



Barbara Perry MP
Minister for Local Government
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health
(Mental Health)

Women in Local Government Award Winners Announced

Monday 16 March, 2009

The 2009 Women in Local Government Award winners were today announced by Minister for Local Government Barbara Perry and Minister for Women Verity Firth.

The awards jointly presented by the Ministers at Parliament House aim to recognise the contribution women are making at the local government level.

“Women are significantly underrepresented at the Local Government Level, only 22% of Mayors and 27% of councillors in NSW are women.” Ms Perry said.

“I want to make inroads on increasing the level of participation of women in the sector.” Ms Perry said

“Having been a local councillor, it’s something I’m passionate about.”

Both Ministers were highly impressed with the quality of this year’s nominees.

“All of the nominees for this year’s awards demonstrated that women are making some fantastic and innovative changes at the local level,” Ms Firth said.

“It’s great to see women involved in tailoring local solutions for local needs.” Ms Perry said “It’s what local government is all about”

The award categories recognise both staff and elected representatives. The categories also provide awards for elected representatives from rural/ regional as well as metropolitan councils.

“It was encouraging to see that all the nominees were actively involved in promoting women’s participation in local government,” Ms Firth said “Local Government is a great platform for women to get their voices heard.”

2009 Award Winners:

Member of staff – Metropolitan council

Ms Penny Holloway, General Manager, North Sydney Council

Member of staff – Regional/ Rural council

Ms Leanne Barnes, Group Manager of Customer Service and Community Development, Bega Valley Shire Council

Elected representative – Metropolitan council

Clr Tania Mihailuk, Mayor, Bankstown City Council

Elected representative – regional/ rural council

Clr Sue Whelan, Queanbeyan City Council