

Message from the President

LGNSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM provides an update on local government issues

Childcare Package Submissions Invited

Submissions are invited to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee inquiry into the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015.

LGNSW Tourism Conference – Early Bird Registration Closing

Early bird registrations close Monday 11 January. Book now.

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Message from the President

Friday 8 January 2016



Dear Mayors, Councillors and General Managers

I hope you had an enjoyable break and have returned from your holiday refreshed.

Following the NSW Government's announcement on 18 December, more than half of the state's councils are now bracing themselves for change and trying to work out how they will manage business-as-usual during the proposal period that they are now under.

As The Weekly goes to press, the Department of Premier and Cabinet is briefing regional general managers on the intended amalgamation process. Today's teleconferences follow yesterday's face-to-face briefings for metropolitan GMs, and letters from the Minister to impacted councils.

The details of the process can be found here, but essentially the Government has nominated 18 delegates who will examine the amalgamation proposals; review written submissions from councils, individuals and community groups; and conduct public meetings. Their final reports on each proposal will be provided to the Boundaries Commission for comment before returning to the Minister for his final decision.

Amalgamations will be announced via proclamation, at which time the relevant councils will cease to exist and the new merged council will come into being. The governance for these new councils has yet to be determined, but it is clear the appointment of administrators remains on the table as a cautionary option.

The Minister has said he does not expect proclamations to occur before mid-2016, and although the timelines of each review remain at the discretion of individual delegates, we do know that the deadline for written submissions is 28 February. I would therefore urge all impacted members to ensure the wishes of their communities are heard loud and clear before that date, whether the voices support or oppose the amalgamation of their council.

Support for members

As I mentioned in earlier correspondence, LGNSW is working on a comprehensive online amalgamation toolkit. It will incorporate our already released guide on workplace reform, along with detailed advice and resources for dealing with all the important amalgamation considerations. This will be available in the coming weeks.

LGNSW is also holding:

- [Managing Workplace Reform Workshops](#) - to help councils unpack the above mentioned workplace reform guide
- [Responding to Merger Proposals Briefings](#) – to support councils responding to the Government's proposals
- [Amalgamations Anonymous!](#) – a monthly network meeting for council senior leaders to explore and exchange ideas relating to amalgamations

Norma Male

Finally, please join me in congratulating and acknowledging a significant woman in our field, Norma Male who turns 100 on Wednesday (13 January). Credited as the State's first female Town Clerk, Norma served as town clerk of Balranald Municipality and shire clerk of Balranald Shire from 1944 to 1974. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire for her dedicated and long service to local government in 1975. Read about Norma's lifetime of achievement and inspirational story in [item 6](#). Happy birthday Norma.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
President, LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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To enjoy reduced rates for the 2016 LGNSW Tourism Conference, book before the early bird registration closes on Monday, 11 January.

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Nominations are invited for the Ministers' Awards for Women In Local Government which recognise the contribution of women councillors and council staff to local government in NSW.

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Wednesday 13 January 2016 marks the 100th birthday of Norma Male, the first woman to hold the office of Town Clerk with a NSW Council.

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The Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee is holding an inquiry into the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015 and submissions are invited.

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The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has released a consultation draft of its Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Commissioning Framework. It outlines how NDIA will fund and manage information, linkage and capacity building (ILC) activities in the future.

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The NSW Government is seeking new members for the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing (MACA).

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Multicultural NSW is encouraging people across NSW to champion of social cohesion and harmony by applying to join a Regional Advisory Council (RAC).

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The NSW Government is launching the first phase of procurement for projects supported by the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).

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The NSW Government has announced that funding will be extended for Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) and intensive programs for one year.

Finance

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Legislation is now in place requiring the reporting of transactions such as government grants; payments to contractors, consultants and other vendors; and transfers of real property, to the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Awards

Item 1: Award opportunities

View the latest Award opportunities for Local Government

Ministers' Awards For Women In Local Government

Nominations are invited for the Ministers' Awards for Women In Local Government which recognise the contribution of women councillors and council staff to local government in NSW.

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

LGNSW Tourism Conference – Early Bird Registration Closing

To enjoy reduced rates for the 2016 LGNSW Tourism Conference, book before the early bird registration closes on Monday, 11 January.

Other events

See the [LGNSW Events Calendar](#) on our website for other upcoming events, conferences and training opportunities, including amalgamation forums and workshops.

Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Extension Of Funding For Family Programs

The NSW Government has announced that funding will be extended for Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) and intensive programs for one year.

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Tourism Conference – Early Bird Registration Closing

To enjoy reduced rates for the 2016 LGNSW Tourism Conference, book before the early bird registration closes on Monday, 11 January.

