



Call for submissions

Conference on

Local Governance in the 21st Century: Structures and Efficiency

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 18 AUGUST

SELECTION NOTIFICATION: 21 AUGUST

FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION: 5 SEPTEMBER

CONFERENCE DATE: 15 SEPTEMBER

VENUE: OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

LG Professionals Australia is holding a one-day national-level conference in Canberra, titled 'Local Governance in the 21st Century: Structures and Efficiency' on 15 September 2017. The purpose of the conference is to explore local governance in Australia, and create a dialogue on how that can be shared with and transferred to emerging local government sectors in developing countries.

There will be three sessions in the conference, in the areas listed below. We are calling for abstracts of no more than 350 words in these areas from academics, practitioners and researchers who will also be able to present at the conference on 15 September. All the necessary conference attendance cost will be covered for the selected three paper presenters.

LG Professionals Australia, the peak body representing 3,500 professionals from over 500 local councils across Australia, believes that effective local governments can have an enormous positive impact on the day-to-day lives of residents via the services they deliver and the ways they engage with communities. That impact is underpinned by good governance practices and maximising the strengths of place, as the cornerstone of local government.

It is imperative to explore and understand how the local governance system works with other governance structures and how it can ensure optimal efficiency in service delivery. This conference aims to instigate these discussions.

ABSTRACT CAN BE SUBMITTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN A 3-TIERED SYSTEM INCLUDING:

- how local government fits into the wider federal system
- what can be done to boost the effectiveness of local governments within the wider governing system

- how local governments can leverage place-based strengths to find a voice in the federal system

2. DEFINING THE PROFESSIONAL INCLUDING:

- the role of the professionals within local government
- working with elected officials
- commitment to democracy
- effectiveness
- commitment to public well-being
- commitment to a diverse and supportive office/work culture

3. BUILDING DIVERSITY INTO THE PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE INCLUDING:

- advantages of a diverse (specifically gender and ethnicity) workforce
- assumptions that get in the way of creating and maintaining a diverse workforce
- processes that can be employed to ensure diverse recruitment, hiring, promotion and employee support

Please email your questions or papers to M Mizanur Rahman, International Programs and Policy Manager of LG Professionals Australia at programs@lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au