

South Australian Local Government Financial Management Group

# SHOW ME THE DATA



**Workshop & Conference**  
**Thursday & Friday**  
**26 & 27 May 2022**

*Adelaide Convention Centre*  
North Terrace, Adelaide

Keynote Speaker: *Dr James Muecke*





**SALGFMG**  
South Australian Local Government  
Financial Management Group Inc.

Register online at  
**[www.salgfm.com.au](http://www.salgfm.com.au)**



## DAY 1 – Workshop 26 May 2022

TIME	SESSION
9:30am	<b>Registrations</b>
9:50am	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>MC: Lisa McAskill</p> <p><i>Lisa is best known for her role as a presenter on Channel 9's Postcards program, a role she enjoyed for 14 years. Lisa also appeared on Postcards Australia which aired nationally on the Win Network and internationally on the Discovery Channel. Lisa has had on camera crash courses in all manner of extreme sports. All in the name of a good story. Her enduring TV career includes more than 70 local, national and international TV commercials and numerous tourism, corporate and training documentaries. In 2011, Lisa established Lisa McAskill Presenting with a focus on the training of presenters and media mentoring. The business has evolved to include a production arm that includes writing, producing and directing online video content for individuals and businesses, social impact video content and TV commercials.</i></p> 
10:00am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>President: Elizabeth Williams, SA Local Government Financial Management Group</p>
10:05am	<p><b>Panel Session: Model Financial Statements in Review</b></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>This session will discuss the model financial statements, what you will need to consider in the coming year and changes to the purpose codes.</p> <p><u>Facilitator:</u></p> <p>Lisa McAskill MC</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Tamarah Gannon, Senior Manager Financial Accounting Advisory Services, Ernst &amp; Young</p> <p>Tim Muhlhausler, Chair, SA Local Government Auditors Group (SALGAG)</p> <p>Chris Birch, Manager Financial Services, City of Prospect</p> <p><b>Tamarah Gannon</b></p> <p><i>Tamarah is a Senior Manager in EY's Financial Accounting and Advisory Services team. She has over 25 year's experience in financial and management accounting and reporting (including the preparation of complex large scale consolidated financial statements and budgets), financial and governance policy development, treasury analysis, end-to-end financial process, as well as project, change management, and advisory roles. She has deep Government experience having worked for Queensland Treasury Corporation and Queensland Treasury, as well as having delivered value to Commonwealth, State, and Local Government clients. Tamarah is known for her ability to provide pragmatic advice on complex issues, helping clients achieve optimal commercial and financial reporting outcomes.</i></p> 



TIME

SESSION

**Tim Muhlhausler**



*Tim is a Chartered Accountant and Partner with Galpins. He brings nearly 20 years' experience in the provision of external audit, internal audit and consulting services to a wide range of organisations in the government, not-for-profit and commerce sectors, with particular expertise in Local Government. Tim has primary responsibility for well over a dozen Local Government external audit and internal audit clients of all sizes across regional and metro SA, as well as providing consulting and financial statement preparation services. Tim is founding Chair of the SA Local Government Auditors' Group, and Presiding Member for five Local*

*Government Audit Committees. Tim's many and varied roles in Local Government provide him with a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. Tim also works extensively with the State Government sector and the Auditor General's Department.*

**Chris Birch**

*Chris has worked in Local Government for more than 20 years. He has worked in four different Councils in both regional and metro areas, the most recent nine years as Manager Financial Service with the City of Prospect.*

*As part of the FMG, Chris is also the Chair of the Local Government Price Index Working Party. This committee works with the University of Adelaide's Centre of Economic Studies to provide cost monitor for the Local Government sector (LGPI). Since the introduction of Councils in Focus, this working party has commenced a review of the purpose codes in the Grants Commission returns with a view to ensure consistency with Council's reporting for the purpose of comparability.*



11:30am **Morning Tea**

12:00pm **Local Government Information Framework - Councils in Focus Website & Reports to Councils**

Description:

This session will provide an update on the Local Government Information Framework including the Councils in Focus website reports that are made available only for Councils. The session will also include an update from the Local Government Grants Commission.

