



Local Government
Professionals
AUSTRALIA SA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA, SA

23RD ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

EMERGING LEADER OF
THE YEAR FINALISTS

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Award Finalists EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR

THANKS TO



P: 08 8224 2000 | E: lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au | W: www.lga.sa.gov.au

Amy Fagan

Team Leader Customer Service/Administration Support Officer, Adelaide Plains Council

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'Amy commenced as a Customer Service Officer at Council in April 2022, her first role in local government. Throughout the next 12 months she took on further development, assisting in higher duties in Infrastructure and Environment, Records Management, Governance Administration and completing FOI accreditation and Contact Officer training, before being promoted to the role of Team Leader of Customer Service in July 2023.

Amy's innovative approach has seen the Regulatory Department improve on expiation processes and wastewater approval reports and she has actively trained her own team of Customer Service Officers to take on administration support within this department, effectively developing and growing the organisations vision and strategy.

Her role as project lead on the DACO registration renewal project, with Adelaide Plains Council being one of few Animal Husbandry areas in South Australia, saw the number of non-renewals decrease from 1,200 unregistered dogs to 300 unregistered over a period of 8 weeks.

This was achieved through successfully collaborating with the Regulatory team and Customer Service team, providing the required training to ensure the necessary target was reached and council databases were up to date. Throughout this process, Amy has fostered excellent, open communication and professional relationships through teamwork and consultation. She has demonstrated personal drive and integrity, not only through this project, but ongoing initiatives, sharing ideas to bring the council into a more environmentally friendly era -introducing more electronic communications, including the use of text messaging software and bulk mail merges, managing these resources through collaboration with IT support.

Using her knowledge and fresh ideas, leadership and support provided to her team has allowed upskilling in the administration space, where the Customer Service team can actively assist where needed within Regulatory, and across the council to provide ongoing support. She has actively advocated for her team to take on more training in WHS procedures, including advocating for Dog Handling training for her team to manage and minimise risk, and supported two of her full-time staff to become Health and Safety Representatives for the organisation.

It was of no surprise that she was selected to cover four months in the Acting Director Corporate Services position to cover a maternity leave. Her calm demeanour, admirable leadership qualities and innovativeness, along with her in-depth training of her own team, have allowed her to seamlessly take on an Executive Management role within the organisation, and effectively manage the department.'

Brendon Schulz

Manager Regulatory, Adelaide Plains Council

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Dani Scuteri

Team Leader Community Safety, City of Charles Sturt

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‘Dani was permanently appointed to the Team Leader Community Safety position in May 2023, after initially being seconded into the role in March 2022. The team’s diverse service offerings, complexity and handling of significant volumes of tasks requires highly effective leadership.

Dani is quick to establish authentic relationships with her staff, and more broadly internal and external stakeholders, to achieve success. She is incredibly positive and enthusiastic in her leadership style, with these traits then evident through the culture of the team. Dani’s approachability and genuine interest in the wellbeing of others makes her not only a great leader but also a positive mentor, enabling genuine connections and the delivery of both individual and team success. These characteristics have resulted in the team’s engagement results, which are measured monthly, increasing from 64% when commencing in the role in March 2022 to 94% in December 2023.

Dani possesses the ability to see beyond the immediate challenges and articulates a compelling vision for the future. This foresight not only provides a sense of direction for the team but also instils confidence among members that they are part of something meaningful and impactful. In addition, she has been an active member of council’s internal strategic planning working group, assisting in the development of our new Community Plan. Furthermore, Dani has worked with all Community Safety team members to review and update the team service standards and ensuring business plans align with organisational objectives. This project has not only provided an increase in role clarity and enhanced job satisfaction, but it has resulted in a positive financial return for the organisation by increasing revenue generated by the team.

Dani’s leadership is defined by a tireless commitment to the success of the team. She leads by example, demonstrating a strong work ethic, dedication and a willingness to go above and beyond. Whether facing triumphs or setbacks, Dani remains resolute and maintains a positive attitude that becomes contagious within the team. This commitment creates a culture of perseverance and resilience, where challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles. By way of example, Dani instigated a review of the structure and work patterns of the team in response to feedback from staff about concerns of increasing workloads and job satisfaction. Adopting a collaborative and engaging approach, Dani proposed and implemented a restructure of the team’s administrative functions, established a pilot dual Senior Community Safety Officer arrangement to provide enhanced support to the team whilst providing professional development to these two staff members, and has also worked closely with the Community Safety Officers to implement a flexible working model.

