



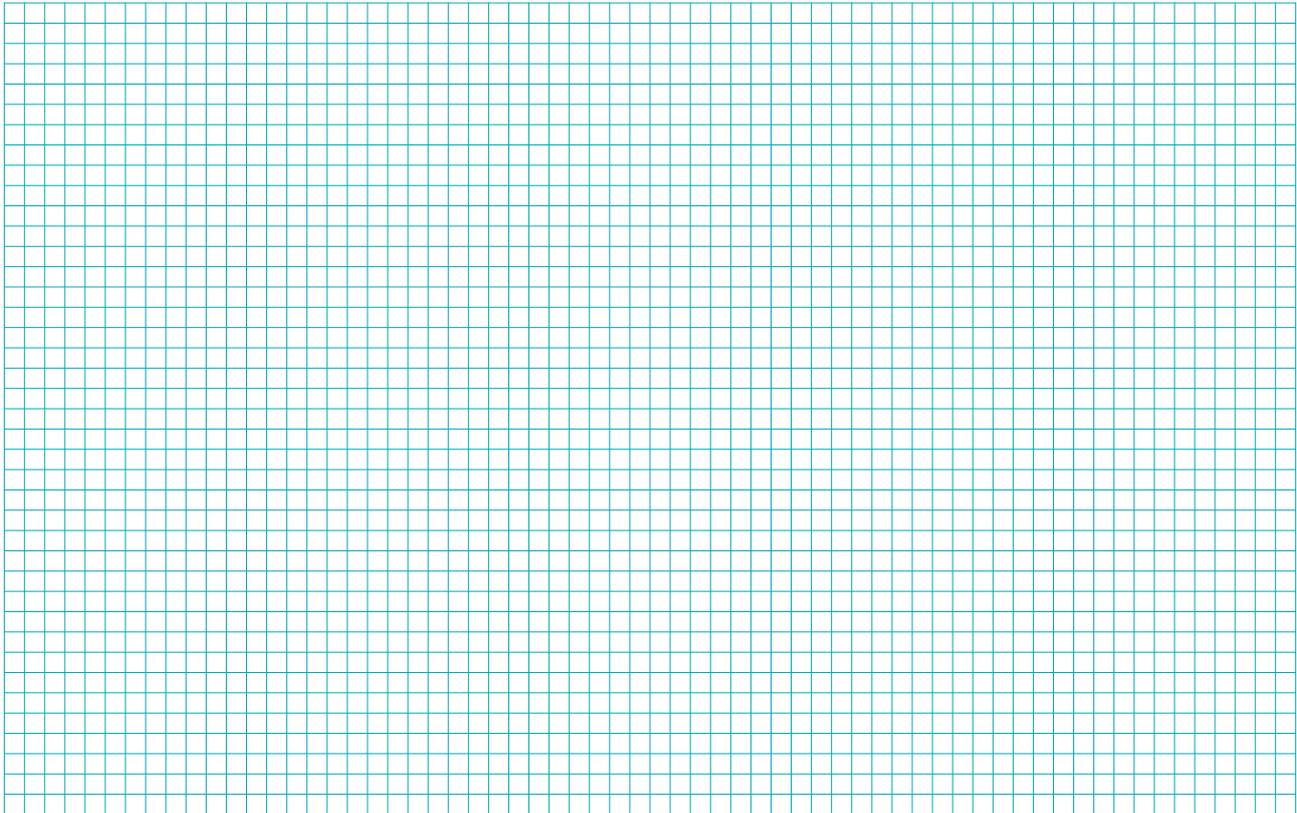
COMMUNITY HARMONY GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

For activities and events in 2017-18

Applications can be submitted online
at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

VICTORIAN
multicultural
commission
strengthening our community





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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Victoria is an increasingly diverse state that strives to lead the way, nationally and internationally, in enhancing social cohesion and promoting community harmony. As a state we seek to achieve equality of opportunity, belonging, and contribution, where no individual or community is disadvantaged because of their race, colour, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality. These values are embedded in the new Multicultural Policy Statement, *Victorian. And Proud of it.*

The Victorian Government understands that social cohesion is vital to a thriving multicultural Victoria. By supporting projects and initiatives that build intercultural and interfaith understanding, respect, and dialogue, the Community Harmony Grants Program has been established to strengthen social cohesion and community harmony throughout the Victorian community. The Community Harmony Grants Program will support programs that reflect those values that make up our society in Victoria and which are defined by the Victorian Values Statement.

While we have achieved a great deal together, it is important to recognise that the success of our multiculturalism can always be improved and developed further. It is incumbent upon us all to ensure that a sense of belonging and trust is integral to each individual and community. We must all contribute to a Victoria we can all be proud of. Discrimination is never acceptable and it is through programs like the Community Harmony Grants Program that we can achieve enduring community cohesion.

