

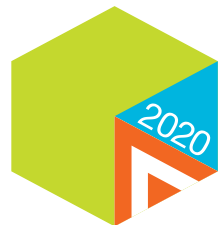


Australian Government



NATIONAL AWARDS

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



2020 Winners

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – BUILDING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

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Message from the Hon Mark Coultson MP

Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government



Local government is a trusted delivery partner of the Australian Government and has a critical role in delivering vital services and ensuring quality of life for Australian communities. It provides frontline services to citizens. When people want action in their community, councils are often the first door they knock on.

This year has been one of the most difficult years we will experience. We have already faced drought, bushfires, flooding, and now a pandemic. Innovation and dedication to delivering quality services to local communities around Australia has never been more important.

For the past 34 years, the annual National Awards for Local Government has showcased the best and the brightest projects being undertaken by local government, and demonstrates the innovative and new ways local governments are delivering for their residents.

The National Awards for Local Government support significant projects that add value to local government and their regions and provide tangible benefits to residents. They celebrate projects that demonstrate best practice, deliver better outcomes for communities, and have the potential to be rolled out across the country to make a meaningful difference.

I would like to congratulate the category winners for their stand-out ideas and innovation across a broad range of important responsibilities. They each deserve congratulations, celebration and recognition beyond their local community, which they receive through the National Awards for Local Government.

Amongst the category winners, there are some powerful entries that will inspire new, innovative ways of supporting local communities.

The 2020 National Award for Excellence in Local Government went to the City of Mandurah, WA, for their Entrepreneurial Capacity Building Program. This winning entry demonstrates a project that delivers significant outcomes with an innovative approach that contributes to regional growth.

With such a strong field of contenders for the National Award for Excellence in Local Government two additional projects were given Highly Commended Awards: the Busselton Margaret River Airport Development Project, City of Busselton, WA and the Youth United Against Family Violence, City of Greater Dandenong, VIC.

I am also pleased to present the inaugural Minister Coultson Award for Progressive Community Leadership to Manjimup Transformed – Aspirational Leadership, Shire of Manjimup, WA.

To each winner, each local government, each Australian community, my sincere thanks for your hard work, your ongoing enthusiasm and your leadership, which will be critical as we work together to help our communities recover and thrive.

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About the National Awards for Local Government

The National Awards for Local Government (NALG) are an annual celebration of the best of Australian local government achievements. The Awards highlight innovative and resourceful solutions implemented by local governments to make a difference to their local communities.

Administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications with the support of key sponsors, the NALG promotes the significant role of the local government sector in delivering targeted quality services to Australians in urban and regional communities. Through the promotion of excellence in service delivery, the Awards showcase community solutions that directly respond to community need, overcome barriers and feature new, advanced and creative thinking.

Categories

There are nine Award categories that cover a range of projects that local government is delivering for their communities. These categories reflect the kind of community outcomes that are creating stronger, more resilient and more cohesive communities where people are safe and living their best lives. The categories are:

- Arts Animates Award – Creating Vibrant and Cohesive Communities through the Arts
- Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure
- Contributing to Regional Growth
- Disability Access and Inclusion

- Excellence in Road Safety
- Multicultural Australia—Cohesive Communities
- Addressing Violence Against Women and Their Children
- Promoting Indigenous Recognition
- The Susan Grace Benny Award – Women in Local Government

Top Tier Awards

In addition to the category awards there are also two top tier awards that are awarded at the end of the NALG cycle. These are:

The Minister Coulton Award for Progressive Community Leadership

This award is chosen by the Minister for Local Government and recognises the central role of progressive local leadership in helping communities to prosper.

The National Award for Excellence in Local Government

The nine category winners pitch to an expert panel who choose the overall National winner.



The Minister Coulton Award for Progressive Community Leadership

Minister's Award

The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government chose this category as it reflects his belief in the central role of progressive local leadership in helping communities prosper.

Award Category

The Progressive Community Leadership Award recognises individuals, project leaders and local government representatives who have:

- Displayed leadership in their communities in the face of change or challenges
- Demonstrated best practice collaboration, engagement and consultation with their community
- Established sustainable plans, strategies and implemented them successfully.

