

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

About the Program:

- » **What is the Community Leadership program all about?**
The Community Leadership Program (CLP) is designed to help new, emerging and existing community leaders develop their personal leadership skills, create professional networks and learn about local government.
- » **What are the key elements of experience or knowledge that I may need to be considered?**
Successful applicants will need to be involved with or contribute to the local community, whether this be through volunteering, community groups, business or local programs.
- » **Do I have to live in Horsham Rural City Council to be eligible for the Program?**
Yes.
- » **How many people will be included in the program?**
The program will be offered to up to 25 eligible participants.
- » **Are there any fees or costs involved?**
No – this program is entirely funded and supported by Horsham Rural City Council
- » **How do I apply?**
Expression of Interest (EOI) forms can be found on Council's website.

Benefits of the Program:

- » **What can the Community Leadership Program offer me?**
A free opportunity to develop your leadership skills and build upon existing ones to incorporate into your personal and professional life. It will also provide you with the opportunity to learn more about local government.
- » **What areas of leadership will the Program focus on?**
 - Leadership styles and profile
 - Understanding local government
 - Values and code of conduct
 - Good governance and inclusive leadership
 - Strategic planning and decision-making processes
 - Information for those who may decide to run for Council.
- » **Why is Horsham Rural City Council investing in this program?**
Horsham Rural City Council has a history of low candidate numbers at elections despite interest in Council activities among community members and groups.
- » **What benefits will it bring to Horsham Rural City Council?**
The program is intended to foster community members' interest in contesting an elected position and building knowledge around the operations of Council and roles, responsibilities, and expectations of Councillors as a means to support potential candidates at the 2024 Council election.

Program Requirements

- » **What is the minimum level of education or qualifications I require to be considered?**
No previous qualifications are required- only a passion about your community and a willingness to get involved and make a difference.
- » **Do I need to have experience in the community services sector**
Successful applicants will ideally have some experience participating in the local community. Examples of such experience include: volunteering; being a member of a cultural, faith or sporting group; running a local business; being on a school parent committee; or sitting on a committee of management etc.
- » **Is there a selection process that will assess my application?**
All eligible expressions of interest received will be assessed by an independent panel.
- » **Can I apply if I am a business person**
Yes.

Program Support:

- » **What if I need specific support to participate?**
The Community Leadership Program aims to represent the municipality diversity and is inclusive of all genders, age groups (18+), abilities, Aboriginality, cultures, language backgrounds, sexual orientation, education and employment status.
- » **Is the access to the venue suitable for wheelchairs or walkers?**
While most of the program will be offered online, face to face events will be held in the Council Reception Room which is fully accessible.
- » **Do I have to purchase books or resources to support my participation**
No. All required resources and material will be supplied.
- » **Will there be homework or assignments set that require additional hours?**
There may be some work you are asked to do between sessions at your own pace, and some optional activities may be offered.

Application and Program Details:

- » **How is the program structured – what will be the commitment I need to make**
There will be eight sessions over three months (roughly one every two weeks).
- » **What are the start date and end dates for the program?**
The first session is the Orientation to be held on Saturday 4 May 2024, with the program graduation and networking event to be held on Wednesday 24 July 2024.
- » **How can I apply and when will I receive a response to my application?**
Applications will be by an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) via Council's website or a hard copy of the form is available at Council Customer Service. Applications open 28 February and close 25 March 2024. All candidates will be notified of the outcome in April.

- » **Is there any graduation or celebration planned for completion of the program**
Yes – a graduation ceremony will be held on 24 July 2024.

Standing as a candidate in the 2024 Local Government Election:

- » **Does this program mean I am eligible to stand for Council?**
No – the Victorian Government provides compulsory training for all Victorians who wish to nominate as a candidate in any council elections. The requirements for becoming a candidate in the local council elections is available here <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/becoming-a-local-council-candidate> and you can register for the Candidate Training here <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training>
- » **Other useful information**
The Municipal Association of Victoria hosts a Stand for Council Program which is a series of information sessions for prospective candidates and the community to better understand the role and responsibility of a councillor and their council. More details about the program can be found here <https://www.viccouncils.asn.au/stand-for-council/stand-for-council>