OFFICIAL ~~(Covering Protected Cabinet Legal Privilege)~~

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Submission

For decision
PDMS Ref. Number: MS25-003103
Date of Clearance: 15/10/2025

To Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Subject **Approval - Supporting Multicultural Communities - Rapid Infrastructure - Grant Opportunity Guidelines and Expenditure**

Timing *For consideration by **17 October 2025** in order to progress the grant round as planned and facilitate payment in December 2025. Timing waiver agreed with the office.*

Recommendations

That you:

1. approve the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Guidelines) for the Supporting Multicultural Communities – Rapid Infrastructure (SMC – Rapid Infrastructure) grant opportunity at **Attachment A;** — approved / not approved
2. note the SMC – Rapid Infrastructure grant opportunity has been assessed by the Australian Government Solicitor as having 'medium' constitutional and legislative risk rating, as outlined at **Attachment B**; — noted / please discuss
3. approve the provision of $5.0 million via an ad-hoc grant to the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Limited (MCCI) in 2025-26; — approved / not approved
4. agree to a Departmental official being the decision maker who exercises the powers to vary and administer the SMC – Rapid Infrastructure grant; and — agreed / not agreed
5. agree that in approving this grant, you have no conflicts of interest to declare. — agreed / not agreed

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Signature.....

Date: 20/10/2025

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Minister's Comments

Key Issues

1. This submission seeks your approval of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Guidelines) (**Attachment A**) for the SMC – Rapid Infrastructure grant opportunity and, subject to your approval of the Guidelines, seeks your approval to provide funding of $5.0 million to the MCCI, in one payment in 2025-26.

2. As part of the 2025 federal election, the Australian Labor Party made an election commitment of $5.0 million to support the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra to establish a new Regional Multicultural Community Centre in the Illawarra.

    - This election commitment is published under the *Supporting Multicultural Communities* headline election commitment in *Labor's costed plan to Build Australia's Future*.

3. The SMC – Rapid Infrastructure grant will provide up to $5.0 million to Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra to finalise the purchase of an existing premises at 5 Old Springhill Road, Coniston NSW, which is scheduled for settlement on 5 December 2025.

4. The Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra have informed the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) that they require the grant funding by 5 December 2025, to finalise the purchase.

5. The Department considers the funding meets the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles 2024* (CGRPs) definition for a one-off ad hoc grants process.

    - There is an urgent need for the grant funding to allow the sale of the property to be finalised with settlement scheduled to occur on 5 December 2025.
    - There is not sufficient time for a competitive or non-competitive process to be completed and distribute the funding in time to meet the settlement of the property. These other processes would take a minimum of an additional 4 months.
    - The grant is only being made to one organisation.
    - The grant is not expected to be repeated or made on an ongoing basis, funding will be made via one payment to allow the purchase of the property to be finalised.

In accordance with the CGRPs, as the financial decision maker you are required to approve Guidelines for each grant round before they are published. The Guidelines for this grant are at **Attachment A**.

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- In deciding the Guidelines, you are also agreeing to the grant by exercising your powers under Section 32B of the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997* to approve and enter into a grant totalling $5.0 million with MCCI.

- The Department has conducted a Value for Money assessment to assist with meeting the requirements of the CGRPs. This step is usually completed after the organisation has submitted their grant application. This process seeks to condense timeframes in order for funds to be allocated.

6. On 14 October 2025, the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albenese MP agreed, (MC25-134155 refers) to amend the policy authority to deliver a portion of the *Supporting Multicultural Communities* program via the one-off ad hoc grant process available under the CGRPs.

Background

7. s. 47(1)(b), s. 47G(1)(a)

Grant timeframes

8. In accordance with Finance's Streamlining Government Grants Administration program, the Department has engaged the Department of Social Services (DSS) Community Grants Hub (the Hub) to administer this grant opportunity.

9. The expected timeframes of this grant opportunity are outlined below.

Grant opportunity opens	Grant opportunity closes	Grant agreement issued	Grants executed and first payment
16 October 2025	22 October 2025	14 November 2025	1 December 2025

Grant Opportunity Guidelines approval

10. As per Estimates Memorandum *2024/36 Process for the release of new or revised Grant Opportunity Guidelines* the Guidelines must be approved by the Minister or the Departmental delegate before publishing on GrantConnect and sending the invitation to apply to the applicant.

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11. In preparing the Guidelines the department, in line with Estimates Memorandum 2024/36 *Process for the release of new or revised Grant Opportunity Guidelines*, has:

    - ensured the Guidelines are consistent with the CGRPs and used the template for one-off ad hoc grant opportunities;
    - ensured the planned spending is supported by legislative authority; and
    - completed a Self-Assessment Risk-Analysis using the Department of Finance template and implemented reasonable available steps to mitigate risks.

Your responsibility as grant approver

12. Paragraph 4.6 of the CGRPs requires that the Department provide certain written advice where Ministers exercise the role of grant approver, including providing explicit advice as to whether the spending proposals being considered for approval are a grant (paragraph 4.6(a)).

    - The Department confirms that the proposed ad hoc grant to the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra is a 'grant'.

13. The Department advises that, in accordance Paragraph 4.6(b) of the CGRP, which requires the Department provide information on the applicable requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule) and the CGRPs, including the legal authority for the grant:

    - In line with Section 32B of the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Act 1997*, you have the power to award grants under the SMC – Rapid Infrastructure program.
    - s. 42(1)

14. In accordance with section 71 of the PGPA Act and the CGRPs you must be satisfied that, after reasonable enquiries, the grant funding expenditure of $5.0 million would be a proper use of relevant money and, as such, the grant should be awarded to the recommended organisation.

15. Paragraph 4.6(c) of the CGRPs requires the Department outline the application and selection process followed, including the criteria used to select potential grantees.

    - Due to the urgent nature of this grant opportunity, a one-off ad hoc grant process has been utilised.
    - Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra was the organisation identified by the election commitment made by the Hon. Alison Byrnes MP and they have provided the Department with a documentation outlining the need, purpose, projected outcomes and proposed budget, including how they will achieve sustainability (maintenance and upkeep of the building).
    - The Hub conducted routine eligibility and compliance checks as per a standard grant process and reviewed the organisation's legal entity status to confirm they can enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth, have an active ABN and an Australian Bank Account.

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- The Department undertook a Value for Money assessment on the project utilising the draft guidelines criteria. The Value for Money Assessment is at **Attachment C**.

16. Paragraph 4.6(d) of the CGRPs requires that the Department provide advice on the merits of the proposed grant relative to the Guidelines and the key principle of achieving value with relevant money.

    - As described in the Guidelines, funding will improve amenity and accessibility by investing in community infrastructure, which will foster safe, inclusive spaces for multicultural communities to connect and engage.