The Community Harmony Program will support activities that foster understanding, appreciation and respect for cultural diversity and equality. By providing opportunities to share one's cultural, beliefs and experiences with others, we will develop a greater sense of trust, shared purpose and belonging amongst all Victorians. In doing so, we will work to minimise social divisions, misunderstandings and isolation.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting communities by providing effective, accessible grants programs that meet a range of cultural, social, economic and educational needs.

I encourage community groups and organisations to apply for a grant under the Community Harmony Grants Program. By working together we can ensure that we promote a harmonious, inclusive and respectful Victoria.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Scott'.

ROBIN SCOTT MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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THE COMMUNITY HARMONY GRANTS PROGRAM

What is the Community Harmony Grants Program?

The Community Harmony Grants Program is a competitive grants program administered by the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Program is underpinned by the Victorian Values Statement that is the core of the new Multicultural Statement.

Building social cohesion and community harmony means the well-being of the Victorian community is supported to create a sense of belonging and trust for all Victorians. Supporting opportunities for Victorians to build relationships with one another, no matter what religion, ethnicity, skin colour, cultural identity, gender or sexuality a person identifies with, is core to the Victorian values that unify us.

These values build a shared sense of belonging, respect, acceptance and contribution. In this spirit, the Program will contribute to achievement of the Whole of Government Multicultural Affairs Outcomes Framework. These outcomes are designed to drive concrete improvement across government and ensure that every Victorian can belong, contribute, achieve and succeed.

The Outcomes targeted by this Program are:

- » Victorian's live free from abuse, violence and fear;
- » Victorian's are socially engaged and live in inclusive communities;
- » Victorian's can safely identify with and connect with their culture and identity; and
- » Victorian's live free from discrimination.

The Program provides funding towards events and initiatives that support communities to engage in, and contribute to, intercultural outreach and the building of understanding and acceptance of Victoria's cultural and faith diversity. Consequently, the Program supports communities to live together harmoniously with a shared understanding of belonging to our diverse Victorian community.

Objectives of the Community Harmony Grants Program

The Program promotes relationship building across Victoria's communities to better respond to emerging challenges to social cohesion. The Program objectives are designed to reflect the Victorian Values Statement and embed a commitment by the Victorian Government to ensure community led, co-designed support for community harmony and social cohesion in Victoria. Applicants seeking funding will need to ensure applications are aligned with the overarching objectives of the Program.

The Program objectives are to:

- » increase intercultural, inter-community, and inter-religious interactions, engagement and understanding;
- » identify and respond to local challenges to community harmony and social cohesion;
- » support diverse groups to develop relationships with one another and deliver initiatives that promote social cohesion, belonging, and harmony;
- » build shared values and the foundations of common humanity that transcend cultural and religious difference; and
- » improve information sharing and coordination around intercultural and interfaith issues, initiatives, and events across Victoria.

The Program will give priority to applications that:

- » display strong collaborative links between partner organisations;
- » aim to involve a broad range of Victorians in activities, particularly with people who have not previously engaged with intercultural or interfaith activities;
- » demonstrate a commitment to the Victorian Values Statement and the Whole of Government Multicultural Affairs Outcomes Framework;
- » have a focus on women, young people, new and emerging communities, LGBTI groups or regional Victoria; and/or
- » demonstrate in-kind support or other funding sources and/or funding partners.

Community Harmony Grants Program Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

To be funded under the Community Harmony Program, organisations must:

- » be incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) or the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012* (Vic) and have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) that is not for a commercial entity or individuals; or
- » be a Local Government Authority.

If your organisation does not meet the above criteria you must nominate an eligible auspice to apply for a grant. Auspice organisations must meet the above criteria.

What type of organisation can apply?

Organisations that may consider applying to the Program include:

- » community organisations;
- » culturally diverse community groups;
- » interfaith networks;
- » peak faith bodies; or
- » Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

LGAs submitting applications will need to illustrate close collaboration and/or partnerships with relevant communities and/or organisations.

What type of applications will be supported?

Applications that align with the Program objectives from an eligible applicant will be considered within the competitive process. Applications should outline activities and programs that contribute to social cohesion by bridging communities for the common good of Victoria.

