

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING AT THE LGAQ CONFERENCE 2025

Sunday 19 October



Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre



Media Relations and Community Engagement for Elected Members

\$550 incl GST per person
Session 1 : 9.00am - 12.00pm

Designed for Elected Members, this practical workshop focuses on managing the media, gaining coverage, and crafting impactful speeches.

Led by experienced journalist and trusted media advisor, Kim Skubris, this session covers:

- practical insider knowledge and tips when dealing with the media
- skills on how to craft compelling messages
- understanding what journalists want
- writing and pitching inspiring speeches
- managing the media during news events.

About the Trainer - Kim Skubris

Kim Skubris is an experienced journalist with over 30 years working in both Australia and overseas. Kim has reported on some of Australia's biggest stories at home, and abroad, from natural disasters to war zones. For the last two decades Kim has also been a media consultant, Master of Ceremonies (MC) and keynote speaker. In 2015, Kim became a freelance journalist with Seven News and has focussed on her passion to educate and encourage people to become powerful communicators. After spending some time working as the Acting Media Executive for the LGAQ, Kim has now joined the Peak Services Training team to offer her media and communications services.



Conflicts of interest for Councillors

\$550 incl GST per person
Session 2 : 1.00pm - 4.00pm

This workshop will enable Councillors to understand when they need to declare a conflict of interest in a matter being discussed or decided by Council, and their obligations under the Local Government Act 2009. This workshop will help clarify the difference between a Prescribed Conflict and a Declarable Conflict, and the actions to be taken in each situation.

Topics will also include:

- declaring conflicts and the duty to report conflicts
- identifying close associates and related parties
- offences
- meeting conduct and outcomes
- corrupt conduct and behavioural standards
- recent changes to the Code of Conduct.

About the Trainer - Donna Neilson

Donna Neilson brings three decades of working in Local Government to Peak. With a background in law and many years as a councillor, she has an in-depth knowledge of the legislation and workings of councils.

As a former executive of numerous Boards, Donna has a wealth of experience in governance and uses a down-to-earth approach to help students understand their responsibilities.

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