

## **Ministerial Women's Roundtable report from 14 March 2017 meeting**

### **Background**

LGPro decided to take the lead using comprehensive information and data gathered from Victoria's 79 Councils as the basis of a report titled 'Addressing Representation of Women at CEO Level in Local Government'. The report was presented to the Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchins by female Board Members on International Women's Day on 8 March 2016.

In response to the report, the Minister announced in June last year that she was forming a Local Government Ministerial Women's Roundtable to focus on practical changes to lift the number of women in senior roles in the sector. Its membership includes every female Council CEO, and representatives from the three peak bodies. The Roundtable will meet twice a year and the first meeting was held in October last year.

LGPro is represented by Robyn Mansfield, LGPro Vice President and Manager Built and Active Spaces, Yarra Ranges and Rebecca McKenzie LGPro President and CEO Glen Eira.

### **Update from the 14 March meeting**

- An update from each of the peak organisations: LGPro, MAV and VLGA  
It would appear that every peak organisation has an initiative around gender equity high on their priorities this year. All of the peak organisations have women Presidents or Chairs. LGPro's niche is certainly carved out from the officer perspective.
- There was discussion on considerations for inclusion in Local Government Act and/or LGPRF reform:
  - including matters associated with parental leave and entitlement to expenses for Councillors
  - reporting on gender breakdowns within senior officer candidate pools
  - requirement for a workforce plan that includes gender equity considerations; and
  - potentials for quotas or targets.
- DELWP is developing a Best Practice Guide for Gender Equity.
- Vijaya Vaidyanath, CEO City of Yarra and Justine Linley, CEO Ballarat provided an update on the experiences to date within their Councils of implementing the Local Government Listen Learn and Lead Gender Equality Program. They provided feedback to the Minister on considerations and challenges.