

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 116

Topic: Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

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What success has the Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government had?

Answer:

Successes of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) include:

- Provoking interest in its research output from policymakers and media, e.g. *Consolidation in Local Government: A Fresh Look* (May 2011) on assessing options for improving local government services and capacity such as shared services and regional collaboration;
- Forging linkages with local government and the broader public sector, including through its research partnership scheme, its work with various federal, state and territory departments (including DRARDLG), and demand for its participation in key local government forums (e.g. NSW's *Destination 2036* conference held in August 2011); and
- Catalysing debate and partnerships on issues of national significance. For example, in May 2011, ACELG convened a roundtable on climate change/low carbon futures that brought together representatives of local government, science, academia, and regional organisations to bring a national perspective to local government engagement with this agenda.

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Further recent achievements of ACELG include:

- Bringing together more than 40 mayors, councillors and local government executives for an intensive leadership development program run by ACELG consortium partner the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (July and September 2011);
- Launching its Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Network (IKEN), an online forum for local government practitioners to share ideas about better practice and innovation (June 2011); and
- Rolling out its Graduate Certificate in Local Government Leadership in the Northern Territory through a partnership with the University of Technology, Sydney, Charles Darwin University and the Territory Government (with interest from providers in other jurisdictions) (September 2011).

ACELG is also progressing key national local government projects commissioned under the Local Government Reform Fund.

ACELG's approved project plan, including recent achievements, and a copy of the Centre's 2010 Annual Report can be found at <http://www.ancelg.org.au/aboutancelg.php>