Australians are ready for a debate about updating Australia’s Constitution, but it is only likely to lead to change if people are engaged with the process, the latest results from the Australian Constitutional Values Survey found.

The second phase of results from the Australian Constitutional Values Survey were issued in October by project researchers Prof A J Brown and Dr Ron Levy of Griffith Law School. The results focus on the prospects for successful referenda on Indigenous recognition and Local Government recognition in the next three years - as recently promised by the Federal Government.

The Australian Constitutional Values Survey was conducted nationally. A total of 1,201 respondents were interviewed in May 2008 and 1,100 respondents in March 2010. When asked how important it was to have referenda on these issues in the next few years, 75% of respondents indicated it was important to have a referendum about Indigenous recognition, and 73% about what levels of government Australia should have in its Constitution. This compares with only 59% who said it was important to have a referendum on becoming a republic, and a higher 77% who said it was important to resolve which levels of government are responsible for what, in the federal system.

“The results highlight that without a robust and comprehensive process for engaging citizens in the design of these proposals, it remains unlikely that enough of this public support will translate into a ‘yes’ vote to actually achieve any change,” Prof Brown said. “Despite high public interest in changing the Constitution to improve Australia’s federal system, base support for constitutional recognition of Local Government remains line ball - nowhere near strong enough to lead to a successful referendum campaign.

The first Australian Constitutional Values Survey, in 2008, showed that 75% of voters might support constitutional recognition of Local Government if convinced it would lead to a better funded, more capable system of Local Government, with better standards of integrity and accountability. However, without this, base support for the general idea of Local Government recognition in 2008 was only 53% - against 42% who saw no real benefit in such a change. In March 2010, this support had slightly dropped – with only 51% of respondents indicating support, and an increased proportion (47%) of respondents seeing no real benefit.

“The results consistently indicate that Australians are interested in constitutional reform if it addresses some of the fundamental problems with Australia’s federal system, but may be unlikely to support recognition of Local Government unless convinced it will help achieve that objective,” Prof Brown said.

Dr Ron Levy said the research confirms much of what we already know about the need for new and better processes of community engagement in the development of constitutional reform proposals.

“Without a process that enables the concerns and desires of ordinary citizens to be truly aired and met, without being overshadowed by political leaders, vested interests and those presumed to know best, we should not expect any great difference from the last constitutional failures 11 and 22 years ago,” Dr Levy said. “Fortunately there are now many options for better engaging the community in the process of reform if we are ready to explore them,” he concluded.

For a summary of the Australian Constitutional Values Survey results, see www.griffith.edu.au/federalism.
Working Together on Local Priorities

On 14 November, Premier David Bartlett joined Tasman Council Mayor, Clr Jan Barwick, to sign the second partnership agreement between the State Government and Council.

Mr Bartlett said the Government is firmly committed to building co-operative partnerships with local governments. “These agreements are about listening, working out the needs and priorities of local communities, and working together to make a difference,” Mr Bartlett said. “In particular, we’ll cooperate closely with the Tasman Council over the next 18 months on growing the Peninsula’s tourism value, improving the health and safety of locals, and improving environmental and land management,” he said. “This agreement will help attract more tourists and enhance their experience through projects like the iconic Three Capes Walk, converting Premaydena Road into a walking track, and building a walkers’ car park at Ship Stern Bluff.”

The partnership also focuses on important social programs, including a mentoring and leadership program for young people, a community road safety partnerships program, promotion of healthy living, and a review of housing needs to develop a local housing strategy.
Women Encouraged to Take a Stand

During October, the Secretary to Cabinet, Cassy O’Connor, launched the 2011 WomenCan campaign in Oatlands. Launched a year in advance of the October 2011 local council elections, the campaign aims to encourage women to start thinking about and preparing to stand for council now.

“Public speaking, making strategic decisions, running meetings, and negotiating solutions for problems are just some of the skills that women can develop and contribute as elected Local Government representatives,” Ms O’Connor said.

“By participating in Local Government women can prompt change, contribute to ideas and help build their communities.”

Women from all around the state attended the WomenCan launch which kicked off an exciting year of events and activities designed to increase the participation of women as elected representatives in local council. These initiatives include workshops, information sessions, networking opportunities, a media campaign and a mentoring program. ♥

To find out more on WomenCan, visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au, contact the Local Government Division on (03) 6232 7022, or Crl Cheryl Fuller, ALGWA Tasmanian Branch President on 0458 888 040.

