

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Tuesday, 8 March 2022

LEADING WOMEN TO FORGE THEIR WAY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An innovative leadership program will encourage more women to represent their local communities as the Andrews Labor Government continues to support the advancement of women in local government.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today launched the *Leadership for Women in Local Government Program*, to be delivered by the Institute of Community Directors Australia.

The Program will support 120 women over three years, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to succeed as community leaders.

It will also give participants the connections and tools to campaign as candidates in the next local government elections in 2024.

Women in under-represented municipalities including Colac Otway, Moira, Pyrenees, Baw Baw, Bass Coast, Glen Eira and Hume, and women who are Aboriginal, live with a disability or identify as LGBTQI+, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Minister Leane thanked the Gender Equality Advisory Committee (GEAC), led by MPs Kat Theophanous and Juliana Addison, for steering the development of the program.

GEAC members include councillors and women from local government peak and community organisations.

The first round of the leadership program is scheduled to begin in July 2022, with applications opening next month.

This is one of the many ways the Labor Government is addressing gender inequality in local government to reach the 50/50 women councillor target by 2025.

To find out more about the Program, GEAC and other LGV programs supporting gender equality visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/gender-equity.

Quote attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

"Having more women in local government makes councils more representative and able to make better decisions for their communities."

Quote attributable to Minister for Women Gabrielle Williams

"It is vital we increase the number of women in local government, particularly from underrepresented groups – so that our council representatives reflect the diversity of the community they serve."

Quote attributable to Member for Northcote Kat Theophanous

"Women from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences are already contributing to their economies. This program will tap into this talent and make a real impact towards gender equality in the local government sector."

Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"Through this program, women will be breaking the bias and achieving goals for gender equality."

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