The conference will be held from Wednesday 9 March – Friday 11 March 2016, at Byron Bay's first and new world-class conference venue, Elements of Byron.

Co-hosted by Ballina Shire and Byron Shire Councils, the conference theme is 'Embracing A Changing Tourism Landscape. It is presented in conjunction with our official partner, Destination NSW, and will feature high profile industry speakers.

Why council staff should attend

- The conference is organised by local government for local government
- Learn from senior industry executives and speakers who are experts in their field
- Be inspired to create new solutions to your tourism challenges
- Network with peers, industry and Destination NSW representatives, and
- Share the latest tourism news, thinking and ideas with your team.

Register now

A registration brochure, draft conference program and accommodation details are now available on the LGNSW website (see fact box). There is a special rate for delegates wanting to enjoy the convenience of staying on site at Elements of Byron.

Date and location

Wednesday 9 March – Friday
11 March 2016
Elements of Byron, Byron Bay

Online information

lgnsw.org.au/events-training/local-government-tourism-conference

Contact

LGNSW Events Team
events@lgnsw.org.au
Tel: (02) 9242 4000

Ref: R15/0007 MF

General Interest

Item 5: Ministers' Awards For Women In Local Government

Nominations are invited for the Ministers' Awards for Women In Local Government which recognise the contribution of women councillors and council staff to local government in NSW.

The 2016 awards are a joint initiative with the Minister for Women and the Minister for Local Government, and have four categories for both a metropolitan council and a rural/regional council:

- Elected Representative
- Senior Staff Member – senior staff positions, as defined by councils in the Local Government Directory
- Non-Senior Staff Member – women who may not have worked in local government for long, or at a senior level, but who have demonstrated significant achievement and leadership
- Women In Non-Traditional Roles – women working in trades and other male – dominated areas within the local government sector.

The awards recognise the contributions of women in leadership positions, women who are making a difference behind the scenes, and trail-blazing women in non-traditional roles such as engineering. The awards also aim to inspire other women to consider a future in local government and make a difference in their local community.

Winners will be presented with their awards at a function to celebrate International Women's Day at Parliament House on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

Nominations close

Thursday 4 February 2016 at 5pm

Online information

<http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/our-minister/ministers-award-women-local-government>

Contact

Office of Local Government:
womensawards@olg.nsw.gov.au
Tel: (02) 4428 4100

Ref: R92/0084-02 LG

General Interest

Item 6: Happy 100th Birthday Norma Male!

Wednesday 13 January 2016 marks the 100th birthday of Norma Male, the first woman to hold the office of Town Clerk with a NSW Council.

She was appointed Town Clerk of Balranald Municipality in 1944 and became the Shire Clerk of Balranald Shire in 1957, following its incorporation.

In over 30 years of service to the Balranald Council, Norma took responsibility for many new projects. She was secretary to the Western Division Councils and some highlights were the establishment of the Western Shires Dental Service, the library, development of the rural road network, and overseeing the implementation of many other facilities associated with pioneering a new council.

During her time at Balranald, Norma mentored many people. She, was particularly fond of her "Balranald Boys" – Rob McMillan, Don Cooper, Doug Chapman, Ken Murphy, Alan McCormack – to name a few. (Although, of course this was a time when senior local government positions were predominantly male and that was often a source of mirth given Norma's surname).

In 2009 Balranald Shire Council's new office extension was officially opened and named in Norma's honour. The opening of the Norma Male Chambers was attended by Norma herself, then at the age of 93, where she spoke of her experiences and achievements to a very appreciate audience.

She worked in the Sydney offices of the then Town Clerks Society and Institute of Municipal Management following her retirement from Balranald in 1974 until 1988. In the last few years she was recognised for her 70 years of membership with LG Professionals, NSW (having joined in 1944) where she is a fellow.

Norma is also featured in the National Pioneers Women's Hall of Fame under the category of 'Leaders of Men'. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1975 for her dedicated service to local government.

She now lives in Wagga Wagga and is having a private party with relatives and friends on the weekend after her birthday.

If you know Norma and would like to send a congratulatory message or card, see the fact box for details.

Congratulatory emails

Via Rob McMillan, a former Director Corporate Services at Tumut Shire
Robert_McMillan@bigpond.com

Congratulatory cards

Via Andrew Crakanthorp
Director Planning and Regulatory Services
Wagga Wagga Council
Baylis & Morrow streets
Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

Tel: 1300 292 442

Ref: R98/0087 MK

Community

Item 7: Elder Abuse Prevention Policy

The Department of Family and Community Services has recently updated the NSW Interagency Policy for Preventing and Responding to Abuse of Older People.

