



MEDIA RELEASE

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Two local government finalists in SA's Telstra Business Women's Awards

Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) is pleased to see strong representation among the finalists of the Telstra Business Women Awards, announced in South Australia yesterday.

The candidates are CEO of LGMA South Australia Taryn Sexton, and the City of Charles Sturt's Information Services Manager, Jodie Rugless.

'I am honoured to have been nominated and selected as a finalist in these Awards. The self reflection required throughout the application process has been enormously valuable to me and I am grateful to work in both the not-for-profit and local government sectors where one's work can have such an impact on those around them,' said Taryn.

'To be recognised by my peers as a nominee and then to be fortunate enough to make it through the process to the point of finalist is an achievement I am very, very proud of. I am really looking forward to using my finalist status to promote both the IT industry and the local government sector as a great place to work, and succeed, for women in the workplace,' said Jodie.

Taryn has been at the helm of LGMA SA for three years. Her achievements include increasing membership by one-third, increasing corporate partnership 200 per cent and improving LGMA SA's financial position by 82 per cent.

Jodie's role gives her full strategic and operational oversight of Charles Sturt's IT program, with responsibility for 31 staff and a budget of \$7.9M. She is also Chair of the council's Digital Economy Strategy Taskforce.

'The fact that we have two finalists representing local government is recognition of both the importance of our sector in the community, and the outstanding contribution these two women bring to their roles,' said LGMA National President Mark Ferguson.

The Telstra Business Women Awards recognise remarkable women who *'inspire people through their leadership, innovation and courage.'*

'South Australia is extremely lucky to have Taryn and Jodie, two committed individuals who have dedicated years to serving their communities,' said LGMA SA President, Mark Searle.

19 finalists have been announced in South Australia. A gala dinner will be held on Tuesday 24 September at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre where the winner will be announced on the night. The 2013 state and territory winners will then go on to take part in a two-day event in Melbourne on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November.

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