



Victorian Local Governance Association

Suite G06, 60 Leicester St Carlton 3053
Phone: (03) 9349 7999 FAX: (03) 9347 9933

22 September 2010

Dear Councillor,

The 2010 National Year of Women in Local Government has also marked the start of the VLGA's current campaign to support increased participation of women at all levels of local government leading up to the next elections in 2012 and beyond. This includes women as mayors, candidates for election, active local government citizens, and as senior employees and CEOs of local government.

At the start of this year, the number of women elected to mayoral positions in Victoria dropped to 16, the first time that numbers have fallen below 20 since 2001 and the lowest number for 10 years. The VLGA Women's Advisory Group encourages you to consider your interest in standing for mayor. Former women mayors agree that the role offers great opportunities for making a difference for your community, positive role modelling for women and girls, supporting the team to work more effectively together and leadership development.

In many local governments, councillors are already considering who should be the next mayor and whether they wish to stand. If you have not done so already, now is the time to express your interest. Whether the end result is becoming mayor or simply experiencing the 'candidacy' process, it is a valuable experience.

Some of the benefits of VLGA membership include access to:

- one-to-one confidential advice
- one-to-one confidential discussion about processes and strategies best suited to your situation
- expert consultation for your council around teamwork and good governance issues
- specially designed workshops and information sessions suited to your council's needs

If you would like to know more, please contact us:

Darren Ray, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

T: 9349 7999 E: darren@vlga.org.au

Linda Bennett, Women's Policy Officer

T: 9349 7904 E: linda@vlga.org.au

Ron Exiner, Director Governance

T: 9349 7999 E: ron@vlga.org.au

I warmly invite you to phone, email or request a face to face chat about how we can support you in your role as councillor and potentially as a mayor.

Best wishes for the rest of this very significant National Year of Women in Local Government.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Coral Ross'.

Cr Coral Ross
Chair, VLGA Women's Advisory Group