The policy provides guidance for government and non-government agencies by supporting:

- The development of local and regional policies for effective and proactive response to abuse of older people in the community
- Co-ordination of local and regional responses
- Protection of workers in a situation where abuse is suspected, witnessed or alleged
- Community engagement to support those experiencing, or at risk of, abuse
- Consistent data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting of abuse incidents and trends at a regional and state-wide level.

Online information

www.ageing.nsw.gov.au

Contact

1800 628 221

Ref: R96/1026 MK

The policy also guides the work of the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit, which the NSW Government established in March 2013.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for requirements in relation to abuse of older people living in residential aged care or in receipt of services that it funds.

Community

Item 8: Childcare Package Submissions Invited

The Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee is holding an inquiry into the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015 and submissions are invited.

The bill, with its new Child Care Subsidy and requirements for approved child care providers, support improved affordability, accessibility and flexibility to child care for families and support workforce engagement.

Recognising the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged families, and the benefits that quality child care and early learning can have on children's early development, the bill also introduces the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS). This subsidy provides improved and targeted support to those families who require it most, such as:

- Families with children at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- Families experiencing temporary financial hardship
- Grandparent carers
- Parents seeking to return to work, and
- Low-income households.

The Committee is due to report to the Senate by 17 March 2016.

Submissions due

Friday 29 January 2016

Online information

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment.

Contact

Margaret Kay 9242 4082
Margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R90/0124 MK

Community

Item 9: Latest Consultation NDIA Draft

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has released a consultation draft of its Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Commissioning Framework. It outlines how NDIA will fund and manage information, linkage and capacity building (ILC) activities in the future.

ILC will help promote economic and social inclusion for people with disability, beyond the funded support an individual may receive in their NDIS plan.

The ILC Commissioning Framework translates the ILC Policy Framework into action, starting with five activity streams. The consultation draft contains the following information:

- Framework context, its role and where it sits in relation to legislation and other policies
- Key framework aspects
- The importance of outcomes for successful ILC implementation
- Expected outcomes and how they can be managed and measured
- An approach to funding ILC activities, and
- Timeframe for next steps.

The consultation draft does not include program guidelines, or a sample application form, or eligibility or selection criteria. All this information will follow once the final ILC Commissioning Framework is released mid-2016.

ILC will not commence nationally during 2016-17. Each state and territory will transition at a point that makes sense in relation to its broader transition to NDIS. When those transition details are finalised next year, they will be released to the public, including what it means for existing ILC-type contracts.

The indicative ILC budget will build up slowly over the next few years to approximately \$132 million when the full NDIS rollout is complete in 2019-20. ILC funding will be distributed through grants.

Consultation

Early 2016

Online information

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/community/ilc-home/ilc-commissioning-framework-consultation>

Contact

register to receive information at
ILC@ndis.gov.au

Ref: R90/0058 MK

Community

Item 10: Members Sought For Ministerial Advisory Committee On Ageing

The NSW Government is seeking new members for the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing (MACA).

The Committee is the primary source of advice to the Minister for Ageing and the NSW Government on ageing policy. This includes issues affecting older people in NSW and responding to the challenges and opportunities of population ageing.

MACA is seeking people who have professional, academic or community experience in issues affecting older people in NSW.

Members should have an understanding of government policy processes and be able to use their skills in strategic thinking to influence policy development. People with experience, skills and knowledge in the following areas are particularly sought:

- Ageing experiences of Aboriginal people
- Ageing experiences of people from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Older people living in rural or remote NSW communities, and
- Employment, skills and training of those in technical, trade or manual/labourer occupations.

MACA meets approximately six times a year in Sydney and may host events or community consultations across regional NSW.

While the majority of members are older people, people of any age with relevant expertise are encouraged to apply.

Applications close
Friday 15 January 2016 at 5pm

Online information:
www.ageing.nsw.gov.au/about_us/news/maca-recruitment-2015-2016

Contact
MACA Secretariat 1800 729 368
nsw.maca@fac.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0126 MK

Community

Item 11: Multicultural NSW Regional Advisory Councils

Multicultural NSW is encouraging people across NSW to champion of social cohesion and harmony by applying to join a Regional Advisory Council (RAC).

Twelve RACs will be established under *Section 10 of the Multicultural NSW Act 2000*, in regional and metropolitan areas, to engage with all sectors of society to enrich social and economic capacity through cultural diversity. This is part of the NSW Government's Community Engagement Strategy to implement the Harmony in Action Strategic Plan to build NSW as a diverse and harmonious society.

