

# 'Reject negative alpha-male behaviours' Women add equity value

MELISSA DAVEY

THE Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) executive member Nicole Campbell said the recent association conference held in Ryde was an "outstanding success".

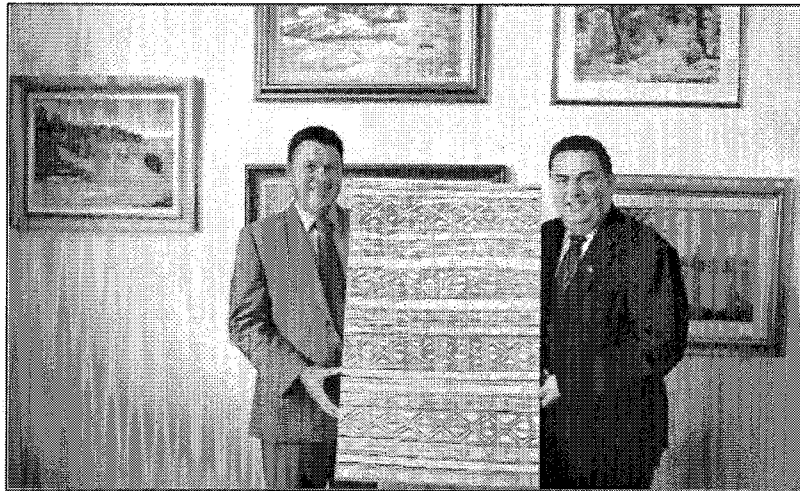
The annual conference brings together councillors from all over Australia to discuss women in local government, and Cr Campbell said a key focus of the conference this year was the importance of women supporting women, whether as a councillor or as a member of staff.

"The statistics of women's representation in local government are bleak, and it is only by working together in a positive and constructive way that we will start to see things change," Cr Campbell said. "The conference issued a clear challenge to all working in local government to reject negative alpha-male behaviours such as bullying, intimidation, and aggressive attitudes.

"These behaviours, which are exhibited by both men and women, add no value and have no place in modern local government."

Ryde was one of 20 councils recognised for their gender equity platform at the conference.

At the mayoral reception held at



Ryde general manager John Neish and mayor Artin Etmekdjian with the painting presented by Tiwi Island artist Immaculata Tipiloura, the aunt of one of the Tiwi delegates.

Picture: BRENT McGLIVARY

Brush Farm House prior to the conference, Ryde mayor Artin Etmekdjian said the gender equity platform was something the council should be proud of.

"The formation of a Women's Advisory Committee has given

local women a voice on community issues, and recently Council voted to provide staff a women-friendly workplace environment with appropriate facilities such as breast feeding amenities," he said.

At the close of the conference on

November 27, the association delegation from the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory presented Ryde Council with a traditional dot style painting by Immaculata Tipiloura, as a gift of appreciation to the city.

## Hefty fine for brick accident

A Gladesville company has been fined NSW Industrial Court for a fall between floors in a residential complex in serious spinal injury.

Northpac Construction is a contractor carrying out residential projects at the time building a mix and residential development in Canterbury Road.

The company was fined for a breach of section 209 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2003 after WorkSafe NSW prosecution proceedings.

During construction in 2005 a bricklayer sub-contractor failed to prevent a newly installed wall from falling over by pushing it.

He was on the site during development when the wall crumbled in a fall, and he fell 2.5 metres to the second floor.

The bricklayer sustained fractures to his knees which, at the time of prosecution had not healed from returning to work.

In handing down the fine, Justice Francis B. said the risk was not reasonably foreseeable because the system in place was not adequate.

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# CHRISTMAS DAY

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