



Local Government
Professionals
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA, SA

23RD ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN CROSS COUNCIL
COLLABORATION FINALISTS

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Award Finalists EXCELLENCE IN CROSS COUNCIL COLLABORATION

THANKS TO



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City of Marion and City of Mitcham Health, Safety and Wellbeing Teams - SafeWork Month Incident Simulation and Mock Court

As part of SafeWork Month 2023, the City of Marion and City of Mitcham collaborated to deliver a cost-effective Incident Simulation and Mock Court, with the goal of exposing as many Council staff as possible to the personal accountability that underpins the contemporary work health and safety regulatory environment.

Over two events they were able to provide over 400 local government staff and the broader public a bird's eye view of the incident management process with real regulators, real lawyers, and real workers.

The simulation demonstrated that WHS is not just about systems and statistics but is rooted in our fundamental drivers as people - our beliefs, our values and our behaviours. At the heart of the WHS strategy of both Council's is culture and the understanding that this is driven by engagement, ownership and responsibility.

The Incident Simulation and Mock Court provided a springboard to enable workers from both Councils to visualise why strategies are not just glossy posters but expressions of their shared beliefs to drive personal WHS ownership and behaviours.

Benefits of attendance included:

- Direct engagement with the regulator and legal profession
- Insight into why we 'do safety' and the impact it has on each individual as a person rather than as a worker
- Selling the message that it's always about people

The impact was immediate. Results have included managers actively managing incidents, workers driving reporting and work health and safety collaboration between the council's becoming 'the way we do business'.

This collaboration has cemented relationships between the WHS teams of both Councils, with the flow on benefit of greater networking and knowledge sharing evident. The impact and attendance of this collaboration was far greater than would have been achieved if each Council had operated independently.

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City of Port Adelaide Enfield and City of Onkaparinga Library Services, Media, Marketing and Communications and Community and Cultural Development Teams - Ngaityu Muiyu Tantu (My Feelings Bag)

The collaboration between the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the City of Onkaparinga represents a powerful response to cultural challenges, uniting two Councils to address literacy, racism and poverty through the creation of a book titled *Ngaityu Muiyu*, written in First Nations Language and created in collaboration with First Nations advisors and families, generating income for the Aboriginal-focused Kalaya Children's Centre. Envisioning increased access to culturally relevant books, the collaboration engages Aboriginal families in reading, singing and storytelling, becoming a catalyst for positive change.

Focused on reconciliation, the initiative recognises the importance of supporting Kurna language as a rich expression of knowledge and identity. Through a shared commitment to truth-telling, this collaboration seeks to improve literacy outcomes by building family capacity and reflects an earnest effort to adapt consultation approaches and enhance partnerships with the Aboriginal community.

By applying knowledge to foster sustainable skills and empower First Nations families, this collaboration encapsulates the journey towards reconciliation and improved literacy, showcasing the transformative impact of Councils working together for the benefit of their communities.

The *Ngaityu Muiyu Tantu* initiative saw book packs distributed through various channels, including libraries, children's centres, schools, parenting support groups and health providers along with relevant handouts and resources to support the delivery of practical and positive outcomes.

Tangible results have emerged, with families and educators reporting significant positive outcomes, including heightened engagement among children, increased instances of reading, language usage, and participation in cultural intergenerational activities. This achievement underscores the transformative power of Councils working together, actively contributing to positive, measurable changes in the lives of the communities they serve.

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District Council of Mount Remarkable, District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, District Council of Peterborough, Northern Areas Council, Port Pirie Regional Council and The Flinders Ranges Council - Flinders Alliance

Established in 2021 the Flinders Alliance is a group of small to medium sized regional councils collaborating to do big things. Comprising of the Port Pirie Regional Council, District Council of Mount Remarkable, District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, District Council of Peterborough, Northern Areas Council and The Flinders Ranges Council, the vision of the Flinders Alliance is to deliver better value for their communities through strategic collaboration.

Collectively, the Flinders Alliance represents a combined 250+ workforce, and the combined budget resources of more than \$70 million, presenting a significant opportunity to work collectively, collaboratively and efficiently to address challenges and meet community expectations.

Since inception, it is estimated that the partnership has generated savings in excess of \$5 million to the combined local communities. Key activities to date have created direct cost savings for member councils whilst also improving processes to create efficiencies, ultimately resulting in stronger service delivery for the 6 council areas and the multiple regional communities that exist within each.

It is acknowledged that the councils and their staff have expertise in particular areas. The Alliance leverages these 'centres of excellence' and, ultimately, all communities benefit from the knowledge and skills sharing across the wider region. The participating councils meet monthly to identify mutually beneficial projects and opportunities that will benefit from economies of scale and improve the range and quality of services delivered to their collective communities.

Benefits have included cost savings, efficiencies, and improved delivery of capital expenditure through joint tenders, reduction in duplication of effort through a cost sharing shared services model and joint advocacy efforts.

Regional councils operate with finite resources, so by working together and willingly sharing information, the Flinders Alliance consistently drives identification and implementation of best practices, elevating the competence and service standards of local government throughout the region, ensures that all communities are receiving the best possible services, delivered in the most financially sustainable manner.

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