

Professional Development

What Support and Training Can I Expect

Councillors come to office with experience, contacts, passion and commitment but it is never expected that councillors are elected and immediately have all the tools, training, experience and competencies that might be required over a four-year term.

It is increasingly understood that preparing as a candidate, being elected, performing your role as a councillor and possibly as a mayor are part of a leadership and leaning journey. That journey continues throughout your time on council. It is now expected that councillors will undertake relevant professional development so that they are increasingly prepared and skilled for the requirements of the role.

Some councillors argue that the very fact that they have been elected bestows upon them all that is required to take their place in government at the council table. While this is a democratic principle that the choice of candidates is entirely up to votes, in a modern age of complex issues where councillors are most often part time and come with diverse backgrounds and experience it is incumbent on all to be open to continual learning and professional development.

The Municipal Association will offer to all councillors once elected; a range of professional development opportunities. These take five forms:

- An offer to all local governments to conduct tailored councillor induction programs for their councillors
- A program of professional development opportunities based on a framework of identified councillor competencies including: leadership, strategy, land use planning, relationship management, environment and asset management, financial management and governance. These programs will provide introductory to advanced sessions over the life of a council term and are located around the state in a variety of locations.
- One-off seminars workshops and training events on issues of importance.
- Councillor Development Weekend usually held in July each year offering high level programs, speakers and content.
- Maximising the Mayoralty - a professional development program to assist mayors in getting the most out of their mayoral term, for themselves, their councillor colleagues and the community.

Local Councils support new councillors with induction and training programs