

Media Release

It's Our Time: women tapped on the shoulder to bring equality to local councils

Melbourne, Victoria, 25 Aug 2020: Female leaders – in the boardroom, on the pitch, in their education, in the field, at home and in their community – It's Our Time. This is the new campaign calling on women to nominate and stand for local government elections and boost gender equality.

Climate and COVID-19 have added momentum to a world already changing fast; the decisions being made now in boardrooms, parliaments and council chambers will be with us for decades to come. Society has never needed women's leadership more.

"We know the value women bring to leadership, which is why we need more of it. That includes in local government," said Cr Michelle Kleinert, Executive Officer of the Australian Local Government Women's Association – Victoria Branch (ALGWA Vic).

"If you know a woman who deserves to be part of tackling issues from health, to climate, to the economy and the community – then #TapHerOnTheShoulder and #AskHerToStand.

"Remind her she's got what it takes – and that we need her to help take us from uncertainty, to realising a better, more equal future, for us all," Cr Kleinert said.

A global study recently found that female leaders help to [create more equal and caring societies](#). In Australia, we know women-led businesses are also more [productive](#).

We also know women are [just as likely as men](#) to get elected, but fewer stand. Women make up roughly half the population, and the [workforce](#) (50.2%), they [represent](#) only 38% of women elected to Victorian councils, with 13 councils of Victoria's 79 local councils having only one female councillor.

Delivered by social impact agency Ellis Jones and funded by the Victoria Government, the It's Our Time campaign will support women to stand for local government, providing a range of practical resources. It is supported by partners including the Australian Local Government Women's Association, the Victorian Local Governance Association, YWCA Australia and the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.

To stand for local government, candidates must nominate by 12pm Thursday 22 September 2020, with Victorians heading to the (postal) polls on 24 October 2020.

Learn more at itsourtime.com.au

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Interviews with Cr Michelle Kleinert (ALGWA Vic; City of Manningham), Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei (City of Yarra) are available on request.

About It's Our Time

By connecting women to their peers through mentoring, webinars and networks, and by providing practical guides to nominating, campaigning and representing communities as a councillor, It's Our Time supports any woman, of any age, from across Victoria to gain the know-how, skills and confidence to take her place at the table of some of the biggest decisions of our generation. Go to itsourtime.com.au