The types of activities that can be considered are broad and creativity and ingenuity is encouraged, however some examples for consideration include:

- » local leadership and participation initiatives that bring together diverse communities;
- » initiatives that promote positive public narratives to increase the visibility, coverage, and portrayal of positive intercultural and interfaith relations;
- » development and training programs to increase the capacity of leaders and members of diverse cultural and faith communities to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue and engagement;
- » intercultural sports, arts, and youth programs that engage participants from diverse backgrounds;

- » educational programs that facilitate intercultural and interfaith dialogue in schools, organisations or youth groups to encourage trust and understanding between participants;
- » intercultural and interfaith events/seminars/workshops that encourage intercultural and interfaith dialogue, awareness and/or understanding; and/or
- » interfaith engagement initiative such as visits to various places of worship for faith leaders, students and members of the Victorian community to promote understanding and communication between communities.

Organisations with active multi-year funding under the 2016-17 Community Harmony Grants Program are eligible to apply for funding, however funding proposals must be for a different program of activities.

What applications cannot be supported?

Applicants that have overdue accountability reports for previous grants funded through the Victorian Multicultural Commission or the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship/Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division are not eligible to receive funding. To check if you are up to date with accountability reports, please email community.grants@dpc.vic.gov.au

The Program will not support applications from ineligible applicants or applications that fail to address the program objectives and funding criteria. Additionally, support cannot be given to the following types of applications for funding:

- » from individuals;
- » for competitions, commercial, or fundraising activities;
- » for infrastructure;
- » for organisational support and costs associated with the day to day running costs of an organisation;
- » for the purchase of capital equipment (including hardware or software);
- » for events or travel outside Victoria;
- » for people or organisations from overseas to visit Victoria;
- » for events that promote or are held for political purposes;
- » for retrospective funding for projects or programs that have already started or have been completed, including any activity undertaken prior to the notification of the application outcomes; or
- » from organisations that have failed to comply with the terms and conditions of previously awarded grants.

It is worth considering that while the Program is unable to support applications classified as above, there are other grants programs and funding opportunities which may offer such support. For example organisational support may be sought through the Capacity Building Program offered through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Please visit www.vic.gov.au/grants for more information on alternative Victorian Government grant programs.

Community Harmony Program Funding

The Program is highly competitive and due to the high volume of applications, not all applicants will be successful. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek other funding sources and financial partners for their projects. In some instances, successful applicants may not receive the full amount of funding requested and will be requested to revise their budget and project in-line with the funding offered.

The Program provides for grants of up to \$80,000pa for up to 3 years. All applications will be assessed through a single competitive pool.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT

How to apply?

To submit an application visit www.multicultural.vic.gov.au and complete the application form provided.

Ensure you complete the contact and address details, respond to the eligibility criteria, and attach all required supporting documentation. Applicants will be required to provide detailed responses addressing the funding criteria, as well as submit a detailed budget and project plan. Please note that applications for over \$50,000pa will also be required to submit a project evaluation plan with their application.

Applications for the Community Harmony Grant Program will open on 24 July 2017 and will close on 18 August 2017. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria (see page 4) will then be assessed against the Program objectives, and the assessment criteria (provided below).

Once this process has been completed, recommendations will be put forward to the Victorian Multicultural Commission for ratification, prior to consideration by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Applicants will be notified of the Program outcomes once the Minister has approved the final recommendations.

What are the assessment criteria?

Proposed activity and intended outcomes

The application:

- » identifies the proposed activities and explains the expected tangible outputs and outcomes; and
- » demonstrates the ability of the applicant to provide the proposed activities within realistic timeframes.

Need within the community

The application demonstrates the context and need in the community for the proposed activity. Providing sound evidence of need is highly recommended, for example data or previous evaluation findings etc.

Alignment with the Community Harmony Program objectives

The application demonstrates how the proposed activities will achieve or support the broad program objectives (see page 3).

Community engagement and target participants

The application:

- » specifies which community groups and target participants the activity will engage;
- » clearly demonstrates ways in which the community and target participants will be engaged; and
- » demonstrates the ability of the organisation/s to work with the target communities and the broader Victoria community.

Partnerships

The application:

- » demonstrates broad partnerships, coordination with other similar groups, and/or support; and
- » identifies all partner organisations and details the roles and responsibilities of all participating parties.

Value for money

The application:

- » is based on sound cost estimates and represents value for money; and
- » identifies any other sources of funding and in-kind support being provided.

Project monitoring and evaluation

The application demonstrates the provision of a methodology that will:

- » collect data and evidence to measure whether the activities have met the grant objectives; and
- » determines whether the intended outcomes have been achieved; and
- » for applications over \$50,000pa, develop a project evaluation plan.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate a commitment to measuring outcomes and employing methodologies that will provide evidenced based results.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

Funding decisions

The Program is a discretionary, merit-based grant program. A decision in relation to any aspect of the funding application and assessment process, including any decision to award a grant under this Program, is final and no correspondence will be entered in to.

Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Victorian Government Common Funding Agreement (CFA) with the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The CFA consist of:

- » a Schedule, detailing activity details, funding, activity deliverables and payments, budget, reporting and requirements and other activity specific requirements; and
- » a set of standard terms and considerations which are fixed and non-negotiable.

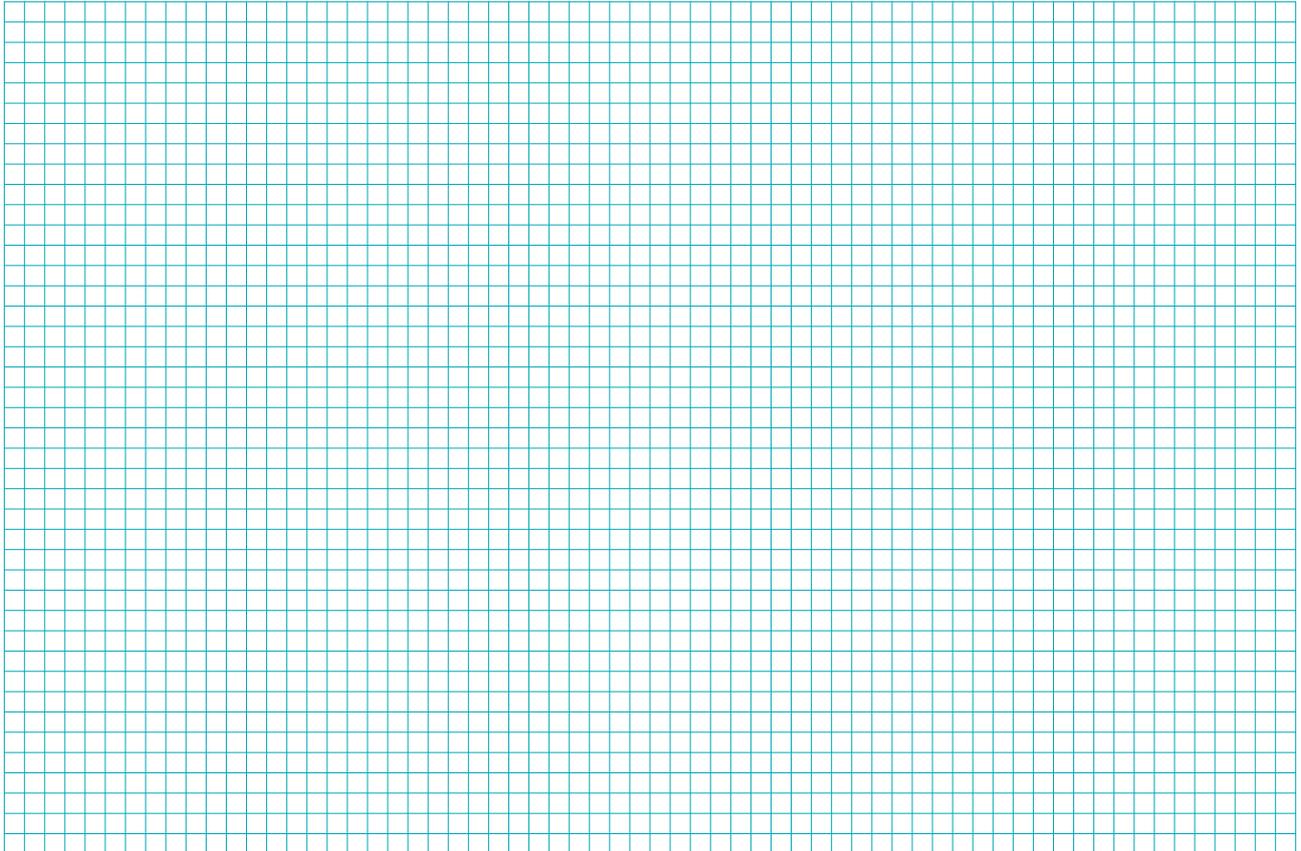
It is recommended that applicants review the CFA before applying for a grant.

You can view the CFA standard terms and conditions at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-business-and-community/not-for-profit-organisations/common-funding-agreement

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to complete six monthly progress reports. These reports will require recipients to report on both output and outcome/impact based results. Templates for these reports will be provided by the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Please note that successful applications for over \$50,000pa, which required the submission of a project evaluation plan, will be required to report against their evaluation plan for the life cycle of their funding agreement.



Contact us

Community Harmony Grants Program Queries

If you have any queries relating to the Community Harmony Grants Program or the application process please contact 1300 366 356 or email CommunityHarmony@dpc.vic.gov.au