    - The Department considered value for money as a key consideration. The value for money assessment is at **Attachment C**, which noted:

        - all documentation provided by MCCI demonstrates that purchasing an existing building offers a cost-effective, timely and efficient solution for establishing a regional scale centre to address multicultural community now and into the future; and

        - the $5.0 million grant to MCCI demonstrates value for money and that the project will deliver and meet the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity.

17. Paragraph 4.7 of the CGRPs requires that the Department indicate whether applications fully meet, partially meet or does not meet the selection criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

    - The Department confirms Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra fully meets the selection criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

18. Paragraph 4.10(b) of the CGRPs and applicable requirements of the PGPA Act and PGPA Rule indicate that a Minister must record, in writing, the basis for the approval relative to the Guidelines and the key principle of achieving value with relevant money.

    - Your approval and decisions requested in this submission indicate your agreement to funding recommendations in line with the above.

19. Paragraph 4.11 of the CGRPs and applicable requirements of the PGPA Act and PGPA Rule indicate that, where a Minister approves a proposed grant in their own electorate, the Minister *must* write to the Minister for Finance advising of the details.

    - The Department has determined the proposed grant to Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra does not fall within your electorate of Cowan or the electorate of Bruce for the Hon Julian Hill MP, the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs.

Grant recommendations

20. Having regard to assessments outlined above, the Department recommends that you:

    - Approve the provision of $5.0 million through an ad hoc grant to be paid to the MCCI in one payment in 2025-26.

Agreement for the Department to administer grants

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21. Under Section 32B of the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997*, both you (as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs), and the Secretary of the Department (who is the Accountable Authority) have powers to make, vary and administer an arrangement or grant. The Secretary has delegated powers to make, vary and administer arrangements and grants to officials in the Department. These powers are held simultaneously.

22. The Department recommends that you agree to an official of the Department being a decision maker who exercises the powers to vary and administer the agreements once you have approved the Guidelines and grant. This will allow the Department to expedite the process to offer and execute the agreement.

    - Should you wish to retain this power, the Department will provide you with an additional submission to seek your final approval of the funding before an agreement is offered and executed. This may delay the grant funding being paid to the MCCI.

23. This recommendation is in line with practices in place for existing Multicultural Grants.

24. Below are the types of actions that can be taken under each power:

    - the power to 'make' includes deciding which organisations should be awarded a grant, what amount of grant funding they should receive and what conditions or terms might apply to the grant agreement offered to the organisation;

    - the power to 'vary' includes deciding requests from organisations to change the types of activities, length of time or changes to items in a budget that an organisation might deliver under a grant agreement; and

    - the power to 'administer' includes deciding when an organisation has reached a milestone in its project and can receive the next instalment or payment under a grant.

Next Steps

25. Subject to your approval of the Guidelines (**Attachment A**), and your decision on approving funding to the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra,the Department will invite the organisation to enter into a capital works grant agreement. The Department, in collaboration with the Hub, will then work with the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra to negotiate and execute the grant agreement prior to the timeframes for completing the purchase of the property.

26. The capital grant agreement will include the requirement to:

    - use the premises for the agreed purpose for a period of 10 years, providing confirmation of such through an annual report to the department; and

    - repay grant funding if the premises is sold or disposed of prior to the end of designated use period (10 years).

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Consultation - Internal/External

27. Internal

- The Chief Finance Officer delegate has cleared the financial elements of this submission.
- The Chief Procurement Officer / First Assistant Secretary, Procurement, Property and Contracts Division, has reviewed and endorsed the Guidelines at **Attachment A** of this submission.
- The Secretary was not consulted on this submission.
- The ABF Commissioner was not consulted on this submission.
- The Head of Immigration was not consulted on this submission
- The Deputy Secretary, Immigration Programs was not consulted on this submission.

28. External

- Department of Social Services Community Grants Hub
- Assistant Minister Hill's Office

Client Service Implications

29. Nil.

Risks and Sensitivities

30. The information contained in this submission is classified and should not be publicly released without the authority of the Department of Home Affairs. In accordance with our long-standing practices, should you wish for unclassified media lines to be prepared in relation to this issue please contact the Home Affairs Media Operations team - media@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Financial/systems/legal/deregulation/media implications

31. During the 2025 federal election, the Australian Labor Party committed funding of $5.0 million in 2025-26 to the support multicultural communities as outlined in *Labor's costed plan to Build Australia's Future*. Costs are yet to be agreed with the Department of Finance.

32. All financial figures contained in this brief are Goods and Services Tax (GST) exclusive. If the entity receiving the funding is registered for GST, where applicable, GST will be added.

33. The Department will work with your office, through Media and Communications Branch, to develop supporting communications and media products, as required.

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Attachments

Attachment A Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Attachment B AGS Advice

Attachment C Value for Money Assessment

Authorising Officer
Cleared by: Sneha Chatterjee First Assistant Secretary Office for Multicultural Affairs, Immigration Group Date. 15/10/2025 Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer Malcolm McAllister, Assistant Secretary, Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs, Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 22(1)

Through Chief Finance Officer
Chief Procurement Officer

CC Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security
Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs
DS Chief Operating Officer
DS Legal
Head of Immigration
DS Immigration Programs

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience

Supporting Multicultural Communities – Rapid Infrastructure

Opening date:	16 October 2025
Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEDT on 22 October 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Home Affairs
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub[1] Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEDT on 24 October 2025
Date guidelines released:	22 October 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	One off ad hoc
Version:	0.1 September 2025

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[1] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us

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1. About the grant

The purpose of the Supporting Multicultural Communities – Rapid Infrastructure grant is to fulfil the 2025 election commitments to support multicultural communities as outlined in *Labor's costed plan to Build Australia's Future*. The Project identified as requiring rapid funding to meet the needs of multicultural communities has been included in this one off ad-hoc grant opportunity, demonstrating the Government's commitment to support both small and large communities and more diverse organisations with strong local links and who provide innovative support direct to their communities. This grant opportunity will provide support to time sensitive projects that will facilitate direct support to multicultural community organisations.

The Supporting Multicultural Communities – Rapid Infrastructure grant contributes to the achievement of Program 2.5 Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Program, within Outcome 2 of the Department of Home Affairs Portfolio Budget Statement[2].

- Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.
- Program 2.5: Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship: To support a prosperous and inclusive society through the promotion, delivery and effective management of the Australian multicultural and citizenship programs.

The objectives of the program are to:

- support multicultural organisations to deliver new construction or extend/upgrade existing infrastructure to provide access to purpose-built facilities
- improve amenity and accessibility through investment in community infrastructure.

The intended outcomes of the program activity are:

- maintain and enhance access to multicultural infrastructure and amenity
- encourage and facilitate multicultural communities to connect and commune in a designated safe physical environment
- improve equity outcomes and social inclusion.

This grant will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs (the department).

The grant is to be undertaken in accordance with the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024*[3] (CGRPs).