Community Outcomes

Progressive Community Leadership makes a positive impact on communities by:

- Providing stability and highlighting opportunities during times of difficulty, uncertainty or change
- Boosting the capacity of the local community to grow, adapt and thrive
- Embracing innovation and utilising community strengths.



Winner—The Minister Coulton Award for Progressive Community Leadership



Shire of Manjimup, WA

Manjimup Transformed – Aspirational Leadership

Contact: Andrew Campbell
Phone: (08) 9771 7777
Email: info@manjimup.wa.gov.au

The Project

Facing a decline in the regional timber industry, the Shire of Manjimup undertook a locally-led process to design an alternative growth plan for the Shire. A plan informed, and strongly embraced, by the local community.

The new plan focused on four broad categories to create sustainable growth, being: agricultural expansion, town centre revitalisation, regional airport and an aged-friendly town. The WA State Government nominated Manjimup as a WA Regional Growth Centre, an initiative of growing regional centres through investment in infrastructure.

In the eight years since endorsement of Manjimup's Growth Plan, over \$150 million new private and public sector investments and many new jobs have flowed into the community.

Community Outcomes

Manjimup has been transformed, building on strong foundations, community spirit and unique geographical, environmental and economic features.

These investments give scope to a 'new feel' regional centre that offers opportunity and lifestyle, and is well positioned to service the region.

Next Steps

The work of growing Manjimup continues. It remains guided by the principles of the original plan with evaluation a strong feature of this approach. Telling the 'transformation story' also helps strengthen investor and community confidence in the future of Manjimup, with organisational representatives presenting at numerous forums and engaging with the private sector regularly.







Winner—National Award for Excellence in Local Government



City of Mandurah, WA

Entrepreneurial Capacity Building Program

Contact: Natasa Perovec

Phone: 08 9550 3777

Email: natasa.perovec@mandurah.wa.gov.au

The Project

In an area of high unemployment and limited educational opportunities, the City of Mandurah has worked hard to identify and encourage locals who are willing to have a go at starting a business, but need practical advice on how to go about it.

Over five years, the City has delivered programs like Mumpreneur 101 – for mums who want to operate a home-based business – and StartUp Smart Creative – for those wanting to learn how to create a product range for sale. Both programs are delivered over an eight week period with the City facilitating ongoing

support for participants through active social media networks, group mentoring sessions and a resource library.

Community Outcomes

Over 950 residents have participated in 24 courses, with around 65 per cent of participants going on to register an Australian Business Number. It is estimated more than 80 full time jobs, and around 300 part-time jobs, have been created by course participants – contributing \$6.51 million to Mandurah's gross regional product.

Next Steps

The City of Mandurah has developed two new next-level courses – Power Up and Leverage – to help previous program participants to assess their ongoing business, identify and address gaps, and design and implement social media strategies.





Highly Commended—National Award for Excellence in Local Government



City of Greater Dandenong, VIC

Youth United Against Family Violence

Contact: Katharina Verscharen

Phone: 03 9193 2155

Email: kversch@cgd.vic.gov.au

The Project

With young women being particularly at risk of family violence, raising awareness among young people about family violence is important. The City of Greater Dandenong is addressing this issue through their Youth United Against Family Violence project, which is a youth-led initiative designed to promote attitudinal and behavioral change across the community.

The Youth United Against Family Violence project involves educational workshops about family violence; development of an informational campaign about intimate partner violence, verbal abuse and bystander action; and running a community

campaign designed to support young people experiencing family violence. The campaign also promotes links to local support services so that young people know where they can go to get help.

Community Outcomes

Greater Dandenong experiences the highest rate of family-related violent offences in metropolitan Melbourne – 41 per cent above the Victorian average. This means awareness-raising interventions are particularly valuable to this community.

Over time, these initiatives will foster attitudinal change towards family violence, resulting in a safer community.

