

## **Clare Sullivan – Expression of interest - Civil society position on Australia's first Open Government Forum**

I am passionate about strengthening Australia's future, ensuring we are well placed as a global leader with a strong economy and society for future generations. I understand the Open Government Partnership's vision of governments becoming more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive to their own citizens and how this will support better governance and better service provision to communities. I have an excellent understanding of the provision of government services in terms of security, social protection and economic management. I believe that a more citizen-centric approach as well as initiatives to allow various parts of government to work more collaboratively will allow our governments to make better-informed decisions and deliver services more closely aligned with the needs and aspirations of all Australians. This will result in higher community confidence levels in government.

I believe Australia is well placed to take a strong leadership role in promoting and pioneering open government principles. We have the commitment and engagement of the Prime Minister and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, we have some of the leading innovators and technical expertise world-wide and we have an intelligent population keen to engage with government despite some apparent concerns with the current mechanisms of government.

I can provide a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience to help make the Open Government Forum effective at pushing forward this agenda.

I have highly developed interpersonal skills which will allow me to quickly establish rapport and build productive working relationships with people from all backgrounds, I have demonstrated my ability to negotiate difficult and contentious issues in an inclusive and productive manner. I have a friendly and collaborative approach to work and I enjoy and appreciate the ability to consult widely, engage stakeholders and draw on the experience and ideas of a wide range of people. These skills will allow me to become an active and useful member of the group.

As Director of Government Relations and National Events, at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), I am a member of ALGA's Executive Team determining ALGA's advocacy on behalf of the sector in the areas of intergovernmental transfers, infrastructure provision, and regional and economic development. I have proven my ability to grasp complex policy and regulatory issues, develop pragmatic and timely solutions, and to work with and influence government agendas and policy development. I have extensive networks throughout Australia, including with councils and local government bodies, national peak bodies and associations, the IT sector and throughout Federal Government agencies. These skills will be essential in overseeing the implementation of Australia's First National Action Plan and in engaging a wide range of organisations and community networks.

In addition to my work at ALGA, I have successfully managed large scale internal and external communications strategies for business transformation programs at various Federal Government Departments and have managed a number of small IT businesses and community events.

Beyond my direct responsibilities at ALGA I also actively engage in community development activities. I represent ALGA on the Defence Reserve Support Council, the Commonwealth Board that promotes a flexible partnership with the community and employers. Further, I am a member of the Finance Committee of the YWCA Canberra and am a member of my local primary School Board.

I have completed a Masters of Business Administration which provides me with the theoretical and broad contextual understanding of governance and the regulatory aspects of Australia's business environment; the role of boards in developing the strategic direction, overseeing the implementation of strategy, prioritising activity and providing leadership; as well as a solid understanding of the development and implications public policy. In addition to the MBA, I have a Graduate Diploma in Management and an Advanced Diploma in Communications.