Sustainability Objectives and Indicators Project Report 2009-10

The Premier’s Local Government Council’s sustainability objectives and indicators (SOI) project is well underway. The aim of the project is to promote excellence in Local Government performance through a focused and meaningful data collection and analysis program.

Data for the SOI project will be collected through the annual consolidated data collection. Due to the SOI consultation happening at the time the data collection began, data has not been collected against each of the performance indicators agreed to through the SOI project. Therefore, the 2009-10 SOI report will be a sample report that is based on sustainability data derived out of the consolidated data collection, rather than a report against the agreed SOI performance indicators.

The sample SOI report will give Local Government and other stakeholders an idea of what to expect from the reports in the coming years. Local Government will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the format and usefulness of the report. This feedback will ensure that future SOI reports are as meaningful to the sector as possible. It’s anticipated that the sample report will be available in the first quarter of 2011.

The Local Government Division would like to thank all those who have provided submissions to the SOI project consultation and those who were involved in developing indicators and targets through the working groups. ♥

To discuss the consolidated data collection, or the SOI project, please contact the Department of Premier and Cabinet’s Local Government Division on (03) 6232 7022.
Hobart City Council Deals a Charitable Hand for Relief and Recovery Efforts

The Hobart City Council has been digging deep to support relief and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the worst floods ever to hit Pakistan, and the devastating earthquake that struck Christchurch in September which caused massive damage to many homes and businesses.

Hobart City Council donated $25,000 to the UNICEF Pakistan Children’s Appeal to provide assistance for children and families following the disastrous floods. An estimated 21 million people have been made homeless in Pakistan and up to one million homes have been destroyed since the flooding began in July. Of the nine million children affected in Pakistan, more than 3.5 million of them are children aged under five years. Displaced families have been camping on roadsides without access to shelter, sanitation, clean drinking water, food and medical care.

Council also donated $20,000 to the Christchurch Earthquake Heritage Fund following the most destructive earthquake to strike New Zealand in 80 years, which left more than ten thousand properties either damaged or destroyed. Lord Mayor Rob Valentine said this is a major disaster for the people of Christchurch and surrounding areas and, while the initial 7.1 magnitude earthquake caused the most damage, there have been upwards of 2,000 aftershocks. “As many of the most severely affected structures in Christchurch and surrounding districts are older buildings, including several notable inner-city heritage buildings, Council’s donation will assist in funding the repair, restoration and strengthening of heritage buildings damaged by the earthquake,” he said.
Huon Valley Council and Local Tattoo Artist Join Forces

The Huon Valley Council is urging anyone considering a tattoo to make sure the tattoo studio they are using is licensed and follows appropriate public health guidelines.

Council’s Senior Environmental Health Officer, Scott Edwards, said it’s important you ask your tattooist if they are licensed and what public health precautions they are using. “If they are unlicensed then the chances are they are also unaware of their requirements under the Public Health Act,” he said. “

The Council and local tattoo artist, Loren Ries, of the 3 Little Birds studio recently joined forces to urge local tattoo artists to make sure they are licensed and aware of requirements under the Public Health Act 1997. Ms Ries emphasises the important role Councils play in the development of the industry in Tasmania. “Industry consultation is vital,” she said.

“IT’s important that councils inform operators and studios of any relevant information or changes that pertain to the tattoo industry, especially in relation to legislation and legal obligations.”

Scott and other Environmental Health Officers are now looking at how and where the current standard of tattooing can be improved across Tasmania. It is intended that the current guidelines will be reviewed and updated. Educational material illustrating best trade practice, in accordance with the revised guidelines, is also being developed. Collaborating with licensed tattooists will be important during this process to ensure that any changes to the guidelines are clear, concise and effective in ensuring that tattooing is conducted safely by suitable, licensed persons in approved studios.
The doors of Burnie’s newly built autism centre are now open! The Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre will now provide specialised care which will see Burnie act as a principal base, and provide centralised support to three satellite sites at child care centres in Circular Head, Devonport and East Devonport.

The new centre, co-located upstairs at Alexander Beetle House, received $4.8 million in funding from the Australian Government’s $190 million Helping Children with Autism package. The new centre employs six specialist staff, including an early childhood education teacher, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists to work alongside five trained child care workers. The Burnie City Council is also developing a strong relationship with the University of Tasmania’s Faculty of Education to ensure it can develop and continue to deliver a best practice model in autism specific early learning.

The Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre can cater for 20 places across the region for children aged from 0-6 years. Along with the excitement of opening the doors, students in the local region were given three weeks to draw up an appropriate design to be used as the official logo. Caitlyn Griffiths of Stella Marris Primary School designed the winning logo for the newly developed centre. Runners up prizes were also presented to Emma Jaffray and Kyle Wescombe.

To contact the Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre, phone (03) 6430 5779.
Kingborough Council recently signed on with the Defence Reserves Support Council as a supportive employer of reservists. Defence reservists give up their own time to support defence activities in Australia and overseas.

Mayor Graham Bury said Council recognises the valuable contribution reservists make to our country and indeed our own workplace. “Reservists bring their experience in team work and leadership skills to the workplace and are highly trained by the Australian Defence Force in these attributes,” he said.

The Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) provides a link between the Australian Defence Force, employers and the community in which reservists spend their civilian time. The DRSC has numerous programs in place that allow employers to experience what a reservist does in their defence career. One program called Exercise Executive Stretch (EES) is aimed at senior and middle management to show and involve them in typical skills that a reservist would gain. EES brings together reservists and members of the business community on an exercise that involves physical and intellectual challenges in an Australian Defence Force environment. This gives employers and potential employers a taste of life in the defence force and a range of skills are used over the exercise such as leadership, confidence and initiative tests, team building exercises, bush craft, navigation and so much more.

DRSC organise many other activities to engage employers when they are in port. Representatives of Kingborough Council had the opportunity to view the visiting French Naval Vessel, LA MOQUEUSE, during its 3-day visit to Hobart in October.

(L-R) Kingborough Council Deputy Mayor, Clr Steve Wass is shown instruments on the bridge by Ensign Francois Le Conte

In the September edition of LGAT News, I outlined the State Government’s intention to work with Local Government on a joint process for reform. The Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC) has now agreed to take the lead on this project.

Local Government: Shaping the Future is about Local Government shaping its own future so it can better shape and influence its external environment and communities. At the PLGC meeting in early October, it was agreed that the critical factor for any reform is trust.

The Premier therefore gave his assurance that any reforms would be determined through mutual agreement and collaboration between the State Government and Local Government.

He also announced that he would not pursue the introduction of compulsory voting at this time, given the spirit of cooperation that he was keen to engender. Instead, compulsory voting may now be considered within the reform process.

The State Government and Local Government share the communities they serve. Any reform must have as its primary aim the wellbeing of these communities. For my part, reform should focus on how we deliver the best services by the best means to our communities.

In this sense, it might be dubbed service reform rather than Local Government reform. This reform must have Local Government leadership. Local Government has an historic opportunity to consider and shape its own destiny and the State Government is keen to see it step up to the plate.

A four-stage reform process has been agreed by the PLGC, with working groups – led by Local Government – considering the scope and critical issues for reform over the first six months of 2011. The work of these groups will culminate in a statewide symposium in July or August 2011. All councils will have the opportunity to participate. I and the Premier will be promoting genuine collaboration throughout this process.

The New Year will be an exciting and vibrant one in Tasmanian Local Government, and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Hon Bryan Green MP, Minister for Local Government
Launceston’s Living Laneways

When Cityprom, formed by the Launceston City Council, wanted to revitalise Launceston’s laneways, they knew that commissioning public artworks would achieve their goal.

The Launceston’s Living Laneways project aims to revitalise Launceston’s laneways through an increase in their usage and offers an alternative approach to interpretation and acknowledgment of a living heritage. The laneways project proposes to open up and enrich the laneways, both as a physical space and a historical space, through explorations of their current and past usages.

Cityprom enlisted the arts@work Corporate Art Scheme to commission artists and to manage the project. Vicki West and Ralf Haertel’s artwork *Float in Time* is a temporary work with a six month lifespan in George’s Lane. The artwork consists of silk fabric and woven willow forms, which flow across the space - with the silk moving in the wind to create a visually engaging work. The artwork celebrates the unofficial history of the laneway and provides visual encouragement for people to take a closer look.

Located in Paterson’s Lane, Julie Stoneman’s permanent work, *Patersonia* has used images that are a deliberate interplay on the pre and post settlement history of Launceston. The artwork juxtaposes images of the beautiful purple flowering *Patersonia fragilis*, with early maps of Launceston and a woven form made from the leaves of the *Patersonia fragilis* plant by Tasmanian Aboriginal artist, Vicki West. 

