

Tuesday 24 November 2010

'TICKET TO RYDE' FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN GOING PLACES CONFERENCE

Delegates from as far away as the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory have booked their 'Ticket to Ryde' for the *Women Going Places* Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) national conference November 25-27 (Stamford Grand North Ryde).

Key topics for debate will be gender inequity in Local Government, women and work/life balance, and connecting with the community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian, said: "2010 is the Year of Women in Local Government and the City of Ryde is honoured to have been chosen to host this high profile event.

"This Council and the wider community have benefited from our gender equity platform. The formation of a Women's Advisory Committee has given local women a voice on community issues, and recently Council voted to provide staff a women-friendly workplace environment with appropriate facilities such as breast feeding amenities.

"It was also the City of Ryde's ground breaking action in 2008 of first adopting increased paid parental leave, and later taken up by other Councils, that the Federal Government recently introduced this as a right for all Australian workers."

National President of ALGWA, Cllr Darriea Turley, said: "The role of quotas and targets in solving gender inequity in Local Government will be high on our agenda.

"In many ways, Local Government offers outstanding opportunities for women and they account for about 52% of the 558 strong Council workforce nationally. However, only around 20% hold senior management positions.

"Further more, only 7% of CEOs and 21% of Mayors are women, so the statistics speak for themselves."

City of Ryde Group Manager - Community Life, Simone Schwarz, said: "The women's conference offers a unique experience to women from Local Governments nationally to come together to resolve issues through networking and knowledge sharing.

"The conference is also an opportunity to recognise the achievements of Local Government bodies who have worked hard to address the gender status balance."

ALGWA Conference presenter panel reads like a who's who of prominent Australian women. They include Federal, State and Shadow Ministers, senior academics, social commentators and activists, executive directors and authors:

- The Hon Kate Ellis, MP, Minister for the Status of Women (Federal Member for Adelaide)
- The Hon Linda Jean Burney, MP, Minister for the State Plan, Minister for Community Services (Member for Canterbury)
- Pru Goward, MP, Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Community Services (Member for Goulburn)
- Anne Summers (Author and journalist)
- Barbara Pocock (University of SA, Director – Centre for Work and Life Balance)
- Claire Braund (Executive Director, Women on Boards)
- Prof Anne Ross-Smith (Macquarie University)
- Darriea Turley (ALGWA National President)
- Annette Symms (Motivational speaker)
- Eva Cox (Feminist and social activist)

More than 150 Councillors, Mayors and Local Government staff from every state and territory will be attending the Conference, including a large contingent of twelve from across the Northern Territory.

Tiwi Islands is one of 20 Councils who will be presented with **50:50 Vision – Councils for Gender Equity Bronze Awards** by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ALCEG) as part of the national awards and accreditation program at an awards night Friday 26 November.

For more details go to:

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/algwa

www.algwa.org.au

ALGWA National Conference, 25, 26, 27 November 2010
Stamford Grand North Ryde, Epping Road, Macquarie Park.

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