Repairing Local Government Finances in Australia:
Implications for Skills, Education and Research

Graham Sansom
Professor and Director
UTS Centre for Local Government and
Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government

Abstract:

A series of major inquiries during the 'noughties demonstrated that Australian local government faces mounting financial difficulties that threaten its ability to make a positive contribution to the wider public sector, economic growth and national wellbeing. Initial responses have followed New Zealand's lead in areas such as long term financial planning and funding of asset depreciation. However, the evidence also points to serious shortfalls in councils' financial governance and intractable weaknesses in the very structure of local government. What are the implications for education and training of local government managers and councillors, and what sort of research is required to support necessary change?