



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REFORM



TRANSFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Candidate Induction Frequently Asked Questions

### What is candidate induction?

- This is a training module to assist people who are thinking of becoming a local government councillor.
- Candidates need to understand both the role they will potentially be taking on and what laws affect the way they conduct their campaign.
- Specifically, induction will cover:
  - Role of council and council members.
  - Election and campaigning rules (includes gifts and social media).

### Who has to do candidate training?

- Every person who wishes to be a candidate in the local government election in October 2019.
- Every person who wishes to be a candidate in any other local government election.

### How will the induction be delivered?

- The module will be available online through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' website by the end of July 2019.

### **Is there an exam?**

- There are quizzes included to help your understanding of the material.
- There is no test that you must pass.
- The module is designed to help you make good decisions.

### **What if I don't have access to the Internet?**

- You will be able to visit your local library or local government offices to get access.

### **What is the cost?**

- The online induction module is free.

### **I have a disability. How accessible is the module?**

- The candidate induction has been designed to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 level AA as per the [Accessibility and Inclusivity Standard](#).
- If you need any assistance in accessing the induction please contact the Department on 9492 9762 or [actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

### **Who has been involved in the development of the candidate induction?**

- The Induction was developed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and incorporates examples from other States and Territories.
- In terms of the induction content, input was sought and received from:
  - The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC)
  - The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)
  - Local Government Professional (LG Pro)
  - Current councillors

### **Does it apply to council members who are recontesting their seat?**

- Yes, it will serve as a refresher for them. Rules and expectations change.
- While serving councillors already have experience in running campaigns, being reminded of the rules governing a campaign is always useful.

### **How will this be enforced?**

- Every person nominating for council is required to declare that they have completed the candidate induction at the time of nomination.
- There are penalties for making false or misleading statements on the nomination form (a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine or 1 year imprisonment).

### **Will the list of people who have completed the induction package be published?**

- No, some of the people that complete the induction may choose not to be candidates.
- Publication of their names would be an unwarranted invasion of their privacy.

### **Will returning officers be given access to the list of people who have completed the induction?**

- When completing the online induction, participants will be required to advise of the local government area for which they are intending to nominate.
- The department will be able to provide a list to the returning officers for that district so that they can confirm that candidates have completed the induction.

### **Will local governments still be able to conduct their own induction sessions?**

- Yes, a local government can still provide their own district specific induction if they wish, and this is encouraged
- This will supplement the online induction as it will be specific to the local government.

### **Who do I contact if I am having problems?**

- You can contact the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 9492 9762 or [actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)