

Award for Career Excellence in Honor of Mark E. Keane



MICHAEL LLEWELLYN-SMITH

Established in honor of former ICMA Executive Director Mark E. Keane, the Award for Career Excellence recognizes an outstanding local government administrator who has fostered representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local government officials and by consistently initiating creative and successful programs. Candidates must have a minimum of ten years of executive, senior-level service to the profession. This year, ICMA presents the Mark E. Keane Award to Michael Llewellyn-Smith, city manager of Prospect, South Australia.

Working for 18 council members and a mayor. Local elections held every two years. Five different mayors with five different leadership styles in just 12 years. This was the

situation in the city of Adelaide, Australia, when Michael Llewellyn-Smith was manager. Mr. Llewellyn-Smith rose to and above the challenge: reviewing the city's organizational structure every five years to make sure that it would accommodate the changing circumstances of the community and the council, introducing a strategic corporate approach with a system of annual performance measures for all city programs, and ensuring the mayor was effective in meetings with other governmental leaders.

After 20 years with the city of Adelaide—the last 12 as city manager—Mr. Llewellyn-Smith took on the job of managing the city of Prospect, South Australia. There, he set about working with the mayor and council members to make Prospect “the creative community.” Prospect soon became one of the first councils in Australia to have a Web site and e-commerce. In 1998, the city won the ICMA Award for Programs for the Disadvantaged in Memory of Carolyn Keane for its community bus initiative; in 2001, the city received a national award for its ground-breaking mental health project.

Throughout his career, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith has balanced responsibility for taking charge of major issues with the necessity of delegating responsibilities to help employees develop. His strategic approach to problem solving and consensus decision-making demonstrates Mr. Llewellyn-Smith's willingness and ability to enhance the effectiveness of the elected officials he works with. His pursuit of excellence has translated into continuous improvements and better effectiveness and efficiency throughout the city of Prospect.

Regardless of where he is working or how busy he is, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith always looks beyond the city walls to learn from colleagues and to share insights with others. He has served in various leadership positions in the Australian Institute of Management; the International Forum of Chief Executives in Local Government; the Institute of Municipal Management (IMM), including serving as president from 1995 to 1997; and ICMA, where he served on the board of directors from 1993 to 1995.

In addition to his substantial leadership experience, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith has traveled extensively to promote representative local government. In 2000, he participated in an Asian Development Bank Technical Assistance Project, serving as a policy advisor to the ministry of local government in Sri Lanka. Also as part of his international outreach, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith is currently serving as a technical advisor on local government to the Free State Province in South Africa as part of a USAID initiative.

Whether helping the city council manage a historic conflict between heritage conservation and development, staging the Formula One Grand Prix, or arranging official visits for international leaders, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith has succeeded in working with elected officials from a range of backgrounds to enhance the image of the community he serves and the effectiveness of its government. In his own communities and beyond, Mr. Llewellyn-Smith's dedication to city management and the profession have improved the quality of life in communities throughout the world. ♣