2. Grant amount and grant period

A total of up to $5.0 million (GST exclusive) is available for the Supporting Multicultural Communities – Rapid Infrastructure grant opportunity. Funding will be provided in 2025–26.

Funding must only be used for the purpose for which it will be provided.

You must complete your project/activity by 30 December 2026.

[2] https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reports/budgets/portfolio-budget-2024-25
[3] https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

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2.1 Designated Use Period

After the grant period, the applicant will be expected to use the purchased facility for the agreed purpose from the date on the Certificate of Completion (or equivalent), until the end of the Designated Use Period (DUP) of 10 years. During the DUP, any intention to change the use or lease arrangements of the property, including if the facility is sold, novated, or otherwise disposed of by you, in part, or entirely, you must notify the department, and you may have to return the grant funding provided in this grant opportunity. These requirements will be outlined in your grant agreement.

3. The grant selection process

This grant opportunity has been established as a one-off ad hoc grant. The department considers that this is an appropriate type of selection process considering the following:

- the nature of the grant is specifically in response to the commitments made by the Government during the 2025 Federal Election campaign, addressing the urgent needs of multicultural communities in local areas of Australia
- the eligible applicant was determined by the Australian Government based on the individual organisations' circumstances including;
    - grant funding is required by December 2025 to finalise the purchase of an existing premises
    - the applicant has worked, to date, in good faith that the election commitment made, would be actioned and completed prior to the settlement date
- there is insufficient time to establish a non-competitive selection process.

The department considers the eligible applicant holds relevant project knowledge and is considered to possess:

- appropriate cultural awareness to deliver facilities that will meet the needs of multicultural communities
- an ability to work with multicultural communities to increase the uptake of Australian values, boost civic participation and enable connection through the use of community spaces
- a willingness to strengthen inclusion and social cohesion.

3.1 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to receive a grant, you must be the invited organisation listed in the table below and have received an invitation to apply for this grant opportunity.

You are not eligible to apply if you are an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the:

- National Redress Scheme's website[4] on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency website[5] on the non-compliant list.

[4] https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/
[5] https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list

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Invited Organisation/s	ABN	Service Delivery Area	Funding (GST exclusive) 2025–26	Project/Grant Activity
Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Limited.	80 144 306 350	NSW	$5,000,000	Purchase of existing infrastructure located at Lot 5 Old Springhill Road Coniston NSW 2500 to facilitate the establishment of an Illawarra Regional Multicultural Centre.

No further organisations will be invited to apply.

3.2 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your grant activity must:

- be listed at section 3.1
- be consistent with the intent of the announced 2025 election commitment.

Costs that the grant **can** be used for are:

- Costs associated with purchasing existing premises, including;
  - Purchase cost
  - Stamp duty
  - Legal and conveyancing fees
  - Building and or pest inspection.

3.3 Ineligible grant activities

You cannot use the grant money for activities which:

- have been agreed to be funded by other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies
- costs associated with activities during the DUP
- costs associated with the maintaining and running the facility during the DUP
- costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of the premises
- relocation costs
- costs associated with:
  - employees of your organisation, including wages or employee on-costs such as superannuation, holiday loading, overheads, except where a project manager is an employee
  - consumables such as paper, printer cartridges, office supplies, brochures and other marketing materials
  - kitchen supplies or food and beverages or catering

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  - routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
- subsidising general ongoing administration of an organisation, such as electricity, phone and rent.

3.4 How to apply

Grant Opportunity Guidelines can be found on the GrantConnect[6] website. Any changes to these guidelines will be published as addenda[7] on GrantConnect. All other grant opportunity documentation (including the Manual Application Form) will only be available to the invited applicant via GrantConnect. Addenda to these grant opportunity documents will be published on GrantConnect and only available to the invited applicant. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

You can only submit one application for this grant opportunity. If more than one application is submitted, the latest accepted application will progress.

To apply, you must:

- read and understand these grant opportunity guidelines
- complete the Manual Application
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility
- submit your Manual Application to the Community Grants Hub by 9:00 pm AEDT on 28 October 2025.

Once you have completed the Manual Application, you must email it and all required attachments to support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Please include 2025-5510 in the subject line of your email response. You must make sure that your application is complete, accurate and submitted by the closing date and time in accordance with these guidelines. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*[8] and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should contact the Community Grants Hub by email support@communitygrants.gov.au or by visiting the Community Grants Hub's Contact Us[9] page straight away.

The Community Grants Hub may ask you for more information, as long as it does not change the basis of your application. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information or requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents submitted.

[6] https://www.grants.gov.au/
[7] Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.
[8] http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cca1995115/sch1.html
[9] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us

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4. Who will approve the grant?

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs (the decision maker) will make the final decision to approve a grant.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the:

- approval of the grant
- grant amount to be awarded
- terms and conditions of the grant.

5. Notification of the grant

We will advise you of the outcome, following a decision by the decision maker. We will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

5.1 The grant agreement/payment of the grant

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Your grant will be based on **the Capital Works Grant Agreement**.

The Capital Works Grant Agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Grant Opportunity Delegate[10]. We will identify these in the agreement.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the Grant Opportunity Delegate.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed.

We may manage the grant agreement through our Grant Recipient Portal[11]. Accepting the agreement through the Grant Recipient Portal is the equivalent of signing a grant agreement. After you have accepted it, we will execute the agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have entered into the grant agreement. We will notify you when this happens and a copy of the executed agreement will be available through the portal. The agreement will not become binding until it is executed.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

Your grant agreement will outline when your grant payment will be made.

We will pay 100% of the grant at the commencement of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds throughout your project and at the completion of your project.

[10] This may be the department's delegate or nominated staff member at the EL2 level or above.
[11] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grant-recipient-portal

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You will have 5 business days from the date of a written offer to sign and return the grant agreement. The grant agreement is not considered to be executed until both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

5.2 *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*

The Australian Government has a commitment to effectively support cultural change in Australian workplaces and drive improved gender equality outcomes. Requirements have been implemented for fairer and more consistent measures to ensure the Government deals with organisations who comply with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*[12] (the Act).

Applicants may need to satisfy a requirement to be compliant with the Act.

- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are registered with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) and have been issued with a compliance letter are eligible to apply for a grant.
- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are **not** registered with WGEA will need to register to be issued with a compliance letter prior to applying for a grant.
- Applicants with less than 100 employees across their entire structure are not required to submit a report to WGEA; however, you are required to complete the registration form on the login page of the WGEA Portal[13]. WGEA will use the details provided in the registration form to issue your organisation with a tender letter, which must be attained prior to applying for a grant.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant:

- your organisation must not be included on the WGEA[14] website on the non-compliant list; or
- you must be able to provide your compliance or tender letter to the Community Grants Hub when requested.

If you are unable to provide your compliance or tender letter and appear on the non-compliant list, you will be deemed non-compliant and withdrawn from the grant process.

More information regarding reporting requirements can be found at the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website[15].