Dani’s leadership is marked by a continuous commitment to personal and professional development. She actively seeks opportunities for learning and growth, setting an example for the team to follow suit. This commitment to improvement creates a culture of continuous learning within the team, fostering an environment where everyone is encouraged to evolve and excel in their respective roles.’

Adam Filipi

Manager Public Health and Safety, City of Charles Sturt

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Dayton Tahuri

Arboriculture and Biodiversity Field Supervisor, City of Marion

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‘Over the past few years Dayton has developed his skills, knowledge and experience in the Open Spaces area and is a key member of the Operations team. He has recently, and most deservedly, been promoted to the position of Field Supervisor Arboriculture and Biodiversity Maintenance.

Dayton has a wonderful calm demeanour, a strong sense of community and is excellent when leading his team and dealing with residents. He is extremely dedicated, resilient and professional. He actively promotes the health, safety and wellbeing of his team and others, is engaging with his colleagues and has developed great personal relationships across the City of Marion.

Dayton has also contributed to the review of the City of Marion’s values and strategic plans at a recent Leadership Forum, providing valuable input into our vision towards 2040.

With a smile, he is always up for the next challenge and his participation in the 2023 LG Professionals SA Management Challenge was outstanding. He played a significant role in developing the challenge team culture, and his calming nature and work ethic played a significant part in their success.

He volunteered to play a role in the recent training program ‘SafeWork Month Incident Simulation & Mock Court’ in collaboration with the City of Mitcham, putting himself once again in a vulnerable position, outside of his comfort zone. The outcome was tremendous – his team all attended, participated in the discussion, and provided positive feedback on Dayton’s lead-by-example approach.

Dayton consistently demonstrates his alignment to our values: Respect, Integrity, Achievement and Innovation. He is the first to put his hand up for an opportunity to better the organisation, his team, or his own development.

Dayton’s team respect him and his leadership. They operate in potentially hazardous conditions, and he applies rigour and caution and personal leadership in ensuring the utmost standards of health and safety.

I have no doubt there is still significant potential for Dayton to develop further, providing great benefit to City of Marion and the wider local government industry.’

Brian Green

Manager Operations, City of Marion

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Trevor Ashenden

Coordinator Community Safety and Fire Prevention Officers, City of Onkaparinga

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'The role of a coordinator within the Community Safety team is pivotal. It is with pleasure that I reflect on the qualities demonstrated by my coordinator Trevor Ashenden, who has not only fostered and built excellent working relationships but also exhibited a strong personal drive. Trevor has displayed professionalism, integrity and an innate ability to develop both himself and the members of his team, which consists of 10 full time permanent and seven casual Rangers and two Fire Prevention Officers. His leadership style has grown, inspiring his team and shaping a positive work environment.

One of the standout attributes of Trevor is his ability to foster excellent working relationships from not only within the team but also other departments of council. From the outset he has displayed a sense of camaraderie. Through open communication and a genuine interest in the wellbeing of each team member, he has created an atmosphere where collaboration and idea-sharing is encouraged. This approach has not only enhanced the overall productivity of the team but has contributed to a harmonious work environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Trevor has a high personal drive, demonstrated by his completion of the LG Professionals SA Management Challenge in 2022, and further by his enrolment in the 2024 Ignite Program in which completion will result in him obtaining a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management. His commitment to achieving goals and overcoming challenges sets a standard that motivates the entire team.

Trevor has exhibited resilience and determination, inspiring those around him to approach tasks with the same level of dedication. This personal drive has been a significant factor behind the team's successes, instilling a culture of excellence and improvement.

Trevor's transparency and honesty creates an atmosphere of trust, fostering a culture where everyone feels comfortable sharing ideas and opinions. This commitment to integrity not only strengthens the team internally but also enhances our reputation externally, showcasing our dedication to sound working practices and improving professionalism.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of Trevor's leadership is his ability to inspire those around them. Through his actions and words, he instils a sense of purpose and passion in the team. His vision for success is contagious, motivating each team member to strive for their best. This inspiration goes beyond the professional realm, creating a positive and uplifting atmosphere that transcends the challenges of the workplace.

Trevor's impact on our team and his leaders has been nothing but positive. Trevor prides himself on ensuring that his knowledge base is of a high standard enabling him to share this in a confident manner. Trevor's style of leadership is a testament to the team belief that effective leadership goes beyond tasks and targets – it is about building a community of motivated and empowered individuals working towards a common goal.'

Phil Jeffery

Team Leader Community Safety, City of Onkaparinga

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