

New Local Government Online Knowledge Resource Now Live

A key function of Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) is to act as a clearing house for innovation and to foster the adoption of best or better practice within the local government sector. This can now be achieved through an on-line, interactive forum known as IKEN – the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Network.

IKEN provides a platform for local government practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to exchange information and ideas, showcase innovation and provide useful links to resources, research opportunities, collaboration and support.

The new website was launched at the ALGA National General Assembly.

Innovation and better practice can be found across local government regardless of size and 'capacity', from larger urban centres through to rural-remote communities.

The IKEN initiative and website is a critical part of ACELG's 'Innovation and Best Practice' Program, hosted by the University of Canberra.

Professor John H Howard of the University of Canberra said: "The provision of such an interactive network is important to bring together practitioners and other professionals associated with local government by providing opportunities to exchange information and ideas, and encourage innovation and better practice."

One of the main features of IKEN is its eight 'Communities of Practice'. Each features a practitioners forum, new case studies of innovation and better practice commissioned by ACELG and its partners, resources and events, and access to full stories of leading edge and award winning projects and programs.

Once registered, council staff will have access to these and other features to facilitate knowledge exchange within the local government sector, such as links to resources, research opportunities, collaboration and support. Site users are also able to submit policy, program or project initiatives for review or comment by peers and other experts.

Visit www.iken.net.au to get involved.

Also launched with the new IKEN site is another web-based portal for local government called the *Local Government Researchers Network*. The aim of this resource is to assist councils learn about, identify and collaborate with researchers in addressing needs within their council area, region or state.

The *Local Government Researchers Network* is accessible via the new IKEN site: www.iken.net.au/research-network

Further information:

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