Next Steps

The informational campaign will see adverts about family violence incorporated into a suite of workshops delivered to young people in school and community settings. Additional channels will be used to reach a larger cross-section of the population.





Highly Commended—National Award for Excellence in Local Government



City of Busselton, WA

Busselton Margaret River Airport Development Project

Contact: Julie Rawlings

Phone: 08 9781 1749

Email: julie.rawlings@busselton.wa.gov.au

The Project

The South West region of Western Australia, including the Margaret River wine region, has a growing number of residents and visitors. This increase in population is driving the need for improved transport connections.

The Busselton Margaret River Airport has been significantly upgraded to better meet this need, with improvements to both airside and landside infrastructure. This regional airport now has the capacity to handle interstate and international flights and is ready to support a growing tourism

and freight industry in the South West. It has been formally designated as an International Alternate Airport to support services into Perth Airport.

A project management team, led by the City of Busselton which is the airport owner, delivered this complex development project, which was endorsed by the region's twelve local governments. Funding was received from all three levels of government.

Community Outcomes

The South West community will directly benefit from this airport development with shortened time to markets for local producers, a regional gateway for growing tourist numbers and increased options for fly-in fly-out workers who live locally.

Next Steps

The transformation of the Busselton Margaret River Airport is a cause for celebration, and the 20-year airport master plan indicates there is more to come, including improvements to the terminal building.





CATEGORY

Arts Animates—Creating Vibrant and Cohesive Communities through the Arts

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government believes all Australians, whether in regional areas or major cities, should have access to artistic and cultural activities.

Award Category

The Arts Animates Award recognises local government projects which support:

- creating vibrant, cohesive communities that use arts and culture to support community wellbeing
- embracing diversity and encouraging social inclusion through community participation in artistic activities and
- leveraging arts and culture to improve community sustainability and increase local economic opportunity.

Community Outcomes

Arts and culture add value to Australia and benefit our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education by:

- fostering opportunities for the enjoyment of the arts through broad community engagement
- establishing local arts hubs for community arts, performances and exhibitions and
- supporting arts initiatives that foster inclusion and skill development.



Arts Animates—Creating Vibrant and Cohesive Communities through the Arts



City of Wanneroo, WA

DJ Course

Contact: Shannon Crowe
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Email: Shannon.Crowe@wanneroo.wa.gov.au

The Project

Recognising the high level of socio-economic disadvantage, the City of Wanneroo Economic Development team has partnered with Off The Wall promotions to design and run a 10-week 'Introduction to DJing' course.

The aim of the course is to equip local youth with practical skills and knowledge and provide them with a real chance of employment on completion. The course covers everything from marketing, social media and starting a business to music theory and hardware proficiency.

Community Outcomes

The course highlighted the benefits of providing a community hub or meeting point and bringing together culturally diverse community members through training events. Students graduate with comprehensive industry-relevant skills. Previous participants have gone on to work for audio visual companies, perform at festivals, produce their own music and secure gigs at private events.

Next Steps

The City of Wanneroo has received great support and feedback for its program. Three intakes have already been completed and each filled up quickly. There is a long waitlist, boding well for the future.



CATEGORY

Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government makes significant investments in infrastructure with the aim of improving national and local productivity and increasing the economic, social and sustainable well-being of Australian communities. The Government believes infrastructure investment and planning is essential for managing growth and enhancing productivity.

Award Category

The Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure Award recognises local government projects which:

- better utilise technological innovations or regulatory changes
- consider sustainability, liveability and productivity in investment strategies and planning and
- address long-term infrastructure priorities and offer clear economic productivity benefits.

Community Outcomes

Australia's infrastructure and transport systems make a positive impact by:

- connecting cities and regions in a way which supports population growth
- providing safe and efficient transport links and service delivery and
- strengthening and diversifying regional economic bases by better connecting industries to markets and customers.



Boosting Productivity through Infrastructure



City of Busselton, WA

Busselton Margaret River Airport Development Project

Contact: Julie Rawlings

Phone: 08 9781 1749

Email: julie.rawlings@busselton.wa.gov.au

The Project

The South West region of Western Australia, including the Margaret River wine region, has a growing number of residents and visitors – driving the need for improved transport connections.

