

## Take the Challenge to a Graduate Degree

Over the past two years the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) has worked with LGMA to improve the Challenge program. In 2012 this will culminate in the Challenge becoming an optional subject in a Graduate Certificate in Local Government Leadership (or equivalent qualification) being rolled out nationally by ACELG, LGMA and university partners.

The Graduate Certificate complements existing LGMA professional development programs as part of ACELG's Advancing Leadership Partnership. It opens up new pathways into university postgraduate study.

For 2012, mentors and participants will be able to take the Management Challenge as an enrolled postgraduate student in NSW, NT and WA\* (\*subject to confirmation), or as a postgraduate-standard short course in all States. ACELG is negotiating with several universities for the short course to be recognized as part of their graduate programs. Distance learning options will be offered where direct delivery is unavailable.

In NSW and NT the Graduate Certificate is already being offered by the University of Technology, Sydney (an ACELG consortium member). In WA an equivalent program is being designed by Edith Cowan University in partnership with LGMA (WA).

The postgraduate subject is called 'Building and Leading your Team', and uses the Management Challenge process as a case study. It has three main components:

- 1) **Understanding Team Dynamics:** using associated readings and structured guidelines available online, students will use the pre-Challenge planning and research task as a working example of the issues involved in building, working within and leading a team.
- 2) **Assessing Team Performance:** Students will participate on the Challenge day as a normal team member or mentor. They will record their observations in a logbook of the Challenge process, to be submitted shortly after.
- 3) **Action Plan for Team Building:** Students will participate in a facilitated workshop (or webinars where direct delivery is unavailable) which will focus on learning about concepts and practices regarding team processes, team dynamics and effectiveness, as well as related aspects of leadership in a local government setting. They will then submit a detailed report which provides an assessment of their Challenge team performance against agreed criteria, and their own ideas for improvement.

For further details on how to enroll in 'Building and Leading Your Team', please contact [Sophi.Bruce@uts.edu.au](mailto:Sophi.Bruce@uts.edu.au) or call 02 9514 1659