5.3 Indigenous organisation type classifications

All Australian governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their communities, organisations and businesses to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The National Agreement identifies 4 priority areas for reform within government. One of these is Priority Reform 2, building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To assist government with improving and reporting on the level of community grant funding going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, changes have been made to the way organisation

[12] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03332/latest/text
[13] https://client-portal.wgea.gov.au/s/
[14] https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list
[15] https://www.wgea.gov.au/home/reporting-guide

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data is collected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will now be classified into 3 groups and asked to self-identify which group they fall under. The 3 groups and their definitions are:

Organisation type	Definition
Group 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 3: Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

5.4 Multicultural Access and Equity

The Australian government's Multicultural Access and Equity Policy obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services - including those provided by contractors and service delivery partners – are accessible to, and deliver equitable outcomes for, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Grant applicants should consider how they will ensure their services will be accessible to people from CALD backgrounds. For example, service delivery partners may require cultural competency skills. In addition, services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with clients who have limited English proficiency. Based on an assessment of the client target group, costs for translating and interpreting services should be factored into grant applications.

5.5 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress towards achievement of outcomes
- expenditure of the grant.

The grantee will be responsible for:

- meeting the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and managing the grant activity efficiently and effectively
- complying with record keeping, reporting and acquittal requirements as set out in the grant agreement.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant and the grant amount.

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We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, ask for more information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Your grant agreement will set out your specific reporting requirements. Reporting requirements that may be considered appropriate for your grant are listed below.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity/project.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity/project, you must submit a final report.

The final report must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted by the due date and in the format provided in the grant agreement.

Designated Use report

- Your project will have a specified Designated Use Period commencing on the end of you grant activity project. During this period, you must submit an annual Designated Use report, certifying the project is meeting the Designated Use requirements.

5.6 Grant acquittal

Non-audited financial acquittal report

We will ask you to provide a non-audited financial acquittal report covering the entirety of the grant activity period. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds. A non-audited financial acquittal report is an income and expenditure statement from grant recipient stating that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. If relevant, the grant recipient must include in the statement the details of any unspent funds. Non-audited financial acquittals must be certified by the Board, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised officer of the organisation.

Underspent funding must be returned to the Department of Home Affairs.

5.7 Grant payments and GST

GST will be paid for this grant. If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax[16] (GST), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice[17].

If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will apply.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance

[16] https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/gst-excise-and-indirect-taxes/gst/registering-for-gst
[17] https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/recipient-created-tax-invoices

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from the Australian Taxation Office[18]. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

6. Announcement of the grant

Your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect[19] website no later than 21 days after the date of effect as required by section 5.4 of the CGRPs.

7. Grant evaluation

The Department of Home Affairs will evaluate this grant to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved.

Your grant agreement will detail if you are required to provide information to help with this evaluation.

8. Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988*[20] and the Australian Privacy Principles[21]. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Department of Home Affairs would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

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[18] https://www.ato.gov.au/
[19] https://help.grants.gov.au/
[20] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text
[21] https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles

From: "DLO Aly"
Sent: 3/10/2025 5:52:29 PM
To: "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; "Malcolm MCALLISTER" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "FAS OMA" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "Ministerial Submissions" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "MO Registration" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "Alice LING" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; "DLO Aly" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: Timing Waiver - Election Commitment MinSubs - Oct 2025.docx, Election Commitments - proposed composition of ad hoc rounds and approach to resolving policy authority issue in a timely manner [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and Malcolm,

The timing waiver for all the submissions in the attached has been approved by Adviser s. 22(1)(a)(i

As discussed with Malcolm, the office would also like a high-level summary of the submissions to pair back with the 3 corresponding streams to assist with discussions with Minister Aly. For example:

- Under the Event stream, there will be X ad-hoc round and X competitive round – the GoGs are due to be progressed to MO by DATE, DATE etc
- Under Amenities, there will be X ad-hoc round and X competitive round …
- Under Infrastructure…
- Community Language School will have X and X – the GoGs are …

I note your earlier email in the attached, which outlined the policy authority issue that could have an impact on the rounds and the difficulties in summarising this information and setting it clearly. Hopefully some of this can be unpacked during Tuesday's weekly joint MO and OMA meeting.

Happy for the summary information to be provided post this meeting.

And thank you again for all the support.

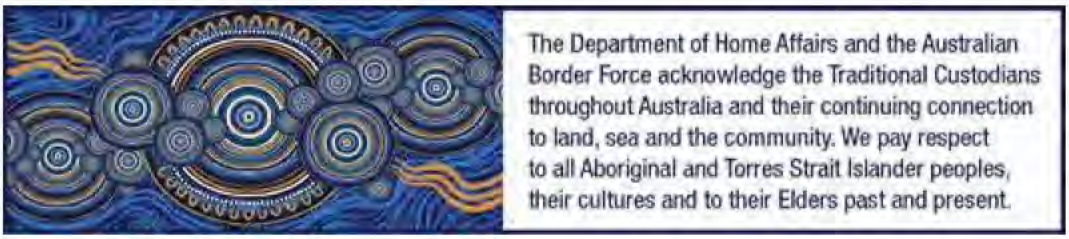
Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development

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Minister for Multicultural Affairs

M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au



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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2025 2:30 PM
To: DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Malcolm MCALLISTER <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; FAS OMA <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Ministerial Submissions <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; MO Registration <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Alice LING <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s. 22(1)(a)

Please see updated table in the attached, which reflects the latest details on the submissions relating to election commitments.

I have also added in details about the sequence of the decisions and critical dates. These will differ between grant rounds due to the size and complexity of each round. The timing has also been planned to ensure grant rounds distribute funding in the shortest timeframe and to avoid application periods being open over Christmas, given most organisations are closed and many are focused on cultural or religious celebrations.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Let me know if you need anything further and happy to discuss any issues.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
A/g Assistant Secretary
Special Envoy Support and Multicultural Grants
Office for Multicultural Affairs | Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
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OFFICE FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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From: DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 3:12 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Malcolm MCALLISTER <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; FAS OMA <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Ministerial Submissions <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; MO Registration <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Alice LING <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>

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Subject: RE: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

I understand that Adviser s. 22(1)(a)(ii) has spoken with Malcolm regarding the upcoming election commitment submissions outlined in the attached document.

Grateful if you could please review the content to ensure it reflects the most accurate information, particularly in relation to the timing of the decision.

Minister Aly may be travelling overseas during the week commencing 13 October 2025 for DFAT portfolio responsibilities. Considering this, the office would appreciate the department's support in managing the workflow of these submissions, noting that the Minister's turnaround time will be limited to only a few days.

If possible, it would be helpful to include a high-level summary outlining the sequence of submissions, especially where decisions and dates are critically linked.

I hope this is clear and happy to discuss if you have any further questions/concerns.