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A project management team led by the City of Busselton which is the airport owner, delivered this complex development – which was endorsed by all twelve local governments in the region and funded by all three levels of government.

Community Outcomes

The South West community will directly benefit from this airport development with shortened time to markets for local producers, a regional gateway for growing tourist numbers and increased options for fly-in fly-out workers who live locally.

Next Steps

The transformation of the Busselton Margaret River Airport is a cause for celebration and the 20 year airport master plan indicates there is more to come, including a new international terminal, freight facility and industrial/commercial opportunities.





CATEGORY

Contributing to Regional Growth

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government is committed to investing in our regions, as they are central to Australia's economy and future. The Government works in partnership with communities, government and the private sector to support the growth of vibrant and sustainable regional economies and communities.

Award Category

The Contributing to Regional Growth Award recognises local government projects which:

- maximise economic growth and harness regional competitive advantages including physical assets, transport linkages and digital connectivity, amenity and human capital to drive innovation and take advantage of region-specific opportunities
- empower vibrant and connected regional communities that promote diversity and inclusion and
- demonstrate leadership and collaboration on a regional basis to strengthen investment and sustainable development opportunities, share resources, build local capability, and create jobs.

Community Outcomes

The Australian Government's approach to regional development helps communities by:

- improving productivity, employment and workforce skills throughout the regions
- valuing, protecting and promoting diversity, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, cultures and traditions and
- fostering the development of self-reliant communities and regions with strong economic futures.



Contributing to Regional Growth



City of Mandurah, WA

Entrepreneurial Capacity Building Program

Contact: Natasa Perovec

Phone: 08 9550 3777

Email: natasa.perovec@mandurah.wa.gov.au

The Project

In an area of high unemployment and limited educational opportunities, the City of Mandurah has worked hard to identify and encourage locals who are willing to have a go at starting a business, but need practical advice on how to go about it.

Over five years, the City has delivered programs like Mumpreneur 101 – for mums who want to operate a home-based business, and StartUp Smart Creative, for those wanting to learn how to create a product range for sale. Both programs are delivered over an eight week period, with the City facilitating ongoing

support for participants through active social media networks, group mentoring sessions and a resource library.

Community Outcomes

Over 950 residents have participated in 24 courses, with around 65 per cent of participants going on to register an Australian Business Number. It is estimated that more than 80 full time jobs and around 300 part-time jobs have been created by course participants – contributing \$6.51 million to Mandurah's gross regional product.

Next Steps

The City of Mandurah has developed two new next-level courses – Power Up and Leverage – to help previous program participants to assess their ongoing business, identify and address gaps, and design and implement social media strategies.



CATEGORY

Disability Access and Inclusion

Australian Government Policy

Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2011, the National Disability Strategy 2010 2020 seeks to improve the lives of people with disability by driving a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programs and infrastructure.

Award Category

The Disability Access and Inclusion Award recognises local government projects which:

- address barriers for people with disability, their families and their carers
- promote and facilitate participation of people with disability, their families and their carers in the social, cultural, religious, recreational and sporting life of communities and
- promote or facilitate partnerships between government, business and communities that achieve improved access and inclusion of people with disability in any sphere or capacity.

Community Outcomes

The Australian Government's approach to disability access and inclusion will:

- improve access to mainstream services and support
- give people with disability a greater voice within their communities and the capacity to influence the design of services, programs and infrastructure that affect their lives and
- enable people with disability to participate in all areas of Australian life and have the same opportunities as other Australians to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.



Disability Access and Inclusion



City of Sydney, NSW

City of Sydney Inclusive and Accessible Public Domain Policy and Guidelines

Contact: Anna Rigg

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Email: arigg@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

The Project

Designers and others often look to policy makers for practical advice on how to meet community expectations on disability access and social inclusion. Until now, this was readily available for buildings but not for public spaces or events. The City of Sydney has filled this gap with a new policy and guidelines to encourage best practice approaches for public spaces and events: developed through community consultation, including with those who have lived experiences of disability.