Arts@work is a business unit of the Tasmanian Government’s Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts. For details, visit www.arts.tas.gov.au.

Latrobe Girls Encouraged to Step Out With Confidence

As part of The Year of Women in Local Government, Clrs Lynette Stuart and Lesley Young of Latrobe Council, together with Mrs Julie Holloway from Latrobe High School, coordinated a special program for girls attending the school to encourage them to consider taking up leadership roles within the community.

Positive messages from twelve local female leaders were shared with the girls, encouraging them to follow their aspirations, to believe in themselves, work hard and make happen what they hope to achieve in the future.

Approximately 190 students were divided into discussion groups and the twelve women moved from group to group, speaking and answering questions. Mother of the Year, Gina Timms, and a well known musician sang *You Raise Me Up*, and the afternoon proved beneficial for the girls.

The program was instigated by Latrobe Council to help young women ‘Step out with Confidence’ as part of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association national campaign to encourage more women to take up responsible positions within the community.
Role Conflict and the Perception of Women in Politics

CHERIE HAWKINS, PHD STUDENT
Institute for Regional Development (UTAS)

Despite raising awareness and promoting the need for an increase in women’s participation in Local Government across Australia in recent years, women continue to be underrepresented in the political arena.

The Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, confirmed this at the launch of the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government, stating that, “less than one-third of councillors are women, 20% of senior managers are women, and only 7% of chief executive officers are women”.

Why are so few women occupying positions within Local Government? Is there a need to explore the numerous influencing factors, such as the diversity of individual circumstances, the social and cultural dynamics within particular communities and councils, the history of politics in this country and the many variables relating to personal ambitions, values and life role orientations? I propose that an exploration into the challenges faced by women in balancing multiple role expectations and entering into what has always been a male-dominated occupational field may at least shed some light on the evident gender imbalance in Local Government.

Some researchers have argued that the career development process is much more complicated for women, as they are often required to make choices dependant upon whether they are able to balance career aspirations with other life aspirations and role expectations. Julia Gillard is a classic example of a woman so dedicated to her career in politics and aspirations to make a difference to her community, that this simply did not allow for the type of commitment required for motherhood. Julia is probably an exception to the rule with many females opting to compromise careers in a male dominated environment and balance their work and family aspirations, values and life role orientations. Some women have reported the significance of mentoring and being mentored as being open to negotiating the conditions of employment. If women are to be given a fair shot at a career in Local Government, serious considerations need to be made in regards to family-friendly policies, allowing flexibility and successfully balancing motherhood, relationships and work.

Evidence of this may be seen in a recent Australian study where most of the women surveyed reported aspirations for a combination of motherhood, part-time work and relationships. It could be argued that women dismiss the idea of careers that require time commitments and attract conditions that they are unable to manage, if they are to also incorporate other possible roles into their lives.

Maintaining the ‘whole of life’ balance may mean that women are opting for careers which are more flexible in nature, offer working hours that are in sync with childcare/school arrangements, or those which have more family-friendly policies and are open to negotiating the conditions of employment. If women are being more flexible in regards to their life role orientations around family and work, as some have debated, this could partly explain the low numbers of women in Local Government positions as these arguably don’t spark visions of flexibility and successfully balancing motherhood, relationships and work.

Let us now consider the apprehension that may be felt by some women in regards to entering into the world of politics that has traditionally been the realm of men, and it creates an interesting picture. For those women who have overcome the challenge of balancing multiple identities and secured themselves a position in Local Government, they then have to overcome the challenge of fulfilling a traditionally male role and accustom to the culture of a male-dominated workplace.

The perception of Local Government positions requiring assertive, outspoken, confident women who stand up and question policies and decisions without an ounce of hesitation, in a room dominated by men, may also deter some women away from the role. This is because it generates a vision of women in politics as over the top power trippers, which may conflict with the perception they have about themselves and the person they want to be.

This leads us to wonder how women in Local Government positions overcome the challenge of holding down a career in a male dominated environment and balance their work roles, motherhood and relationships. Some women have reported the significance of mentoring and being mentored as it creates a network of supports and also opportunities to share experiences. This support is crucial but what more can be done to support females already in Local Government positions and attract more to the field?

