



## **2011 Young Professional Scholarship Winner**

**Adele Coyne**

### **Presentation to IPAA WA AGM – 21 October 2011**

I recently attended the 2011 IPAA National Conference in Hobart and I am pleased to report some of my observations.

Over 260 delegates from across Australia and overseas were present to assess the numerous challenges that power sharing presents to the public sector in Australia. I think it is a fair comment that all delegates could relate in some way or another to a system where power is finely spread across governments of all levels around Australia.

Prior to the conference I had never quite appreciated that minority governments are not a new trend in the Australian political landscape. Rather, various governments at both state and federal level have been working in a minority situation for some time and this seems to be an emerging pattern.

With the calibre of speakers so high it is difficult to pinpoint a personal highlight of the conference, although the Young Professionals Breakfast with the Premier of Tasmania was of particular interest to me. The Premier presented a hypothetical set of information to a room of young public servants who were asked to provide advice on a contentious policy that impacted on multiple parties. This was a very unique and effective way of engaging delegates to critique a relevant policy issue in a present day setting.

The conference has given me the opportunity to expand my networks across borders and, of most relevance to my career, a platform to promote better governance policy. I greatly valued the discussions, exchange of ideas and people that were able to be there in making it a memorable event.

