



Australian Government



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



About the Awards

The National Awards for Local Government is an annual celebration of Australian local government achievements. The Awards recognise the important role of local governments in delivering targeted quality services to Australians in urban and regional areas.

In 2014 the Australian Government called for entries in six categories: arts, disability access and inclusion, multiculturalism, youth employment, Indigenous recognition, and productivity and regional development. Entries received showcased a wide range of projects that are pertinent to Australian Government national priorities, are tailored to support diverse communities and deliver direct benefits to local regions.

Thanks to our sponsors and judges

The National Awards for Local Government is coordinated by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development with sponsorship provided by Australian Government departments.

Involvement in the Awards by sponsors enables a better understanding of the issues and challenges that our local governments face.

Sponsors are an integral component of the Awards program, from the judging process to liaison with category finalists through to sharing the excitement of national winners. The sponsor's ongoing support reinforces the importance of their role.

We would like to thank the judges and sponsors for their efforts in this year's Awards.

Sponsors

- Attorney-General's Department through the Ministry of the Arts
- Department of Education
- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Social Services



Winner—2014 National Award for Excellence in Local Government

Latrobe City Council, Victoria

Congratulations to Latrobe City Council, the winner of this year's National Award for Excellence in Local Government.

Latrobe City Council's *Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program* is an exemplary program with a focus on reconciliation and commitment to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Since first implementing *Steps to the Future* in 2003, Latrobe City Council has achieved excellent results improving the participation of Indigenous young people in new apprenticeships, vocational education and training.

Working closely with numerous businesses and community organisations, Latrobe City Council has coordinated, reviewed and developed a program that provides business assistance with recruiting and mentoring, establishes training for mentors and promotes cross-cultural awareness, including through training to both public and private sector organisations.

The direct results of the program are that since 2003 more than 300 people have been employed, averaging around an 85 per cent retention rate. Since October 2009, under a new Indigenous Employment Program contract, nearly 50 people have been employed and the retention rate currently sits at 90 per cent.

While based in Latrobe, *Steps for the Future* is for the whole region, fostering employment opportunities for Indigenous young people in the wider region.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT – BUILDING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

For more information visit infrastructure.gov.au/nalg





2014 Category Award Winners

Arts Animates—excellence in community engagement and participation



Sponsored by the Attorney-General's Department through the Ministry for the Arts

Holroyd City Council and Hay Shire Council, New South Wales

Hay Holroyd video project 'Make a Choice'

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The Hay and Holroyd 'Make a Choice' Video Project invited young people from the Holroyd City Council area and from Hay Shire to use their creative and artistic talents, leadership and team building skills for educational film making.

Young people in both council areas identified important youth issues, including bullying, inappropriate texting, making better social choices and boredom. They developed these themes to create an educational resource for others. Project participants took part in

workshops to explore every aspect of the project: young people selected filming locations, and created and developed characters, themes, scenes and scripts. Participants also planned and budgeted to purchase essentials such as film and photography equipment and editing software.

The project was highly successful in engaging young people on important topics through arts and media. It was also a success encouraging young people to take control and make both practical and artistic decisions.

Disability Access and Inclusion



Sponsored by the Department of Social Services

Hume City Council, Victoria

School Holiday Program for Indigenous Children with Disability

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School holidays are, without exception, a high-impact time for families who care for a child or children with a disability. After consulting widely, Hume City Council responded to the expressed desire from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers to have respite and support during school holiday periods by implementing the School Holiday Program for Indigenous Children with a Disability.

The School Holiday Program was designed by the Hume City Council Home and Community Care

Aboriginal Liaison Officer in partnership with Northern Support Services, a not-for-profit Victorian community organisation established for people with a disability and their families.

The Program includes mainstream community-based activities as well as culturally-focused activities. The carers enjoy seeing the children engaging with their culture in a positive way and interacting with other Indigenous children with a disability.

Improve Productivity and Regional Development



Sponsored by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Townsville City Council, Queensland

Townsville Planning and Development Reform Program

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Devised in 2011, the Townsville Planning and Development Reform Program aimed to revitalise the city's operating environment for private investment and support the community's vision for Townsville's development as a major regional centre of Northern Australia. The Reform Program's genesis arose from recognition that Townsville had great development potential along with unique challenges. In particular, a new City Plan was required to guide Townsville's growth—from a city of 180,000 people in 2011 to a forecast population of over 300,000 people by 2030.

Among the Reform Program's outcomes have been: the unprecedented release of a new City Plan for public consultation requiring no amendment for state interests; endorsement of Council's engagement strategy as a best practice model for Queensland's local governments; faster assessment and record level increases in customer satisfaction with Council's development services; and the stimulation of over \$200 million of construction activity and direct economic benefit through major project development in Townsville's CBD.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT – BUILDING AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

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Multicultural Australia—strength in diversity



Sponsored by the Department of Social Services
City of Greater Dandenong, Victoria
Racism. Get Up. Speak Out.