In politics for women that depicts it not only as an achievable aspiration, but as a rewarding and fulfilling ambition. Local Government is renowned for its gender-specific silos, with traditionally male occupational fields such as engineering, planning, works, and senior management and CEO positions (requiring a finance background) which limits the number of female role models in Local Government. Let us now consider the apprehension that may be felt by some women in regards to entering into the world of politics that has traditionally been the realm of men, and it creates an interesting picture. For those women who have overcome the challenge of balancing multiple identities and secured themselves a position in Local Government, they then have to overcome the challenge of fulfilling a traditionally male role and accustom to the culture of a male-dominated workplace.

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If women are to be given a fair shot at a career in Local Government, serious considerations need to be made in regards to family-friendly policies, allowing flexibility and being open to negotiating the conditions of employment. There needs to be a more positive portrayal of a career in politics for women that depicts it not only as an achievable aspiration, but as a rewarding and fulfilling ambition. Local Government is renowned for its gender-specific silos, with traditionally male occupational fields such as engineering, planning, works, and senior management and CEO positions (requiring a finance background) which limits the number of female role models in Local Government to begin with, making these positions appear not just unappealing to women, but unachievable. We need more female role models, and we need them now.
CRSP Update

Whos Des Tonight? in Launceston

The successful Who’s Des Tonight designated driver program has now been adopted by the greater Launceston region.

Originally developed as a Community Road Safety Partnerships (CRSP) initiative in Burnie in 2004, supported by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, the program aims to encourage potential drivers to plan ahead and travel with a driver who has not consumed alcohol.

The West Tamar CRSP led the way in the North of the State, but the program recently expanded to the wider Launceston region to embrace the Launceston City Council, Meander Valley Council, Launceston Safer Community Partnership and Launceston Liquor Accord.

The program encourages a whole-of-community approach, with State and local government, industry and community groups working together to address the issue of drink-driving.

Patrick Gambles (Meander Valley), Mayor Albert van Zetten (Launceston), James Harding (Liquor Accord) and Jannie Turner (West Tamar) enjoy a ‘Who’s Des soft drink’ at Country Club Tasmania.

What’s Around the Corner in Dorset

The What’s Around the Corner? program, previously introduced to Meander Valley and West Coast communities, is now happening in Dorset. The program aims to raise driver awareness of what maybe encountered on Dorset roads. The program was launched in October by Mayor Barry Jarvis.

The local campaign encourages road users in Dorset to expect the unexpected. It will highlight that ‘you don’t know what’s around the corner’. You may encounter, farm machinery, school buses, farmers moving livestock, recreational cyclists, wildlife and visitors unfamiliar with the road.

Campaign messages will be promoted through local radio and newspapers, posters, coffee cup holders and on place mats at local tourist attractions and cafes.

Heavy Going in Meander Valley

Also in October Meander Valley Mayor, Mark Shelton, launched the Heavy Going road safety campaign at Pages Transport at Carrick. This CRSP initiative aims at getting light vehicle and heavy vehicle drivers to acknowledge that they both have a place on the road and that they have to share this common space safely.

Truck operators in Meander Valley are being invited to join the campaign and to support it by displaying “Heavy Going, Be Patient Drive Safely” stickers on their trucks.

The Heavy Going program has now expanded to 5 northern municipalities.

Rodney Drake (Council truck driver), Mayor Mark Shelton (Meander Valley), David McIntee (DIER) and Geoff Page (Pages Transport) place the first truck stickers.

MORE INFORMATION?

Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding the CRSP Program can contact Project Manager, Geoff Frier (DIER) by phone 62 334861 or email geoff.frier@dier.tas.gov.au
Top Award for Clever Design

The 2010 Building Designers Association of Tasmania (BDAT) Design Awards saw Mike Cleaver of Clever Design take out the overall Award for Excellence for the fourth year running with his design - 7A Urban Footprint. The residential building was a big winner on the night, collecting four other awards including Best use of Glass, Best use of Colour and Best use of Steel.

Located in Bellerive, a suburb of Hobart, the 7A Urban Footprint design features one way mirrors, fantastic use of space and timber, and was designed with an eco-friendly goal of reducing the carbon footprint of the average Australian home. One of the major priorities for the client was to downsize from their previous home to a design that was contemporary, “livable” into the future, cost effective to reside in and have no exterior maintenance. The design was to maximise passive solar principles and capture the south west vista of Mt Wellington, surrounding beach and river views to the south.