Presenters:

David Whiterod, Team Leader Local Government Policy Unit, Office of Local Government

Peter Ilee, Executive Officer, Local Government Grants Commission

**David Whiterod**

*David is the Team Lead of the Local Government Policy unit within the Office of Local Government and managed the Local Government Information Project that included the development of the Council in Focus website and Reports to Councils. Prior to joining the Office of Local Government, David contributed to a number of State strategic planning projects including the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, the Expert Panel on Planning Reform and the development of the new planning system. David's father was an accountant and company secretary and he was born (appropriately) on the last day of the financial year.*







TIME

SESSION



**Peter Ilee**

*Peter is the Executive Officer of the SA Local Government Grants Commission and has worked with the Commission for over 15 years as the Executive Officer and Senior Project Officer. Peter has over 30 years' experience in State Government with previous roles in the Office of Local Government, the Department for Families and Communities and RevenueSA. Peter has extensive experience with the Financial Assistance Grants program, working closely with the Commonwealth, Grants Commissions from across Australia, the LGA and Councils to inform the Commission's recommendations for the distribution of grants. Peter is a member of the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel and works with the Department for Transport in assessing funding submissions for the annual Supporting Regional Aviation Fund and the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program.*

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12:40pm **Council Fees and Charges, ATO Class Ruling and GST on Cemetery Fees**

Description:

This session will show how the ATO Class Ruling can be efficiently applied to council fees & charges using the LG Solutions Cloud Fees & Charges & the GST Addin to ensure council is GST compliant. The first part of the Ruling covers 80% of councils fees and you don't to wait for the final part to issue, you can act now. A case study will show how this can be achieved right now!

Historically right of interment fees have been subject to GST but the ATO have announced their intention to make these fees GST exempt both prospectively and retrospectively back to 2014. If they proceed with their plan councils will have to pay refunds to customers back to 2014, causing an enormous admin processing burden as well as the problem in identifying who is entitled to the refund.

Presenter:

Pat McCarthy, Director, Genesis Accounting

Tony Pizzuto, LG Solutions

**Pat McCarthy**

*Pat McCarthy is a Chartered Accountant and is the principal of Genesis Accounting. He is a tax consultant who has specialised in GST, Fringe Benefits Tax and Payroll Tax for local government for the last 21 years and has completed assignments for over 350 councils in that time.*

*Fees and charges is a special niche having prepared ATO rulings for 280 councils and teamed up with LG Solutions to create the GST AddIn to keep councils' fees and charges ATO compliant.*

*Earlier this year Pat ran a 13 part tax webinar and training program that attracted 90 councils with more than 3800 registrations.*





TIME

SESSION

**Tony Pizzuto**



*Tony joined LG Solutions in 2015 following a career in local government spanning 35 years. In that time, Tony worked at 6 medium and large councils across Sydney in senior corporate and finance roles. Tony is a Fellow of LG Professionals Australia and served as Chair of the Finance Professionals Member Network from 2013 to 2015; was Vice President of the NSW Board of LG Professionals and a Member of the LG Professionals Australia, National Board. He holds a Bachelor of Business with an Accounting Major and IT sub-Major. Tony has written numerous submissions for the industry, presents at industry events and lectures at the NSW One Week Intensive Finance Course held at Charles Sturt University.*

1:20pm

**Lunch**

2:20pm

**Reengagement Process**

Description:

With many Councils shifting their focus to more customer-centric approaches how does this apply to outstanding rates? Re-engagement provides a supportive approach to customers to manage their outstanding rates. Utilising robo-chat customers can be self-directed in how they are communicated with, and what arrangements are put in place to pay outstanding rates. Reminders prior to payment dates and notifications if a payment is missed support customers to meet the arrangements put in place. The utilisation of technology improves the customer experience and the success of collection activity.