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Greater Dandenong is Victoria's most culturally diverse municipality, representing more than 156 nationalities with approximately 55 per cent of the community born overseas with non-English speaking backgrounds. Greater Dandenong's diversity is further reflected in the range of religious faiths in the municipality including Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity. 'Racism. Get Up. Speak Out.' responds directly to the National Anti-Racism Strategy and was developed in support of the Australian Human Rights Commission

national anti-racism campaign. The project was inspired by Greater Dandenong Council's unanimous pledge of support for the national anti-racism campaign. 'Racism. Get Up. Speak Out.' invites local people to share stories that affirm and celebrate positive responses to acts against racism within the Greater Dandenong community. The project reinforces fairness and tolerance for different cultures, races and religions.

Promoting Indigenous Recognition



Sponsored by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Clarence Valley Council, New South Wales
The Three Mobs One River Aboriginal Learning Kit

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The Clarence Valley Council Fresh Start initiative seeks aspirational approaches to the engagement and retention of Aboriginal students to Year 12. The initiative saw Council work closely with students, parents, schools, training providers and people from the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, and Yaegl nations and the two local Aboriginal Educational Consultative Groups to coordinate The Three Mobs One River Aboriginal Learning Kit. The Learning Kit, completed in November 2013, was developed entirely by the Clarence Valley Aboriginal

community. It will enrich the learning environment for 3,700 young people of all cultures. It has already engaged more than 2,700 community members and is part of mainstream conversation in four high schools. This project, 'Three Mobs One River Learning Kit' has been embraced by schools, providing valuable support for teaching staff and generating a new level of trust and openness between the Aboriginal community and schools. It demonstrates what is possible when schools and the community work together towards a common goal.

Youth Employment



Sponsored by the Department of Education
Latrobe City Council, Victoria
Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program

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The Steps to the Future Indigenous Employment Program is a joint initiative funded by the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and auspiced by Latrobe City Council. As part of the overall Indigenous Employment Program, Latrobe City Council and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet pool resources in order to increase employment prospects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Gippsland region with a strong focus on young people. This program delivers employment outcomes utilising a mentoring process that fosters the

development of role models for youth in the community. It enables participants to choose a pathway towards a career opportunity of their choice and has proven to be a powerful tool that has increased Indigenous employment and career development. This program addresses the barriers that prevent Indigenous Australians from participating in employment, education and training by delivering a suite of interconnected initiatives. This employment program prepares Indigenous Australians for work and prepares and enables businesses to employ Indigenous Australians.



Arts Animates—excellence in community engagement and participation

Clarence Valley Council, New South Wales

PLUNGE: Insider's guide to March/April arts and cultural events in the Clarence Valley

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Launched in 2013, PLUNGE is a 30 day 'insider's guide' to cultural events and festivals held in a typically low-season period in the Clarence Valley in regional NSW. PLUNGE consists of a range of diverse productions, festivals, seminars, markets, exhibitions, talks and other events that occur around the Clarence Valley during March/April, and packaged in a funky, cool, and very contemporary wrapper.

The PLUNGE project not only delivered on many strategic goals for council, it also contributed to regional development and social dividends through community-based arts and cultural programmes.

Disability Access and Inclusion



Melton City Council, Victoria Disability Action Plan 2013–2017 and Launch

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Melton City Council launched its 'easily readable' Disability Action Plan 2013–2017 in December 2013. The high-profile launch celebrated the Plan's development and highlighted local talent and stories of people with a disability to deliver a powerful message.

The Plan itself, the third City of Melton Disability Action Plan, strengthens the voices of people with a disability and supports the significant role that families and carers play.

Improve Productivity and Regional Development

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Western Australia

Bridgetown Public Library Infrastructure Development Project

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The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, in partnership with the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils and the Western Australian State Government, constructed a new, enviro-friendly library facility designed to be a "living room in the heart of Bridgetown".

Since the Bridgetown Public Library was opened in July 2013, it has become a key community hub contributing to the wellbeing of rural-based Australian residents in four regional local government areas.



Multicultural Australia—strength in diversity

City of Belmont, Western Australia New Arrivals Library Support Project

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The New Arrivals Library Support Project was developed in 2011 to offer a 'one stop shop' package of specific support services and programmes in response to identified needs in the City's diverse community. Prior to this, limited services and programmes were available in the City at various locations and were administered by a variety of agencies.

The New Arrivals Library Support Project incorporates programmes catering for ages from birth to adult. The project targets the City of Belmont's culturally diverse community and is delivered by the City's library team and a dedicated volunteer tutor support team.

Promoting Indigenous Recognition



City of Salisbury, South Australia Together Woven

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The City of Salisbury has developed its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan and invested more than \$100,000 into the creation of a significant public artwork—two initiatives to acknowledge the local Aboriginal community and their important role in Salisbury.

The local Kaurna community were involved in the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan and the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.

Youth Employment

Melton City Council, Victoria Building Melton Together

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A lack of employment opportunities, lower than average education levels and high population growth, combine to create significant economic and social challenges for young people in Melton.

During 2011–12, the City of Melton was in the top five growth areas in the nation. Rapid housing growth over the next two decades will provide opportunities for jobs in the local building industry.

Building Melton Together (BMT) aligns unemployed youth to training opportunities and jobs in the building and construction industry. This local employment initiative assists young people to transition into employment and stay engaged with the workplace, and the building industry to identify skill and recruitment needs.