Mike Cleaver’s multi-award winning and progressive architectural design practice is recognised nationally for providing excellence in contemporary, innovative design, with an emphasis on energy efficiency and ecological sustainable architecture.
The BDAT Awards, held mid-September, aim to encompass all aspects of building design with a broad range of categories including Commercial Buildings, Public Buildings, Heritage Buildings and Environmental and Energy Efficient Buildings, as well as the overall Award of Excellence. Support from Tasmanian local councils this year means that all designs entered in the awards have been on display throughout the state in the public foyers of council buildings.

The 2010 BDAT Award Winners are:

**Mike Cleaver – Clever Design**
- Award of Excellence – 7A Urban Footprint
- Residential buildings up to 250m² – 7A Urban Footprint
- Best Residential Interior – 7A Urban Footprint
- Best use of Glass – 7A Urban Footprint
- Best use of Steel – 7A Urban Footprint
- Best use of Colour – 7A Urban Footprint

**Frank Geskus – Prime Design**
- Residential buildings 251m² to 350m² – The Trevallyn Residence
- Heritage Buildings – Launceston Plastic & Cosmetic Surgery Unit
- Public Buildings and/or Special Projects – The Science Block

**Richard Hall – Lateral Drafting**
- Residential Buildings 351m² to 450m² – Batman Bridge House
- Residential Alterations & Additions over $200,000 – The Glenrowan Addition
- Conceptual Design – Commercial Buildings – Museum of Tasmanian Aviation

**Theresa Hatton – Individual Building Design**
- Non-Residential Alterations & Additions – The Café 101
- Refurbishment

**Gary Austin – Concept Drafting Design**
- Residential Alterations & Additions under $200,000 – Addition to house @ 41 29 41 SOUTH

**Ian Ray – Abel Drafting Services**
- Commercial Buildings – The Saunders St. Clinic

**Belinda Weston – Duo Design**
- Best Commercial Interior – The Centrepoint Project
- Best use of Timber – The Centrepoint Project

![Museum of Tasmanian Aviation – Richard Hall](image1)

![The Centrepoint Project – Belinda Weston](image2)
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Every challenge is an opportunity.
Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment

The increased demands on facility managers to improve safety standards and keep abreast of industry best practice can be difficult and time consuming. Often, the skills required to assess and improve safety are not readily available internally and are best done externally. An external point of view also offers an impartial assessment of where an aquatic facility stands against current standards.

The formulation and introduction of risk management and emergency procedures, essential to normal operations, can provide any aquatic or leisure facility with the foundation for a successful and continued operation. To assist aquatic operators achieve this, Royal Life Saving has developed the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA).

The AFSA is based on Royal Life Saving’s Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation and Australian Standard AS/NZS: 4360-2004 Risk Management. There are over 70 guidelines which cover all areas of aquatic facility operations. The Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation provide recommendations for best practice for both client and employee safety and will assist in the development, implementation and maintenance of quality systems within the aquatic facility.

The Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment assesses an aquatic facility against the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation and applicable Australian Standards and legislation. To conduct an AFSA, an accredited Royal Life Saving Safety Assessor will assess a facility across a range of areas such as administration, first aid, plant room and chemical storage, facility design, signage, supervision and programs.

The report from each AFSA not only contains the detailed findings of the assessment, but also a Safety Improvement Plan. In addition to the final report, Royal Life Saving also provides the aquatic facility with a template for internal safety inspections, enabling the aquatic facility to conduct self assessments to monitor its progress between external assessments.

For more information please contact the Royal Life Saving Society on (03) 6243 7558.

News in Brief

Webcast on Improved Building Access

A webcast highlighting important changes to do with accessibility in building design and construction is now available. The webcast, produced by the Australian Building Codes Board, provides an overview of the ways in which the Disability Access to Premises – Buildings Standards (Premises Standards) will improve access to buildings and achieve consistency between building law and the Disability Discrimination Act. Adoption of these standards represents a move towards national consistency in accessibility requirements, which will generate greater certainty for practitioners in the design and construction of buildings while ensuring buildings are more accessible for people with disability and members of our ageing population. The changes are expected to take effect on 1 May 2011. The webcast is available at www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/buildings/webcast.html.

Book Set to Enhance Meeting Effectiveness

For those wanting to transform the effectiveness of council, staff and management meetings, Dr Ian Plowman, who presented at the 2008 Local Government Conference, has released a new book entitled Productive Techniques for Halving Meeting Time Whilst Doubling Fun, Wisdom and Commitment. The techniques can be applied to formal meetings, community consultation processes, or teleconferences. The book will make a valuable addition to any professional resource library, including your local community library. To obtain a copy, contact the author at ian@plowman.com.au.