Community Outcomes

This project delivers designers, project managers, event organisers and others with greater clarity about how to include those living with disability

in their concepts and plans. Those with lived experiences of disability, and their friends and families will benefit through improved access to places and events.

Next Steps

The new guidelines will be incorporated into the Public Domain Design Codes, and will apply to all new or upgraded public spaces and infrastructure delivered by the City of Sydney, or by third parties within the City's local area.

For major events and festivals, complying with the Inclusive and Accessible Event Guidelines will be a condition of seeking City sponsorship, and an expectation for all event organisers conducting events within the City local area.

Over time, the policy and guidelines will help to deliver a more inclusive and accessible Sydney.

CATEGORY

Excellence in Road Safety

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government is committed to improving road safety and works with the state and territory government through the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) 2011-2020 to establish national priorities for action. The Australian Government's key areas of road safety responsibility are administering and improving vehicle safety standards, investing in road infrastructure improvement, and monitoring statistical and implementation performance under the NRSS.

Award Category

The Excellence in Road Safety Award recognises local government projects which:

- improve road or roadside infrastructure with a focus on safety benefits
- address the specific safety needs of vulnerable groups such as novice drivers, older road users; motorcyclists, cyclists or pedestrians; or target specific road user risk factors

- improve road safety for Indigenous Australians
- address safety issues relating to heavy vehicle transport and
- improve emergency medical response services for those involved in road crashes.

Community Outcomes

The Excellence in Road Safety Award recognises projects which positively impact communities by:

- addressing specific risk factors and creating innovative road safety solutions
- making communities safer and more liveable and
- contributing to reductions in deaths and serious injuries from road crashes.



Excellence in Road Safety



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, NSW

Safe Systems Speed Project for Local Roads

Contact: Joanne Wilson-Ridley
Phone: 1300 735 025
Email: joanne.wilsonridley@qprc.nsw.gov.au

The Project

With speed involved in almost 31 per cent of casualty crashes, the Queanbeyan-Palerang region has embraced a data-led approach to improving driver behaviour.

Central to this approach is establishing the '85th percentile' baseline for known trouble spots, namely what speed would 85 per cent of drivers choose in the absence of any intervention? If this speed is unsafe, can physical changes be employed through alternative road treatments? Can the use of mobile 'speed trailers' that provide motorists with a direct indication

of their vehicles' speed approaching road works and other speed restricted areas also help, giving direct feedback to drivers on their own behaviour?

With a methodical approach to assessing both problems and solutions through this data-rich project, Queanbeyan-Palerang is delivering measurable improvements in driver behaviour. To date, 51 sites achieved a reduction in excess speeding when treated with mobile speed trailers.

Community Outcomes

Safer speeds benefit everyone. This project has also reshaped conversations among key groups and local stakeholders and fostered the sharing of data, which informs the best use of limited council resources.

Next Steps

Broadening the use of this approach into other areas will deliver greater gains, encouraging safer speeds in an increasing number of identified trouble spots over time in this vibrant regional area.





CATEGORY

Multicultural Australia – Cohesive Communities

Australian Government Policy

Australia is united by a shared commitment to our nation and our democratic institutions and values. The Australian Government is committed to sustaining and celebrating the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our society. *Multicultural Australia – United, Strong, Successful* is the Government's public statement of ongoing strong commitment to multicultural Australia; setting both priorities and strategic directions for the coming years.

- drive sustainable change to attitudes and behaviours that may negatively impact on social cohesion and
- foster an inclusive and respectful community.

Community Outcomes

The Australian Government is committed to building stronger, more cohesive and prosperous communities, guided by our shared values.

