

LGAQ UPDATE

Free Interpreting Services

Did you know that interpreting services are free to Queensland Local Government when providing services and information to residents for non-commercial purposes? The Association has just released an online guide to Councils in Queensland to help customer services and other sections of Council use the fee free interpreting service from the Australian Government's Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS). The guide, on both LGOnline and LGAQ's public website can be found under 'community' and 'cultural diversity'. It gives clear instructions on

- how to use interpreters whether face-to-face, telephone or in meeting situations
- how and when to translate relevant materials
- how to develop a language services strategy or policy for your Council

Previous guides in this series already on LGOnline include: Young People & Cultural Diversity (under Community) and Settling Migrants: A Guide for Queensland Local Government

For more information on these or other matters in relation to cultural diversity or multiculturalism contact Lindy Drew on 3000 2235 (lindy_drew@lgaq.asn.au)

AND: Next LAMP network training, or LAMP CAMP, is being held in Townsville between 9-11 May. Program is now being finalised. If you are not in the LAMP program and are interested in attending any or all of the training please be in touch with Lindy Drew.



Size Shape Sustainability

Dubbed the Viagra of Local Government this initiative refers to the needs for us to take a long hard look at ourselves in order to improve our performance. Queensland Local Government needs to consider not only our financial viability today, but also our capacity to provide services and maintain facilities for our communities well into the next decade and beyond.

The Special Conference held last year identified a number of options for LG to consider in order for us to remain sustainable.

An extract from the Conference Communiqué reads:

Local Government in Queensland is open to considering a wide range of alternative structural and governance models. These may include:

- (1) retaining existing councils and considering resource sharing arrangements involving:*
 - a) service agreements between councils, with Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), shared service centres, other government agencies, private sector or community service providers;*
 - b) area integration or joint enterprise arrangements between councils including joint local governments or corporations.*
- (2) voluntary boundary change between councils with or without resource sharing arrangements,*
- (3) voluntary amalgamation of councils, and,*
- (4) any other agreed arrangements designed to provide efficient delivery of services.*

This initiative is all about Councils determining their own future. The Queensland Government is committing \$25 million over five years to assist councils with their SSS reviews and to implement strategies for change. A community engagement strategy has been developed in conjunction with the project plan. A SSS Kit is about to be disseminated. See LGOnline for more information.

Many of these issues will be addressed at the October QLGCSA Conference in Yeppoon. **This conference will provide the forum for an important dialogue on 'how can the LG Community Services sector benefit from these changes?'**

Contact Simone Talbot, Policy Officer LGAQ, 3000 2246 (simone_talbot@lgaq.asn.au)

National Youth Week: 1 April - 9 April 2006

Local Government throughout Queensland and Australia are preparing to celebrate the seventh annual National Youth Week. The theme for the event this year is "Celebrate and Recognise the Value of all Young Australians to their Community".

The formal launch by the Minister for Communities, The Hon Warren Pitt MP is to be held in Cairns on Friday 31st of March. It will mark the beginning of nine days of action.

National Youth Week events provide a place for young people aged 12 - 25 to:

- Share ideas and have a voice about issues that concern them;
- Attend live events and celebrate their contribution to the local community; and
- Showcase their talents and take part in competitions.

This year, Queensland Councils are undertaking a range of activities and events. The week will showcase dance parties, Little Day Outs, debates, marches, fiestas, competitions, workshops, demonstrations and much more. It will be a time filled with bands, music, arts and cultural events, programs and opportunities.

To register your Council's event or to organise promotional material, please visit www.generate.qld.gov.au or for further information please contact Rachael Uhr on 3000 2238 (rachael_uhr@lgaq.asn.au).

LGAQ UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Youth Development and Local Government Conference 2006

(Venue and Date to be announced)

The Youth Development and Local Government Conference is an annual event that explores the macro and micro issues of youth development within a local government context. The Local Government Association of Queensland along with a Queensland Council, co-host a conference in various locations throughout the state. Previous host Councils have been Longreach, Brisbane, Barcaldine and Burdekin.

The Youth Development and Local Government Conference 2006 aims to develop skill and capacity of Youth / Community Development Officers, Councillors, Local Government staff and other invited delegates. It aims to connect, involve and engage young people with local government, community and each other.

The Conference objectives are to:

- Provide networking and relationship building opportunities;
- Explore and showcase Local Government better practice engagement strategies in city, country and community;
- Showcase local and national Local Government trends and better practice, including the host community and it's surrounding areas; and
- Develop skill and capacity in relation to the top 5 topics identified in the Conference survey.