RACs are well placed to identify issues that affect communities within regional NSW and metropolitan Sydney, and resolve them through co-operation and partnership between community, specialist service providers and government services.

Each RAC is chaired by a Multicultural NSW board member, and comprises up to eight community members and seven government members. Expressions of interest are now open for community members.

Applications close

Friday 12 February 2016

Online information

http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au/community_engagement/regional_advisory_councils

Contact

Multicultural NSW Regional
Services Coordinator
RACselection@multicultural.nsw.gov.au

Ref: 91/0229-07 LG

Community

Item 12: Social and Affordable Housing Fund

The NSW Government is launching the first phase of procurement for projects supported by the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).

The aim of SAHF is to boost the delivery of social and affordable housing and associated services in metropolitan and regional NSW.

The first phase seeks proposals related to the delivery of 3,000 dwellings. It includes establishing service agreements for the delivery of housing, along with tenancy and asset management, as well as coordinating access to social support programs and services where appropriate.

SAHF has been designed with support and input from Infrastructure Partnerships Australia and the NSW Council of Social Services, which were signatories to a memorandum of understanding with the NSW Government in March 2015.

SAHF will:

- Support innovative solutions to deliver social and affordable housing
- Provide sustainable, ongoing funding to eligible projects, and
- Grow over time to support broader sector reforms.

During phase one, SAHF will provide funding to bridge the gap between existing revenue streams and commercially viable projects.

The NSW Government has a preference for approaches that:

- Maximise land contributions from outside government
- Have a minimum transaction size of 500 dwellings (200 dwellings for regional)
- Recognise the relationship of mixed residential sites and areas to outcomes for households
- Appreciate the importance of transport, education and employment access for households, and
- Provide value for money solutions and deliver the required outcomes.

Registration closes

Monday 29 February 2016

Online information

<http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/reforms/social-housing/SAHF/invitation-for-expression-of-interest>

Contact

sahf@facs.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0115 MK

Community

Item 13: Extension Of Funding For Family Programs

The NSW Government has announced that funding will be extended for Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) and intensive programs for one year.

The \$233 million funding extension provides certainty for more than 600 non-government organisations providing case management, parenting programs, domestic violence support, and helping to prevent children from entering the child protection system.

Between now and June 2017, the Department of Family and Community Services will work with stakeholders to scope and co-design reform of the TEI system in NSW.

Sector engagement has already started, with a TEI consultation paper released last August. A summary analysis of consultations to date will be released in early 2016.

The reform timeframe will depend on district planning, transition and implementation approaches, and transition readiness. The broad timeline is:

- Initial consultation: August – December 2015
- Consolidation and feedback: November 2015 – March 2016
- Policy directions and service design: March – September 2016
- District service system design planning: October 2016 – June 2017
- Transition planning and implementation: From July 2017.

Consultation and feedback
Until March 2016

Online information
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/teiprogramreform

Contact
TEIReform@facs.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R09/0029 MK

Finance

Item 14: ATO Reporting Of Taxable Government Grants and Property Transactions

Legislation is now in place requiring the reporting of transactions such as government grants; payments to contractors, consultants and other vendors; and transfers of real property, to the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

The reporting measures are contained in schedule 4 of the Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Measures No. 5) Act 2015 amending the Taxation Administration Act 1953.

Government entities required to report will need to begin collecting the required information from Friday 1 July 2017. The first annual report for the year ending 30 June 2018 will be due on 28 August 2018.

Exemptions for certain entities and transactions

Two legislative instruments are in development to exempt certain government entities from reporting and exempt certain transactions from being reported.

Stakeholders now have the opportunity to provide feedback on these exemptions (see text box).

Electronic reporting specification

A final draft of the electronic reporting specification has also been developed.

This specification is to be used in the software development to enable lodgment of the taxable payments annual report containing government grants and payments data for the year ending 30 June 2018 onwards.

For stakeholders developing software that is Standard Business Reporting enabled, the draft message implementation guide will be available on 14 January 2016 on the SBR website.

Exemptions submissions close

Monday 15 February 2016

Information

The Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Measures No. 5) Act 2015

www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2015A00162

Consultation on exemptions

[http://lets-](http://lets-talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments)

[talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments](http://lets-talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments)

Electronic reporting specifications

[http://lets-](http://lets-talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments)

[talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments](http://lets-talk.ato.gov.au/govgrantsandpayments).

Draft message implementation guide

Available from 14 January 2016 at

www.sbr.gov.au

Australian Taxation Office Contact

Robert Muscat

Tel: (03) 9275 4834

Scott Anderson

Tel: (03) 9285 1882

tgpp@ato.gov.au

Ref: R96/0104 SM