcomes for business and the community," according to Maribyrnong's Mayor, Cr Michael Clarke.

Large corporates such as IBM and NAB will also participate in the Forum.

“ Local government is well placed to assist business to connect with small to medium sized not for profit organisations. Working in partnership with Maribyrong City Council has opened up a variety of opportunities for IBM employees to volunteer their skills in the western suburbs, according to Andrew Hocking, Manager Corporate Citizenship & Affairs, IBM Australia/New Zealand.

“ From mentoring longterm unemployed to basic IT training and delivering science projects in schools, the link with Maribyrong Council has been significant in connecting IBM employees with the community. The upcoming forum will be a great platform to further consider the roles of government, business and community in creating successful partnerships, " Mr Hocking added.

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**For more information or a registration form:
Contact the VLGA on 03 9349 7999 or vlga@vlga.org.au**