Thanks

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au



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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:28 PM
To: DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; FAS OMA <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Ministerial Submissions <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; MO Registration <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s. 22(1)(a)

That is fine – I will seek agreement from Assistant Minister Hill's office for that timing waiver given he is the decision maker.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
A/g Assistant Secretary
Special Envoy Support and Multicultural Grants
Office for Multicultural Affairs I Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
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From: DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:25 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; FAS OMA <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Ministerial Submissions

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<s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; MO Registration
<s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
<s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; DLO Aly
<s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au



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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:11 PM
To: DLO Aly <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>

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Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; FAS OMA <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; Ministerial Submissions <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; MO Registration <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Timing Waiver - Election Commitment Min Subs - Oct 2025
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon

We have a number of urgent Min Subs relating to election commitment grants in the coming weeks that will require a short timeframe for approval by the Minister.

The attached is a timing waiver seeking general approval for all of the upcoming rounds for your consideration.

Please let me know if there are any issues or concerns.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
A/g Assistant Secretary
Special Envoy Support and Multicultural Grants
Office for Multicultural Affairs | Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
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OFFICE FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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OFFICIAL

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Submission

For decision
PDMS Ref. Number: MS26-000478
Date of Clearance: 18/03/2026

To **Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs**

Subject **Expenditure Approval - Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure**

Timing *For consideration by 27 March 2026, as agreed with your Office, to notify recipients of decision, enter into grant agreement negotiations and disburse funding by mid-April 2026, as indicated in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.*

Recommendations

That you:

1. **approve** the recommendations at **Attachment A** to provide funding of $95.5 million (excl. GST) over 3 years from 2025-26 for 32 applications from 30 organisations under the Supporting Multicultural Communities Program (SMC): Infrastructure grant opportunity; — approved / not approved
2. **note** additional information requirements to be requested in Activity Work Plans for relevant applications, as outlined in **Attachment A**; — noted / please discuss
3. **note** the decision of the Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) to defer decisions for 7 applications to obtain further information to make recommendations on whether to fund these applications; — noted / please discuss
4. **agree** that in approving these grants, you have no conflicts of interest to declare (if you have any conflicts to declare, detail these in the comments section below); — agreed / not agreed
5. **agree** to an official of the Department of Home Affairs being the departmental delegate who exercises the powers to vary and administer the grant opportunity once you have approved the grant recipients; and — agreed / not agreed
6. **sign** the letter at **Attachment D** to Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, outlining entities that you agreed to fund in your electorate. — signed / not signed

Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs

Signature.....

Date 27 / 3 / 2026

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Assistant Minister's Comments
1. Please schedule a discussion with me next week regarding the projects deferred by the SAP, and the 1 I have deferred. 2. Please liaise with my office re: communications.

Key Issues

1. This submission outlines the steps required by you as delegate to approve the outcomes of the SMC: Infrastructure grant opportunity, specifically noting:

    - your decision in relation to recommendations in **Attachment A** to fund 32 applications from 30 organisations for a total of $95.5 million over 3 years from 2025-26 for projects announced during the 2025 Federal Election;
    - the proposed approach to manage the grant agreements through delegation to a departmental official;
    - the decision of the SAP to defer 7 applications to obtain further information to address outstanding issues;
    - issues that occurred during the assessment and selection process, including approaches to address these issues when negotiating Activity Work Plans; and
    - the letter at **Attachment D** for you to sign for Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, advising you approved 2 grants in your electorate.

2. On 4 November 2025, the Hon Anne Aly MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, approved the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the Guidelines) for SMC: Infrastructure (MS25-002990 refers).

    - The 35 organisations specified in the Guidelines were invited to apply for funding for a total of 39 applications.

Eligibility, Compliance and Assessment

3. The Selection Report and associated attachments at **Attachment B** summarise the selection process undertaken for the grant opportunity and provides assurance that the process was conducted in accordance with the Selection Plan and the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024* (CGRPs).

    - Compliance and eligibility checks were undertaken by the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) and the Department of Social Services Community Grants Hub (the Hub). **All eligibility and compliance requirements were met.**

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- The Department conducted due diligence checks on each organisation and key personnel. The checks focused on any information that could potentially harm the achievement of the grant objectives or result in reputational damage for the government.
- Adverse findings were identified as outlined in **Attachment B** to **Attachment E**.

4. Assessment of all 39 applications was conducted by departmental staff, considering the application information, responses to the selection criteria and mandatory attachments, to determine whether the project aligns with the grant objectives and represents value with relevant money. The outcomes of the assessment process were referred to the SAP for consideration.

Funding recommendation

5. The SAP, consisting of 3 Department staff, convened on 20 February 2026 and finalised its assessment of 32 of the 39 applications.
   - The SAP agreed that the **32 applications assessed, are suitable for funding** as they either fully or partially met all selection criteria, aligned with the intended outcomes and objectives of the grant opportunity, and will achieve value with relevant money.
     - The SAP agreed to recommend funding for these 32 applications. Further details are at **Attachment A**.
     - In recommending the applications, the SAP has outlined a range of information to be obtained during negotiation of Activity Work Plans in the column *additional information to be requested in the Activity Work Plan upon approval*.
     - If you approve these applications, the Department will work with the grantees during development of their Activity Work Plan to ensure that these requirements are met.

Deferred applications

6. In finalising their decision, the SAP decided to defer decisions on 7 applications (from 5 organisations) with further information to be obtained from these applicants relevant to the issues identified to determine value with relevant money.
   - You will be briefed on recommendations relating to all deferred applications separately by the end of March 2026.

7. The table below summarises the issues to be addressed with these applications.

- s. 47(1)(b), s. 47G(1)(a)
- s. 42(1)
- s. 47(1)(b), s. 47G(1)(a)

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s. 47(1)(b), s. 47G(1)(a)

Agreement for the Department to administer grants

8. Under section 32B of the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Act 1997* (FFSP Regulations), you (as the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs), and the Secretary of the Department (who is the Accountable Authority) have powers to make, vary and administer an arrangement or grant. The Secretary has issued delegations to make, vary and administer arrangements and grants to officials in the Department. These powers are held simultaneously.

9. As both you, as Assistant Minister, and the Secretary hold these powers simultaneously, this submission seeks your agreement for an official of the Department being the departmental delegate for administering the grant opportunity pursuant to the delegation instrument referenced above.

10. Below are the types of actions that can be taken under each power:

    - the power to 'make' includes deciding which organisations should be awarded a grant, what amount of grant funding they should receive and what conditions or terms might apply to the grant agreement offered to the organisation;

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- the power to 'vary' includes deciding requests from organisations to change the types of activities, length of time or changes to items in a budget that an organisation might deliver under a grant agreement; and
- the power to 'administer' includes deciding when an organisation has reached a milestone in its project and can receive the next instalment or payment under a grant.