Award Category

The Multicultural Australia – Cohesive Communities Award recognises local government projects which:

- foster a sense of belonging, identity and shared values
- promote civic rights and responsibilities
- encourage participation in the local community
- develop innovative approaches to connecting the local community and building community harmony
- celebrate the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the community



Multicultural Australia – Cohesive Communities



Sunshine Coast Council, QLD

Migrant Work Ready – Pathways to Belonging and Employment

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Email: kim.price@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The Project

Recent migrants to the Sunshine Coast can face challenges in finding employment. They may face challenges such as having a lack of Australian work experience and references. They may have limited social networks, experience difficulties with the English language, not have their skills or qualifications recognised or know where to apply for jobs.

The Sunshine Coast Council is addressing these issues through its Migrant Work Ready program. Migrant Work Ready is a free eight-week program

offering employment-ready workshops, a networking event and pathways to work experience, mentoring opportunities and training.

Community Outcomes

The project is designed to equip newly arrived migrants with relevant practical skills, knowledge, new friendships, a positive mindset and pathways to employment.

Over time, it will contribute to participants having well-rounded opportunities for economic and social participation in the Sunshine Coast region.

Next Steps

The project will deliver post-program support for participants. This includes providing ongoing support services, organising networking opportunities and establishing a Facebook group to help participants stay connected.



CATEGORY

Local Governments Addressing Violence Against Women and their Children

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government is committed to keeping women and their children safe from violence. That is why the Australian Government is working with state, territory and local governments, non-government organisations and across the community to implement the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–22 (the National Plan), and ensure that each year, fewer women experience violence and more women and their children live safely.

The Fourth Action Plan 2019–22 of the National Plan was launched in August 2019.

Violence against women and their children is prevalent and persistent in all communities across Australia. It is also preventable. Preventing violence against women and their children will have positive impacts that go well beyond ending the violence itself – from better health outcomes for individuals to more inclusive and equal organisations, communities and families that support personal development and social wellbeing.

Award Category

The *Addressing Violence against Women and their Children Award* recognises local government projects related to family and domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment which:

- aim to prevent violence against women and their children from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of violence and sexual harassment, such as gender inequality, and bring about attitudinal and behavioural change in the community
- support women and children at risk of, or experiencing, family and domestic violence, sexual violence or sexual harassment
- address the specific and diverse needs of women and their children in the local community who are at risk of, or experiencing, family and domestic violence, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Community Outcomes

Successful projects in this award category will benefit communities by doing one or more of the following:

- preventing family and domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment before it happens by driving sustainable change in community awareness, attitudes and behaviours
- supporting women and children who are at risk of, or experiencing, family and domestic violence, sexual violence or sexual harassment and
- addressing the specific and diverse needs of women and children in the local community who are at risk of, or experiencing family and domestic violence, sexual violence or sexual harassment.



Local Governments Addressing Violence Against Women and their Children



City of Greater Dandenong, VIC

Youth United Against Family Violence

Contact: Katharina Verscharen
Phone: 03 9193 2155
Email: kversc@cgd.vic.gov.au

The Project

With young women being particularly at risk of family violence, raising awareness among young people about family violence is important. The City of Greater Dandenong is addressing this issue through their Youth United Against Family Violence project, which is a youth-led initiative designed to promote attitudinal and behavioural change across the community.

The Youth United Against Family Violence project involves educational workshops about family violence; development of an informational campaign about intimate partner violence, verbal abuse and bystander action; and running a community campaign designed to support young people

experiencing family violence. The campaign also promotes links to local support services so that young people know where they can go to get help.

Community Outcomes

Greater Dandenong experiences the highest rate of family-related violent offences in metropolitan Melbourne – 41 per cent above the Victorian average. This means awareness-raising interventions are particularly valuable to this community.

Over time, these initiatives will foster attitudinal change towards family violence, resulting in a safer community.

Next Steps

The informational campaign will see adverts about family violence incorporated into a suite of workshops delivered to young people in school and community settings. Additional channels will be used to reach a larger cross-section of the population.





CATEGORY

Promoting Indigenous Recognition

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government recognises the unique contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Australia's economic and social life and to working alongside Indigenous communities. We also acknowledge the important place of Indigenous history, cultures and languages in local communities and to the nation.

