



WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT COALITION STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

C/O VICTORIAN LOCAL
GOVERNANCE
ASSOCIATION (VLGA)
SUITE G06
60 LEICESTER STREET
CARLTON VIC 3053
WEBSITE: www.women.vlga.org.au
TELEPHONE: +61 3 9349 7999
FACSIMILE: +61 3 9347 9933

MEDIA RELEASE SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Key advances in women's political equality in Victorian Councils and communities will be in the spotlight on Wednesday, 20 October 2010 at the 4th biennial Local Government Women's Charter Awards.

This year's Awards to Councils and community groups will recognise initiatives in gender equity, diversity and active citizenship – the three principles of the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter.

Wellington Shire Councillor Beth Ripper who chairs Victoria's women's participation coalition says, "This year's awards are particularly significant for two reasons: 2010 is the National Year of Women in Local Government, and for the first time the contribution of a young woman community activist will be recognized in the inaugural \$1000 Sally Isaac Award"

The Women's Charter is endorsed by the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Government Association and the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition. . The Charter Awards enforce the message of women's political equality and celebrate 2010 YoWiLG. All Victorian Councils have been invited to formally endorse the Charter.

Cr. Ripper says it is encouraging that over 40 of Victoria's 79 Councils have already endorsed the Charter. To harness this interest the Coalition, with the assistance of a State Government Women's Leadership Grant, will now encourage all Councils to prepare gender action plans for women's political participation in the lead up to the 2012 Council elections.

The Awards cocktail party at Northcote Town Hall from 5.30 – 7.30 is generously hosted by Darebin Council.

The Coalition is a nonparty political partnership formed in 1996 between Victorian Local Government peak, philanthropic and community organization and individual women. It members are Local Government Professionals, Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's coalition, Women's Planning Network, Women's Electoral Lobby, Victorian Women's Trust, Women's Planning Network and the YWCA.

Sally Isaac was an inspiring, energetic and dedicated young woman manager in Local Government with outstanding leadership skills who made a unique contribution to the goals of women's participation and women's equity whilst employed at the VLGA and at the City of Yarra. Sally Isaac died in 2009 and the Sally Isaac Award honours her legacy.

For comment contact Cr Beth Ripper, Chair WPILGC on telephone 0427 456 094