11. The Department recommends that you agree to an official of the Department being a departmental delegate who exercises the powers to vary and administer grant agreements once you have approved the grant recipient. This will allow the Department to expedite the process for making day-to-day decisions once the grant agreement is in place.

Background

Requirements for the approval of grants

12. When considering the recommendations at **Attachment A**, if you do not approve an application for funding, you are required to provide a reason in the comment's column.

13. Paragraph 4.6 of the CGRPs requires that the Department to provide certain written advice where Ministers exercise the role of grant approver.

14. Paragraph 4.6(a) of the CGRPs requires the Department to explicitly advise whether the spending proposal being considered for approval is a grant.

    - The Department confirms that it considers this spending proposal to be a grant.

15. Paragraph 4.6(b) of the CGRPs requires that the Department provide information on the applicable requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* and the CGRPs, including the legal authority for the grant.

    - The Department advises that, in accordance with section 32B of the FFSP Regulations, you have the power to award grants for this grant opportunity.
    - s. 42(1)

16. Paragraph 4.6(c) of the CGRPs requires the Department to outline the application and selection process followed, including the selection criteria that were used to assess the application. A Selection Report outlining CGRP compliant processes followed during the selection process is available at **Attachment B**.

    - The application period opened on 14 November 2025 and closed on 11 December 2025.
    - The selection process was a closed non-competitive process with 35 organisations invited to apply.
    - The Department conducted compliance, eligibility and due diligence checks. Based on the outcomes, the applications were recommended to progress to assessment.

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- The Department completed the assessment of the applications against the selection criteria in accordance with the Guidelines.

- The assessment outcomes were provided to the SAP to inform their advice on funding recommendations to the decision maker. The SAP comprised of 3 voting members, a probity adviser from s. 47G(1)(a) and secretariat support from the Department. This provided an appropriate mix of policy, program, delivery knowledge and industry expertise.

- The SAP reviewed the assessment information and made recommendations based on defined criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

- The SAP agreed to recommend the applicants to the decision maker for funding and endorsed the SAP Report at **Attachment B** to **Attachment F**.

17. There were substantial issues with application quality and consistency with the Guidelines. This is likely due to applicants being small, community based or religious organisations that do not have substantial experience in grant applications or managing major projects.

    - Many applications were missing information or provided high level details that made assessments complex, so during the assessment process, the Department sought clarification of information or requested mandatory templates or documentation.

    - The assessment team and SAP considered all available information; however, risks remained in recommending some applications for approval. Conditions were suggested to be included as part of the grant approvals to reduce these risks.

    - This approach was supported by the probity advisor.

18. The funding and profile across financial years for all projects has been set with Finance and these were set out in the Guidelines. Due to this, the funding cannot be increased or paid in a different profile (i.e. it must align to the funding years specified in the Guidelines).

    - A large proportion of applicants submitted applications with a different funding profile. The Department has written to each of these organisations advising of the correct details and confirming the budget they will be offered, if you approve their application.

    - The applications must also directly deliver the agreed project description, as specified in the Guidelines. These descriptions ensure the grant aligns with the policy authority. Assessors considered this in their assessment and found all projects fully aligned with the project description.

19. Paragraph 4.6(d) of the CGRPs requires that the Department advise on the merits of the proposed grant relative to the Guidelines and the key principle of achieving value with relevant money.

    - The Department ensured that value for money was a key consideration of the SAP when considering the application. The methodology and deliberations around value for money were endorsed by an independent probity adviser s. 47G(1)(a) The probity certificate is at **Attachment C**.

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20. Following your decision, the applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the Hub. The Department, in collaboration with the Hub, will negotiate a grant agreement with the successful applicants.

21. As specified in the CGRPs, you are also required to write to the Minister for Finance advising that you have approved a grant in your electorate. A letter has been drafted for your signature at **Attachment D**.

    - The 2 grants listed in **Attachment A** for decision are in your electorate are:
        - Abu Tahlib Community Centre Inc (G48-R-002192)
        - Afghan Islamic Centre and Omar-Farooq Mosque Inc (G48-R-0002313)
    - A third application in this grant round, Southern Migrant Resource Centre, is located in your electorate, however you are not required to make a decision for funding on this grant at this time.

22. As per the existing service agreement with the Hub, if your approval is received by 20 March 2026, the following table outlines the anticipated timing for the next steps:

Applicants notified of grant outcome	Commence grant agreements negotiation	2025-26 payment made	Activity work plan negotiated
April 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026

    - If you require additional time for your approval, the Department will work with the Hub to determine new dates, as soon as possible after your decision.

23. In accordance with paragraph 5.4 of the CGRPs, information about this grant will be published on GrantConnect no later than 21 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect.

Internal

24. The Chief Procurement Officers delegate and Procurement and Contracts Support Branch have reviewed and cleared the grant policy aspects of this submission.

25. The Chief Financial Officer delegate has cleared the financial information in this submission.

External

26. s. 47G(1)(a)

Risks and Sensitivities

27. The information contained in this submission is classified and should not be publicly released without the authority of the Department of Home Affairs. In accordance with our long-standing practices, should you wish for unclassified media lines to be prepared in relation to this issue please contact the Home Affairs Media Operations team - media@homeaffairs.gov.au.

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Financial/systems/legal/deregulation/media implications

28. In the 2025-26 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, as part of the *Supporting Multicultural Communities* measure, Government provided $171.3 million over 3 years from 2025-26 to support multicultural community organisations deliver 164 priority infrastructure, amenities, and events initiatives.

29. Funding by financial year for this grant opportunity is as follows:

Financial year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Funding allocation	$36,193,000	$51,375,000	$7,975,000	$95,543,000

30. A media release announcing the decision on this grant has been drafted.

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Attachments

Attachment A SAP Recommendations for Minister's approval

Attachment B Selection Report

B – A: Grant Opportunity Guidelines

B – B: Selection Plan

B – C: Selection Plan – Conformance Assessment

B – D: Conformance Assessment Report

B – E: Organisational Risk Review – Register

B – F: Assessment Report – SAP Decisions Report

Attachment C Probity Certificate

Attachment D Letter to Minister for Finance (from Hill) – Electorate Advice

Authorising Officer
Cleared by: Sneha Chatterjee First Assistant Secretary Office for Multicultural Affairs Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 18 March 2026

Contact Officer: Malcolm McAllister, Assistant Secretary, Special Envoys Support and Grants Programs,
Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Through Chief Finance Officer delegate
Chief Procurement Officer

CC Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Secretary
DS Executive
DS Legal
DS Immigration Programs
Head of Immigration
AS Media and Communications
Chief Finance Officer

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MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Selection Report
Supporting Multicultural Communities – Infrastructure

Grant Round ID: 2025-5141
12 March 2026

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Purpose

The Selection Report provides assurance the selection process for Supporting Multicultural Communities (SMC) – Infrastructure grant opportunity has been conducted in accordance with the Department's policies and procedures, the SMC Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Guidelines) and the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs).