The LGAQ has begun its planning for this event. Initial feedback about the topics that will be explored are based around the theme of Engaging Young People in terms of planning and evaluation, youth councils, youth reference groups, youth leadership and mentoring and hard to reach groups. This will be achieved through a range of speakers, panel discussions and workshops.

Previous conferences have proved to be great events filled with lots of networking and learning opportunities. Stay tuned for more details about the conference and we hope to see you there. For further information please contact Rachael Uhr on 3000 2238 (rachael_uhr@lgaq.asn.au)

Industrial Relations Reform

This is the next big thing to impact upon Local Government this year and into the future. In short this reform is the most historic in over a century. **It will have impact on all aspects of Council's people, performance and working life!** LGAQ has been in the for-front of arguing for a discrete LG award and the recognition of LG as a tier of governance in its own right.

This position is important in ensuring appropriate pay and conditions for the LG sector (including the community services sector!). Log on to LGOnline then go to Workforce/Future of workforce Choices for all the detailed info.

Contact Gabrielle Walsh, Senior Human Resources Advisor. LGAQ on 3000 2267 gabrielle_walsh@lgaq.asn.au

Paving the Way: Changes to the State Government's Housing Social Agenda

Thank you to those Councils that contributed to the LGAQ submission on the '*Paving the Way: Housing people in need in the Smart State*' Information Paper. Essentially this reform, effective 1 January 2006, places all categories of social housing (rental, community, A&TSI) in one bucket. While we understand the need for greater efficiency in the social housing sector we did have a number of concerns.

The Association submitted the following points for discussion:

- The development of the new system did not adhere to State/Local Government Protocol principles as consultation with Local Government occurred *after* the development of the Paper. This represents a potential weakening of the relationship between State and Local Government.
- The new system could lead to a loss of community ownership and local control.
- The new system could disadvantage rural and remote communities as a result of the 'simple entry point'.
- The new system does not provide adequate explanation about *how* and *who* would develop the 'segmented register of needs based upon categories' and /or provide reassurance that local input would be considered in determining the allocation of need.
- The new system did not commit to tan appeals process.
- The new system could lead to additional compliance for local Government.

Since lodging this submission the LGAQ has met with the Department of Housing. Several Councils have also made delegations. We have had (verbal) assurance from the Minister and senior staffers that all of our concerns will be addressed. We are awaiting a written response to this end.

Contact Desley Renton, Social Policy Advisor, 3000 2216 (desley_renton@lgaq.asn.au)



Libraries - Strategic Planning

The State Library of Queensland (SLQ) is about to roll out a project that aims to "create a shared vision for tomorrow's public libraries in Queensland". The project will work closely with LGAQ and Local Government and will culminate in 5 year strategic plan due for release in late 2006. The '*Expanding Horizons*' project has staged consultation phases built in to it. The project Office is Kerri Contini, 3214 3237 (kerri.contini@slq.qld.gov.au).

AND: *Off the Shelf* is an online quarterly public library bulletin that is full of up to date info and ideas. Go to <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/serv/publib/news/>

Ha, Ha, Ha

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



If you are wanting to see how an old CDW has moved into the role of councillor, look at www.councillors.info for an update on Vince O'Donnell.

Redlands Council

Harmony Day Celebration on Sunday March 19 at Alexandra Hills Community Hall, Cnr Finucance and Windemere Roads, Alexandra Hills.

The event will go from 12 noon to 4.30 pm. This is a celebration of the diverse community we have in the Redlands area, saying no to racism and showcasing community organisations with information, food stalls, activities and performances. For more information contact Bernie Williams on 3821 6117.

Youth Week in Redlands will be celebrated on Saturday 8 April from 11 am to 3 pm at the Redland Bay Harbour Park. Music, information, activities and lots of fun for young people in the Redlands and surrounding areas. For more information contact Courtney Gillott on 3829 8233.

Redlands Shire Council has just signed of on a **Shared Responsibility Agreement** with Federal Government, State Government and a number of Indigenous community organisations on North Stradbroke Island. The making this agreement the community and government have agreed to work together to

- establish partnerships and share responsibility for achieving measurable and sustainable improvement for people living in the community
- support and strengthen local governance, decision making and accountability
- learn from a shared approach - identify what works and what doesn't and apply lessons to future approaches both at the community level and more broadly

For more information contact Rita Ackermann on 3829 8498

The Community Development Team also has a new program called **Young Citizens Program**. This program is working closely with the primary schools in the Redlands area sharing information and talks from the different services Council is providing to the local community. Topics are Democracy in Action; Redland Art Gallery; Libraries, Pollution Prevention, Local History & The Museum; The Natural Environment; Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants; Environmental Health; Animal Management and Community Development. 12,892 students participated in the YCP program in 2005. For further information contact Miles Kwan on 3829 8466.

