

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Monday, 6 March 2023

SUPPORTING FUTURE WOMEN COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS

The Andrews Labor Government is helping more women become leaders in their community by providing training and mentoring to boost their chances of being elected as local councillors.

Applications have opened for the second round of the Labor Government's Women Leading Locally Program, which aims to build gender equality on local government councils by 2025.

The program is equipping 125 local leaders with the connections and tools to campaign as candidates in the 2024 council elections.

At the last local government elections in 2020, Victoria set a new national record for female representation with women making up 43.8 per cent of elected councillors.

The Women Leading Locally Program is being delivered by the Institute of Community Directors Australia in partnership with Women for Election – the first round has provided training and mentoring to 60 women from local government areas with low female representation. The second round is open to women from a further 32 areas.

Hume resident Emily Greco began the program in 2022. The Youth Voice Manager at YMCA Victoria is looking forward to combining the training she is receiving with her passion for inspiring and empowering young people to create the change they want to see in the world.

Ms Greco is supported by Frankston City Councillor Sue Baker, who is drawing on her experience working in corporate, not-for-profit, and local government organisations to help more women make their voices heard.

Applications for round two of the Women Leading Locally Program are open until Friday, 14 April. To find out more visit, localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne

"This program is a fantastic tool in our goal of achieving 50-50 gender parity in local government by 2025, and there is no better time to celebrate this than on the eve of International Women's Day."

"We're breaking down the barriers many women face to stand for leadership positions, giving them the skills and resources to campaign with confidence."

Quotes attributable to Women Leading Locally Fellow Emily Greco

"Before this program, the idea of running for local council was daunting and it seemed like an exclusive club where people spoke a different language."

"This training has broken down a lot of those barriers and taught me that anyone with a passion for their local community has a right to run for council."

Quote attributable to Frankston City Council Councillor Sue Baker

"The Women Leading Locally Program and subsequent mentoring fast-tracks learning so women can feel equipped to hold their own on council and embrace from day one their capability to lead and capacity to deliver."

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