

New Local Government Researchers Network

You are invited to join a web-based network of local government researchers being set up on the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Network (IKEN) www.iken.net.au.

Introduction to ACELG

The mission of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) includes the provision of research and development capacity to support policy formulation, drive innovation and help address the challenges facing local government.

The Research and Policy Foresight program area, in addition to focusing on new areas of research to address identified gaps, seeks to draw on existing research that can assist local government meet current and future challenges. A Research Advisory Committee made up of researchers and practitioners from across Australia oversees this program.

ACELG is now establishing an Innovation and Knowledge Exchange website (IKEN) www.iken.net.au, to provide an interactive forum for practitioners and other professionals associated with local government to exchange information and ideas and to provide useful links to resources, including research.

Purpose of the Researchers Network

ACELG is hosting this web-based network on the IKEN website to assist the local government sector:

- Learn about the institutions and individual researchers across the country specialising in different areas of local government research
- Identify subject experts or researchers from a particular state or territory
- Collaborate with researchers in addressing needs within a council area, region or state.

Membership

While primarily aimed at researchers in tertiary institutions and local government organisations, as well as postgraduate students with a local government focus, membership will be open to anyone with an interest in local government research.

Benefits of joining

- Promote the research that you are doing and the work of colleagues
- Find out about other researchers working on related themes
- Help local government practitioners locate relevant and up to date research
- Take part in the IKEN communities of practice to exchange ideas and encourage discussion on new research opportunities.

In addition to fostering collaboration and information exchange between researchers, ACELG is encouraging local government practitioners to take more of a lead in identifying gaps in research and initiating new research.

Subjects

The following subject headings will guide the grouping of publications made available through the site:

- Transforming local government
- Innovation
- Local government legislation
- International comparisons
- Shared services and regional collaboration
- Local government reorganisation
- Rural-remote councils
- Indigenous councils
- Corporate governance
- New approaches to governance
- Leadership
- Organisational capacity building
- Local government financing
- Ethics/Integrity
- Workforce retention
- Managing demographic change
- Gender equity
- Resource constraints
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Connecting with communities
- Measures of progress
- Inter-governmental relations
- Regional development
- Metropolitan governance and cities
- Asset and financial management
- Workforce development
- Environmental management, including biodiversity, water, air quality, waste
- Planning, development and open space management
- Emergency management
- Social and community services, including health, housing and community development
- Economic development
- Transport
- Other

How to join

The Local Government Researchers Network will operate as a discrete community within the new IKEN website. Prospective members must first become members of the IKEN website. They can then apply directly through the IKEN website to be granted access to the Researchers Network. As an initial screen, IKEN will be set up to only accept government, educational, and local government-relevant organisational email addresses, but other email addresses will be accepted on a case by case basis.

New members will be encouraged to upload their biography, summarising research qualifications and experience, and a list of publications relevant to local government. Further details on how to upload material, and guidelines for use of the site, will be available on the IKEN website.

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