Mackay Libraries and Mackay LAMP

"Mackay Libraries and the Local Area Multicultural Partnership (LAMP) Program of Mackay City Council are working together on two projects designed to develop the public libraries into culturally inclusive services. The first project involves translating the libraries' brochure into different several different demand languages. Quotes have been sourced, and grant opportunities are currently being explored. The strategy was developed as an outreach tool, and a way of trying to encourage more people from diverse cultural backgrounds to access the public libraries.

The second project involves developing a multicultural storytime program into the library service. A survey has been developed and distributed to gauge the potential interest in the concept, from parents currently attending storytime. Volunteers are also being recruited from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to deliver storytime sessions. Training will be provided for volunteers to assist with their presentation."

Moves are afoot (pardon the pun) to coordinate a mini soccer carnival on the grounds of Mackay City Council's civic precinct during Refugee Week. An invitation will be extended to a refugee soccer team in Brisbane to come and play with local soccer associations to raise community awareness about refugees and refugee issues and to encourage interaction between the sporting community and local residents from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Two International Women's Day activities were held in the library to encourage participation from those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and promote a peaceful society. One was a peace dove mobile craft workshop and the second event was a. easy trivia quiz which gave everyone the chance of winning a small prize. These activities brought together people from very diverse backgrounds and gave them an opportunity to socialise in a non-threatening environment and learn about each other's cultures.

Chat@Lounge@Browse@verbYL
Livingstone's New Youth Space Opens

Livingstone Shire's new youth space/ youth library named verbYL officially opened on the 15th of December 2005. The modern design building with all the latest gadgets is a combined effort of Livingstone Shire Council and the Shires young people. VerbYL offers a wide variety of resources and equipment including internet access, playstation and nintendo games, music, movies and dvd's and a plasma tv to watch them on, as well as literary resources, and it's all free.

The Livingstone Shire Junior Council has had a lot of input into the decision making process, ensuring it is a place young people will want to hang around. VerbYL was designed in accordance with the unique specifications and feedback of young people.

The vibrant colour scheme, groovy décor and of course all the modern facilities will make it a popular hang out for 13 to 25 year olds, who the facility is for. The youth space/library is located in the centre of Yeppoon and is expected to be well utilised and will specifically target the recreation and social needs of young people.

Cr Desley Rial who chairs Community Development and Support said, "verbYL will provide a safe, non-threatening space for young people of Livingstone Shire as well as the opportunity to become involved in a range of organised activities."

The catch cry of this new space is chat@lounge@browse@verbYL.

Photos and Information courtesy of The Capricorn Coast Mirror.



Comings and Goings

Mackay City Council

Rebecca Pola, Youth Development Officer, has moved to Townsville to take up a role with the Police Citizens Youth Club. There is currently no-one in her vacated role.

Banana Shire Council

Peter McKee, Director of Environment and Community Services, has left to go to State Government—Department of Health, Rockhampton.

Andrew Reid takes over the position of Director of Environment and Community Service. Previously at Duinga Shire as Director of Community Services and Cultural Events.

....and some people just keep coming back, they love Banana so much....Chris Teitzel (previously at Banana as the Finance Manager) has returned after his time at Cairns City Council, as the new CEO, replacing John Hooper who has retired.

Logan City Council

I am extremely pleased to advise that as a result of a recent selection process, the vacant position of Principal Social Planner was offered to, and accepted by, Mr Luke Baker. As you are probably aware, the position of Principal Social Planner, was vacated by Kay Franks on 5 January 2006.

Luke doesn't have to move far to take up the duties of the position as his office as Community Planner is only 3 steps away.

As the new Principal Social Planner, Luke takes on the leadership of the Policy & Planning Team which includes the Community Renewal Projects Officer (Donna Bowe), the City Safe Planner (Melissa Coates) and the now vacant Community Planner. I am looking forward to working closely with Luke and his team in progressing the many important projects that will improve the lifestyle, wellbeing and safety of our community. Luke's appointment is effective immediately.

Luke can be contacted on 3826-5699 or lukebaker@logan.qld.gov.au.

Please join me in congratulating Luke on his promotion.