Presenters:

Gail Crowder, Director Client Services, Credit Clear Limited

Melissa Hamilton, Team Leader Revenue, Financial Services, City of Salisbury

**Gail Crowder**




*Gail has worked in the credit management industry for more than 25 years. One of the most recognisable representatives of the credit management industry for South Australia's Local Government sector, Gail is currently a Director on the Board of the Australian Institute of Credit Management, and manages Credit Clear's Gold Sponsorship of the SALGFMG.*



**Melissa Hamilton**



*Melissa has worked at the City of Salisbury for the past 20 years, starting her Local Government career as an Accounting Officer and developing into the Accountant position. During this time she obtained a Bachelor of Accounting and a Diploma of Management and has made a significant contribution to the Finance function throughout this time. With a combined interest in Finance, Legislation and Customer Service, her successful appointment to the Team Leader Revenue role overseeing the Rates and Revenue function for Council has been a perfect fit. Prior to Local Government, she worked in the Debt Collection industry specialising in Local Government and Retail and was one of the first to work in-house as a Debt Collection specialist with a large Council during this time. Melissa is a current member of the Revenue Professionals group and was a member of the FMG for approximately 15 years.*



TIME	SESSION
3:00pm	<p><b>Mind the Gap – How data lies AND can be your best friend</b></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>Service Reviews, Efficiency Improvement, Productivity Initiatives and Performance Management all rely on data to objectively assess performance; particularly when comparing to 'best practice' or 'benchmarks'. But if used indiscriminately, data can produce erroneous results, lead to poor management decisions and create unnecessary stress on staff. Bee Squared share some insights, along with real-world examples, to give you the best chance that data gives you the right answers and doesn't lead you up the garden path.</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u></p> <p>Ben Haigh, Managing Partner, Bee Squared Consultants</p> <p><i>Ben Haigh and Bee Squared have been consulting to Local Government in South Australia continuously since 2013. Known for their practical and data-oriented approach to Performance Assessment, Service Reviews, Business Improvement and Project Delivery, Bee Squared has substantial experience in using data analytics and performance reporting to guide management decision-making.</i></p> 
3:40pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
4:10pm	<p><b>Changes to LGFA's Credit Assessment Process</b></p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>This session will run through recent changes made to LGFA's Credit Lending Policy and will outline what is reviewed when assessing a loan application. Live Council data will be used to provide a working example of our approval process, and the key areas that the LGFA focus on to determine the financial sustainability of a Council.</p>  <p><u>Presenter:</u></p> <p>Natasha Grigg, Manager Lending and Treasury, Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia</p> <p><i>Natasha has been with the LGFA for almost 2 years after returning from 3 exciting gap years in Spain. Prior to this she has worked in financial markets and treasury departments in a range of roles in the private sector. She has previously worked in corporate treasury finance roles, managing cashflows, debt profiles, interest rate and foreign exchange risk management. Most recently she worked as an advisor for foreign exchange and interest rates for NAB, advising clients on how to manage their foreign exchange and interest rate exposures.</i></p>
4:50pm	<b>Close</b>
6:30pm	<b>Pre-Dinner Drinks</b>
7:00pm	<b>Dinner</b>
8:00pm-11:30pm	<p><b>Dinner Entertainment</b></p> <p><u>Music by 'All About Her'</u></p> <p><i>All About Her is one of Adelaide's leading cover bands with strong local ties in the Adelaide music scene, and a trustworthy name around town.</i></p> 





## DAY 2 – Conference 27 May 2022

TIME	SESSION
9:00am	<b>Registrations</b>
9:30am	<b>Introduction</b> MC: Lisa McAskill
9:40am	<b>Welcome</b> President: Elizabeth Williams, SA Local Government Financial Management Group
9:45am	<b>LGA Update – LG Reform</b> <u>Description:</u> This session will provide an update from the LGA on matters of interest to finance professionals in Local Government predominantly focussing on the work being undertaken as a result of the <i>Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021</i> . <u>Presenters:</u> Rebecca Muller, Senior Advisor, Local Government Association of SA Andrew Lamb, Local Government Reform Partner, Local Government Association of SA  <div><p><b>Rebecca Muller</b> <i>Rebecca began her career in advertising and marketing before moving into State Government where she spent a number of years in the Office of the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education. Since shifting into local government she has worked across a variety of areas including Infrastructure and Asset Management, Organisational Design, HR and WHS. Rebecca spent five years working for Renmark Paringa Council in the beautiful Riverland and has a strong understanding of the unique challenges faced by regional councils. Rebecca joined the LGA as a Senior Policy Officer where she worked closely with members of FMG to develop a strong evidence-based sector response to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Local Government. She has now moved into the LGA's Governance Team where she continues to work with member councils on strengthening integrated strategic management planning capacity and capability and implementing local government reform.</i></p></div> <div><p><b>Andrew Lamb</b> <i>Andrew commenced his career as a Solicitor in the areas of commercial/contract law, procurement/tenders, intellectual property/information technology law, GST and state taxation advice. He represented the CSO at various Justice Portfolio Committee meetings regarding the State Records Act, Services SA, review of whether CSO services could be performed on-line. On departing the Crown Solicitor's Office, Andrew became Chief of Staff for the SA Attorney-General. Andrew has also worked as a Manager at the Adelaide Casino, Board Secretary of the Dog and Cat Management Board and is now the Local Government Reform Partner for the Local Government Association of SA.</i></p></div>