Award Category

The Promoting Indigenous Recognition Award recognises local government projects which:

- raise awareness and understanding of the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and culture in Australia's contemporary society
- build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through events and activities and
- implement innovative community-building strategies in partnership with local Indigenous communities.

Community Outcomes

The Australia Government's commitment to Indigenous recognition benefits communities that:

- promote initiatives which bring together the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community on a regular basis to share skills and experiences
- undertake projects that support the revival, strengthening and promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in partnership with local communities and authorities and
- enable Indigenous residents to inform local government activities and policies.



Promoting Indigenous Recognition



Glenelg Shire Council, VIC

Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership – National Reconciliation Week

Contact: Jane Ruge

Phone: 03 5522 2190

Email: jruge@glenelg.vic.gov.au

The Project

Aboriginal community leaders and Elders in the Glenelg Shire spoke of the importance in advocating for young people to be provided with opportunities to speak about their culture and support them to emerge into strong community leaders.

During Reconciliation Week 2019, the Glenelg Shire Council came together with local Aboriginal corporations to celebrate the Gunditjmara people, country and culture. A joint citizenship ceremony was held to traditionally welcome new citizens to Australia and the Shire, recognizing the Gunditjmara land as the lands and waters that they now live within. The Shire also partnered with Dhauwurrd Wurrung Elderly and Community Services to deliver temporary public art pieces through their Big Picture Project, celebrating young Aboriginal people and their culture.

Community Outcomes

The project was designed to provide Aboriginal youth with leadership opportunities as well as the chance to create public art pieces that express their hopes and ideas for reconciliation. Public speaking and media opportunities also enabled the young people to further spread their messages and stories.

The joint citizenship ceremony was also the first time a citizenship ceremony was held on Indigenous country, in the Glenelg Shire, with both traditional owners and elected members facilitating the ceremony together.

Next Steps

The Glenelg Shire Council is continuing to work in partnership with the local Aboriginal corporations through their Aboriginal Partnership Plan, which is currently being reviewed to enter into another period of formal agreement. Key focus points to moving forward together is to continue to learn and grow in the work that is achieved with the aim to increase recognition and valuing of Aboriginal culture across all levels of the community and shire.





CATEGORY

The Susan Grace Benny Award – Women in Local Government

Australian Government Policy

The Australian Government is committed to increasing female participation and female leadership roles in the Australian local government workforce.

Award Category

The Susan Grace Benny Award recognises female leaders and initiatives in local government which:

- support local women to stand for elected roles to represent their communities
- implement initiatives in the workplace which help to improve the representation of women in leadership positions and
- establish programs to support and recognise women as current and emerging leaders, including mentoring, networking and training opportunities.

Community Outcomes

The Government's commitment to female participation in local government will:

- promote greater roles for women in leadership, both as elected representatives and officers
- develop strategies and programs to support women of all ages to become leaders in their workplace and community and
- support advocacy for women's rights and representation in the workplace.



The Susan Grace Benny Award – Women in Local Government



Brimbank City Council

Women's Leadership Programs

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The Project

Stronger links between communities of women and their local representatives can build better informed and more culturally aware leadership by councils. Recognising that one-size doesn't fit all, Brimbank City Council has tailored two programs to provide women with opportunities to strengthen their community leadership skills. The programs are the Brimbank First Nation Women's Leadership Through Art program and the Brimbank Muslim Women Community Leadership program.

These two programs provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and Muslim women respectively to constructively engage with local government. The women are also encouraged to take on leadership roles within their communities.

Community Outcomes

The women participating in these programs are supported in building on their existing leadership capacity, creating new ties within their communities and helping foster better cultural understanding and communication between their communities and Brimbank City Council. In these ways, the programs are helping women to deepen cross-cultural awareness and provide opportunities for Indigenous and Muslim women to advocate for positive changes in support of women in their communities.

Next Steps

Using feedback from program participants, Brimbank City Council will continue to develop these programs and improve delivery techniques in order to make future iterations of the programs even more successful.

Over time, these programs will build and strengthen relations across communities, leading to a more informed and collaborative jurisdiction throughout the City of Brimbank.