Grant Opportunity Summary	
Grant Round Type:	Closed non-competitive
Round open/close dates:	14 November 2025 – 11 December 2025
Number of invitations sent:	39
Assessment Type:	Home Affairs Assessment
Funding:	$109,381,399

This information can be used to inform the delegate Spending Minute for this round.

Selection outcome

The Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) met on 20 February 2026 and has agreed to recommend 32 applications to the Decision Maker for funding, for a total funding amount of $95.5 million (GST exclusive). During quality assurance checks that were completed after the SAP meeting, one of these applications was identified as having ineligible expenditure items in their project description and budget. The SAP was advised of this issue, and the application was removed from the recommended list, with the decision on the application to be deferred to the next meeting of the SAP. However, a response received from the organisation on 12 March which clearly articulated the intended use of the funds. Following consultation, the SAP approved the application to be recommended for funding. A total of 32 applications are recommended to the Decision Maker for funding, for a funding amount of $95.5 million. The applications were assessed in accordance with the requirements and priorities detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Guidelines) (**Attachment A**), the Selection Plan (**Attachment B**), and Selection Plan: Conformance Assessment (**Attachment C**). The results of the Selection Report: Conformance Assessment (**Attachment D**) conducted by the Community Grants Hub (the Hub) were also taken into consideration

The SAP considered all applications, deferring decisions on seven applications due to concerns or issues that required further material clarification. Details of these applications are listed at Appendix A and will be considered at a future meeting once follow up with each of the seven organisations have occurred.

During the assessment period it was noted that 12 applicants requested phasing for their funding allocation that did not match the approved funding amount agreed by the Department of Finance as listed in Appendix A of the Guidelines. Impacted applicants will be notified of the discrepancy and the correct funding amounts by financial year prior to negotiation of their grants to avoid any potential misunderstanding during grant agreement negotiations, scheduled to occur once the Decision Maker accepts the recommendation to fund the successful applicants.

Background

This grant opportunity fulfils elements of the election commitments made by Labor candidates in the 2025 Federal election to support multicultural communities as outlined in Labor's costed plan to Build Australia's Future.

The intended outcomes of the program activity are to:

- maintain and enhance access to multicultural infrastructure and amenity

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- encourage and facilitate multicultural communities to connect and commune in a designated safe physical environment
- improve equity outcomes and social inclusion.

Further information regarding the background, outcomes, objectives and requirements of the grant can be found in the Guidelines.

Summary of applications

Category	No.
Applications received on time	37
Applications received late	3
Total applications received	40
Applications not accepted or withdrawn due to multiple applications	1
Applications not accepted due to ineligibility	0
Applications not accepted due to non-compliance	0
Total applications assessed	**39**

Compliance and Eligibility checks

The Hub reviewed the applications submitted in accordance with its Selection Plan – Conformance Assessment (**Attachment C**).

The Selection Report: Conformance Assessment Report (**Attachment D**) identified eligibility or compliance issues with the 40 applications received. The Grant Opportunity Delegate made decisions as outlined in the report in **Attachment D** resulting in 39 applications proceeding to assessment by the Department.

The Department reviewed applications for alignment with Policy Intent of the grant opportunity and identified five applications that partially aligned with policy intent.

- The Grant Opportunity Delegate recommended the Project Alignment be changed to fully aligns with policy intent for three applications, and two applications to remain as partially aligns with policy intent with the issues identified to be addressed during negotiations of the grant agreement and activity work plan, including ensuring suitable monitoring arrangements are in place.
- During the assessment phase, one additional application was identified as not aligning with policy intent. This application was presented to the SAP for consideration and has been deferred for decision by the SAP, pending further information.

Due Diligence checks

The SMC: Infrastructure round was a closed non-competitive grant opportunity and was established to assess organisations that had been invited to apply for funding to fulfil commitments made by the Labor Party as part of the 2025 Federal Election. In line with all grant opportunities, due diligence checks were undertaken.

The Multicultural Grants team conducted internet searches on the organisations and their key personnel as outlined in the Selection Plan (**Attachment B**). Results of the checks were recorded in the Organisational Risk Review Register (**Attachment E**).

- Two organisations were identified as medium risk

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  - one organisation was potentially non-compliant with another of the Department's grant programs and one organisation had a potential social cohesion issue.

- Following the Organisational Risk Review, the Department became aware of another organisation with a potential social cohesion issue.

The SAP considered these findings, including legal advice and agreed to defer decision on these applications (included in the 7 outlined above) pending the opportunity for these organisations to respond to these issues. The SAP will consider these matters in a future meeting.

The Department requested Financial Viability Assessments for 10 organisations (indicated with an asterisk in the table at Appendix B) based on initial ratio analysis undertaken by the Hub and contained in the Conformance Assessment Report and/or funding amounts. On behalf of the Department, the Hub engaged Vincents (an independent external financial risk assessor) to undertake these Financial Viability Assessments. The result of the assessments was:

- Seven organisations were identified by Vincents with an Acceptable, Acceptable to Moderate or Moderate risk rating and as being suitable to fund, depending on their projects meeting overall assessment criteria for the grant opportunity.
- Two organisations were analysed by Vincents as representing a moderate to high financial risk that would require various financial risk mitigations to be suitable to fund. The SAP considered these financial viability analyses and recommended funding subject to the application of significant risk mitigations.
- One other organisation was analysed by Vincents as representing a high financial risk that Vincents recommended the department should not fund. The SAP considered this financial viability analysis and recommended funding subject to significant financial risk mitigations.

Preliminary assessment

The preliminary assessment of applications was undertaken by the Preliminary Assessors identified in, and in accordance with, the process and requirements detailed in the Guidelines and Selection Plan. The Preliminary Assessors used a three-point scale to rate applications against the two selection criteria (project need, and, organisational capability), which were equally weighted, providing a total score out of six. The results of the preliminary assessment were recorded in the Assessment Report (**Attachment F**) and provided to the Selection Advisory Panel.

Selection Advisory Panel assessment

The Selection Advisory Panel undertook its assessment of applications in accordance with the process and requirements detailed in the Guidelines and Selection Plan.

The Selection Advisory Panel was provided with:

- Grant applications submitted by the applicants
- Published Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- Assessment Report
- Organisational Risk Review Register.
- Financial Viability Assessments for the identified 10 applicants.

The SAP reviewed each application to assess the extent to which it represented value with relevant money in line with the Governments intended benefits under the grant program. The SAP concluded that applications where the grant fully funded the intended project, or contributed to a broader project, represented value with relevant money in the context of the Governments intended outcomes and objectives.

The SAP convened on 20 February 2026. In this meeting, the SAP decided to recommend 32 applications to the Delegate. Shortly after, a quality assurance exercise identified an application with potential ineligible expenditure. The SAP therefore had questions about the remaining 8 applications (including this additional application), which required further consideration before finalising a decision. At this time, it was agreed to

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defer this to allow the department the opportunity to obtain additional information and decide at a future meeting. A response was received from one of the applicants on 12 March, and after deliberation between the SAP chair and one of the SAP members (as the second SAP member was away), it was agreed the organisation be recommended for a grant.

