



Victorian Local Governance Association

Suite G06, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Phone (03) 9349 7999 • Fax (03) 9347 9933

Email vlga@vlga.org.au • Web www.vlga.org.au

30 September 2011

Dear Councillor,

Women mayors in Victorian local governments

Last year the VLGA wrote to you seeking your support for increasing the participation of women at all levels of local government leading up to the next elections in 2012 and beyond. Our particular focus at this time of year is on the potential of women councillors as mayors.

Over 55 Victorian local governments have now endorsed the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter, a campaign of the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition partners.

Many councils are creating action plans to put gender equity, diversity and support for women's active citizenship into practice. This includes inviting and garnering support for opportunities for the mayoralty, as candidates for election, as active local government citizens, and as senior employees and CEOs of local government.

At the start of 2011, the number of women elected to mayoral positions in Victoria rose slightly to 18, an increase from 16 in the previous year when numbers fell below 20 for the first time since 2001 – the lowest for 10 years.

The VLGA encourages women councillors to consider their interest in standing for mayor, and encourages men councillors to support the possibility of women mayors. 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.

Councillors are now considering who should be the next mayor and whether they wish to stand. For women who are thinking about putting their hand up, whether the end result is becoming mayor or simply experiencing the 'candidacy' process, it is a valuable experience.



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Members of the VLGA can take advantage of 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:

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Ron Exiner, Director Governance

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

Best wishes for the remainder of this very busy year.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Samantha Dunn
President