TIME	SESSION
10:25am	<b>Courage Over Comfort</b> <u>Description:</u> Every minute of every day, every one of us has choices to make. At times, we will face difficult choices that require us to choose what's right over what's easy! In 1993, as an investigative journalist for the ABC, Chris found himself confronted with a difficult choice to protect the identity of his confidential source who exposed government corruption involving the introduction of poker-machines into South Australia. His choice ended up costing him his freedom and his career as he served 4 months imprisoned in South Australia's maximum security prison after refusing to disclose his source's identity during court proceedings. His sentence still remains the longest sentence for a journalist imprisoned in a Western democracy for protecting a confidential source. Today, leaders around the world are facing their own difficult choices in the midst of a global pandemic. Do they choose what's right over what's easy? Do they choose comfort over courage? Chris' compelling story brings home the stark reality of the many pressures each of us face every moment of every day in our workplace and at home as we struggle with making difficult choices. Chris' talk will take you from the fear and doubt of failure to the clarity and simplicity of being able to make the right choice in a crisis. <u>Presenter:</u> Chris Nicolls  <i>In 1993, ABC investigative journalist, Chris Nicholls, received the longest-serving prison sentence for an Australian journalist after refusing to disclose his source following his investigation into government corruption involving poker-machine legislation in South Australia. That experience shaped his belief that no-one is immune from an unanticipated crisis. Courageous leaders, today, need to be emotionally adaptive and mentally prepared to navigate successful outcomes during a crisis.</i>
11:25am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:55am	<b>New Requirements - ESCOSA</b> <u>Description:</u> This session will discuss the changes to ESCOSA's regulatory framework arising from the inquiry into regulatory arrangement for small-scale and off-grid water, gas and electricity services. Adam will also discuss the approach to the review of Council Long Term Financial Plans. <u>Presenter:</u> Adam Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, ESCOSA <i>Adam has over 20 years of experience in the legal and regulatory fields, including as Chief Executive Officer for the Commission. He was previously the Director, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and prior to this practiced law and held senior positions in the legal, regulatory development and reform areas including senior roles with Attorney Generals in South Australia. Adam also contributes internationally in the economic regulation sector, including as a keynote speaker, holds a Bachelor of Laws and Arts, and is an alumni of Oxford University SAID Business School.</i> 
12:35pm	<b>Gold Sponsor</b> <u>Presenter:</u> John O'Connor, Manager, LG Solutions





TIME	SESSION
12:40am	<b>Gold Sponsor</b> <u>Presenter:</u> Gail Crowder, Director Client Services, Credit Solutions
12:45pm	<b>What's the State of our Economy?</b> <u>Description:</u> This session will discuss what human behaviour, NAB internal data and how people "feel" tells us about the economy, South Australia, the consumer and ourselves.  <u>Presenter:</u> Dean Pearson, Head of Behavioural & Industry Economics, National Australia Bank <i>Dean leads a team of analysts responsible for providing unique insights into consumer and business behaviour by intersecting economics, psychology and advanced data analytics. As a behavioural economist and commentator with almost 30 years' experience, he has worked to debunk the view that humans are rational, clear-thinking beings. Instead, we behave and make choices that are often illogical and based on emotion. And, if we are to truly understand the economy, it is important that we know the underlying emotional state and motives of the people who work and live within it.</i>
1:25pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Door Prize</b>
2:40pm	<b>Keynote Presentation: Building Resilience – a personal and global journey</b> <u>Description:</u> James' career as an eye surgeon, humanitarian and social entrepreneur has enriched his life with extraordinary characters and confronting experiences. He has witnessed powerful stories of resilience that he wants to share with the world - a man who woke blind in both eyes, a group of disabled children in an impoverished country, and a global health crisis crying out for help. And through the re-telling of his own story of loss, James explores the critical elements needed to build resilience, at all levels. <u>Presenter:</u> Dr James Muecke AM <i>Dr James Muecke AM has battled malaria, wild animals, rebel soldiers and insurgent groups, however this intrepid doctor's most notable battle has been with the ravages of eye disease. Winner of Australian of the Year 2020, Dr James has led a storied career with one milestone after another. He founded Sight For All in 2008, turning his boundless energy into a fight against blindness in the Aboriginal and mainstream communities of Australia and some of the poorest countries of the world. His commitment to social impact and humanitarian endeavours has earned him a string of awards including an Order of Australia in 2012, the Australian Medical Association's President's Leadership Award in 2013 and Ernst &amp; Young's Social Entrepreneur for Australia in 2015. In 2016, James unfortunately had to prematurely retire from surgery as a result of a progressive neurological disability. But nothing could defeat his passion to help others. James has been a researcher, a teacher, an author, a musician, a photographer and a film producer. He puts all those skills to use to deliver passionate, fascinating, and at times confronting presentations about his life, his work, philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.</i> 



