

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOSES A PASSIONATE AND ACTIVE LEADER

**Local Government has lost a passionate and active leader with the passing of Peggy Stevenson on 23 February this year.**

Peggy joined Local Government in a temporary position at Latrobe City Council (LCC) in 1998, shortly after arriving in Australia from her homeland, the United States. At that time she simply saw herself as a housewife building on a new marriage and life in a new country.

However, in a short time she gained a Coordinator's position then moved quickly into a Manager's position, where she successfully managed several internal restructures, before being appointed General Manager City Services and a member of the Executive Team at LCC in 2004.

Peggy's colleagues at LCC describe her story as one of vision, commitment, resilience and determination, themes that she consistently promoted both within Council and the community.

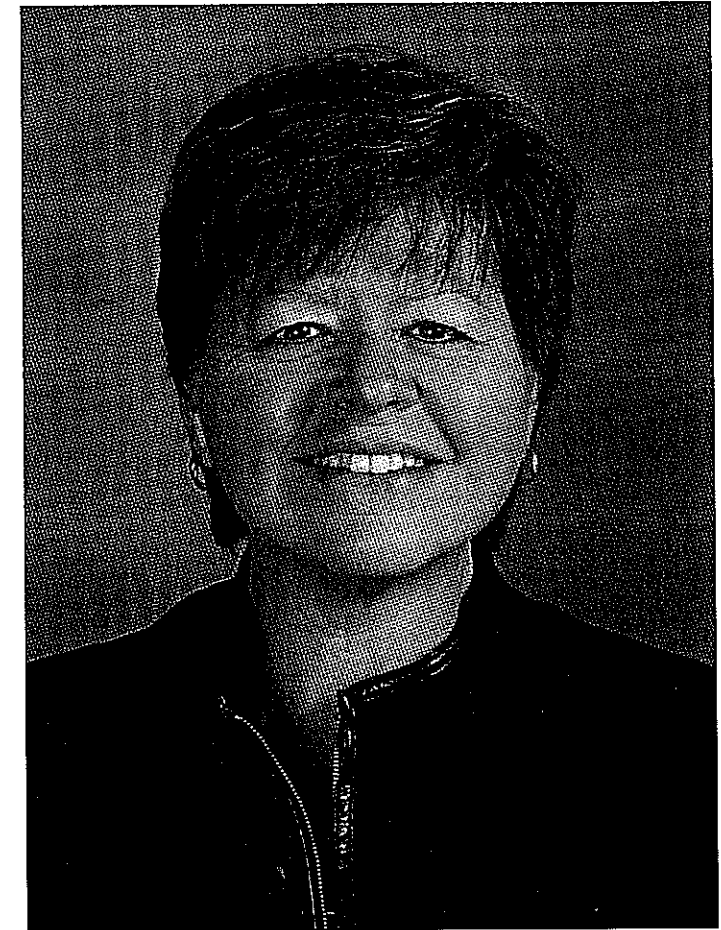
She passionately believed that Local Government could play a huge role in the lives of the community it served and her vision was for Local Government to become not only a service delivery agent, but an advocate and guide for the communities it served.

Within LCC Peggy continually questioned the ways things were done and initiated a range of exciting changes to improve customer service. She also took great pride in developing employees by providing them with opportunities for professional development.

In 2006, Peggy was appointed to the Board of LGPro where she provided a valuable contribution. The same year she won the inaugural SACS Leadership in Local Government award. In 2001, Peggy was the recipient of the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award and in 2005 she was nominated for a Telstra Business Woman's Award.

Peggy was a great believer in women taking on leadership roles and believed that women only needed to believe in themselves to achieve greatness. She showed support for women working in Local Government through her work on the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition (WPILGC), as well as the Women in Local Government Subcommittee of the Local Government Managers Association (LGMA).

Not only was Peggy a passionate and active leader within LCC and the local community, she also had the enthusiasm to embrace a challenge, and the commitment and drive to make things happen.



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She rightfully earned a reputation as a caring, credible and respected leader who had a compelling and exciting vision for the future and importantly she had the skill to mobilize people to achieve that vision.

In her 10-year involvement in Local Government, Peggy was undoubtedly a dynamic and innovative leader who certainly made a remarkable contribution to the sector.