TIME	SESSION
3:40pm	<b>Platinum Sponsor</b> <u>Presenter:</u> Davin Lambert, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia
3:55pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
4:15pm	<b>Presentation of sponsor business card draws</b>
4:25pm	<b>Psychology of Workplace Dishonesty</b> <u>Description:</u> Dr Melville's presentation will look at the psychology of workplace dishonesty, focusing on workplace theft. While workplace theft is often petty, it is also very common. In fact, most employees will have stolen a small item from work at some point, such as a pen, coffee cup or a ream of paper. The expense of multiple small acts of workplace theft can easily add up, and is one of the major costs to Australian businesses. Workplace theft can also be a slippery slope, and employees who have successfully stolen small items without detection may sometimes go on to steal large amounts from their workplace. This presentation will examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how employees justify dishonesty,</li> <li>• employees' motivations for workplace theft, and</li> <li>• strategies for prevention.</li> </ul> <u>Presenter:</u> Dr Angela Melville, Principal Prevention Analyst, Independent Commission Against Corruption  <i>Dr Melville holds a PhD in sociology and anthropology from the University of Newcastle, Australia and a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in sociology and psychology. She was previously the Teaching Program Director for Criminology at Flinders University. She has also worked at the International Institute for Sociology of Law in Spain, the University of Manchester and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She has published extensively on professional negligence, compensation, the experiences of litigants, and the legal profession.</i>
5:05pm	<b>Close &amp; Networking Drinks</b> MC: Lisa McAskil



## Registrations

Register online at [www.salgfmfg.com.au](http://www.salgfmfg.com.au). For further information, contact the Event Coordinator on 0408 801 026 or [admin@salgfmfg.com.au](mailto:admin@salgfmfg.com.au).

## Costs (including GST)

### Members

*(make sure you select the 'I am a Member' check box when registering to receive your discounted rate)*

- Day 1 Workshop (includes Dinner) - \$200 incl. GST
- Day 1 Dinner Only - \$125 incl. GST
- Day 2 Conference (includes the Day 1 Dinner) - \$400 incl. GST
- Full Event (Workshop, Conference & Dinner) - \$565 incl. GST
- Regional Subsidy - Council participants (Members Only) outside of a 100km radius of the Adelaide CBD may be eligible for a \$100 subsidy (per participant and excluding GST) to assist with travel and accommodation. To apply for this subsidy, please select the check box when you are registering.
- Other Subsidies – the FMG, LGFA and the LGA/OLG are also offering various subsidies, to find out if you are eligible and to apply for any subsidies (ranging from a full ticket, to a ticket and travel expenses), please email [admin@salgfmfg.com.au](mailto:admin@salgfmfg.com.au).

### Non Members

- Day 1 Workshop (includes Dinner) - \$350 incl. GST
- Day 1 Dinner Only - \$125 incl. GST
- Day 2 Conference (includes the Day 1 Dinner) - \$550 incl. GST
- Full Event (Workshop, Conference & Dinner) - \$865 incl. GST

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellation must be received in writing five (5) working days prior to date of the conference or registration fees still apply. Substitutes are welcome.





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