For the 32 applications recommended for approval by the Delegate, the SAP carefully considered responses to criterion 1 (Project Need) and Criterion 2 (Organisation Capability – being the extent to which applicants demonstrated their ability to deliver the project). In some cases, the SAP noted issues identified by the Preliminary Assessors and, where issues remained, awarded an overall rating of partially meets the criteria. The SAP considered that in selecting a "*partially meets"* rating, the remaining issues and gaps could be addressed during the grants negotiation process and given the Government's commitments to these projects, the applications were recommended to be fully funded.

The SAP considered the outcomes of the financial viability assessments and noted three applicants were rated as significant financial risk. Considering the actions suggested by the financial analyst, the SAP recommended risk mitigation measures, including staggering payments and linking milestone payments to the applicant providing strong evidence of delivery and that the project is progressing. This evidence, depending on the project and applicant, could include other funding sources such as evidence of approval of loans, and statements from a building certifier that construction is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

The SAP noted that 12 applicants had requested funding different to what is outlined in Appendix A of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. If the applicants are successful, they will be notified before they receive grant agreements of the correct funding amounts in each financial year. This is consistent with the approach taken in the Supporting Multicultural Communities: Amenities and Supporting Multicultural Communities: Rapid Assistance grant opportunities where applicants were notified before negotiation of grant agreements.

Following the SAP meeting, the Grant Lead continued to follow up on applicants' documents for outstanding information requested by the SAP.

Whether applications partially or fully met the criteria, the SAP recommends any issues be addressed in the negotiation of grant agreements and/or Activity Work Plans to provide further assurance that the organisations have the capability, capacity, processes and reporting frameworks in place to complete their activities and acquit the funds appropriately.

Probity

All staff involved in the due diligence checks and assessment signed Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality declarations prior to conducting internet searches or accessing the applications. No conflicts of interest were identified. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality declarations were reviewed during the assessment period with no amendments being made.

The independent probity adviser s. 47G(1)(a) provided probity advice as required, conducted a probity briefing of the Selection Advisory Panel and attended the Selection Advisory Panel meeting ensuring that applications were assessed consistently and on their own merits in accordance with the CGRP's, Guidelines and Selection Plan.

A Probity Certificate is at **Attachment G**.

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Attachments

Attachment A – Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Attachment B – Selection Plan

Attachment C – Selection Plan Conformance Assessment

Attachment D – Selection Report Conformance Assessment

Attachment E – Organisational Risk Review Register

Attachment F – Assessment Report

Attachment G – Probity Certificate

s. 47(1)(b), s. 47F(1), s. 47G(1)(a)

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s. 47(1)(b), s. 47F(1), s. 47G(1)(a)

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Appendix B – Invited organisations – funding specified in Guidelines

Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (excluding GST)
G48-R-000424	* JEWISH ARTS QUARTER LTD	Construction of the Jewish Arts Quarter (JAQ) on Selwyn Street Melbourne, delivering a multi-purpose precinct including accommodating several key institutions, a performing arts theatre, co-working facilities and activated open areas to offer a rich and immersive community space.	$8,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	$ 0	**$18,000,000.00**
G48-R-001530	THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEBANESE MARONITE MISSIONARY	The design and construction of a 2 storey community center with offices and amenities over a basement parking. Including concrete Slabs, metal roof frame and covering, brickwork and glazing, soundproofing, solar panels and an internal lift.	$2,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-001614	* The Greek Orthodox Community of Oakleigh and District Inc	Construction of a Greek Cultural Hub in Oakleigh, including site works	$500,000.00	$4,000,000.00	$ 0	**$4,500,000.00**
G48-R-001617	Trustee for Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Bhuj - Sydney Australia Trust	Establish the Nilkanth Community Hub in Kings Park, converting a warehouse into a multipurpose space	$ 0	$1,300,000.00	$ 0	**$1,300,000.00**
G48-R-001693	CHUNG WAH ASSOCIATION	Construction of a new community centre in Bently, Western Australia. The two-storey facility will include a main performance hall, a dining hall, two dance studios, three activity rooms, office spaces, landscaped gardens, and a car park.	$750,000.00	$250,000.00	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-001725	* Turbans 4 Australia	Turbans 4 Australia to expand facilities into Adelaide, South Australia. The proposed new facilities in Adelaide will serve as multipurpose community centre, including a community kitchen and multicultural support centre	$1,600,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,600,000.00**
G48-R-001934	SRI KRISHNA BRUNDAVANA LTD	Construction of a state of the art cultural and multi-functional facility at Marsden Park, NSW. The project includes basement parking, a multi-purpose hall, kitchen, dining hall, outdoor dining area, basement car park, footpaths, a children's play area, additional hall and classrooms, and accommodation facilities. The design focuses on accessibility, sustainability, and safety, with features such as ramps, energy-efficient lighting, solar systems, and CCTV security.	$1,500,000.00	$750,000.00	$250,000.00	**$2,500,000.00**
G48-R-001992	WERRIBEE ISLAMIC CENTRE LIMITED	Construction of a purpose-built library at the Werribee Islamic Centre, to support the development of a shared community space, library and gym facilities in addition to a recently completed mosque and childcare centre on-site	$350,000.00	$150,000.00	$ 0	**$500,000.00**
G48-R-002007	HINDU COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED	Upgrades to the Karma Kitchen, including new dining area and industrial kitchen, storage, bathroom facilities, landscaping and refurbishment of the existing house on site	$ 2,400,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,400,000.00**
G48-R-002008	VITRAAG JAIN SHWETAMBAR SANGH INCORPORATED	Creation of a multipurpose community and cultural centre in Girraween, including an assembly hall with advanced AV systems, storage, and parent rooms; classroom facilities; a library; and supporting infrastructure including a commercial kitchen, over 100 car parking spaces, loading docks, offices, male and female amenities, and other essential services.	$2,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**

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Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (excluding GST)
G48-R-002033	* SANTHOM CULTURAL CENTRE LTD	Creation of the Santhom Community Hub and Resource Centre, a multipurpose facility including a South Indian migration museum and library showcasing Malayalam literature and resources.	$500,000.00	$3,500,000.00	$ 0	**$4,000,000.00**
G48-R-002190	SOUTHERN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE INC	Establishment, including design and fit-out, of a permanent facility to house the Southern Migrant Resource Centre in east Victoria.	$ 0	$1,250,000.00	$ 0	**$1,250,000.00**
G48-R-002192	ABU TALIB COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.	Expansion of the Abu Talib Community Centre in Hallam.	$420,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$420,000.00**
G48-R-002240	HINDU ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC	To build a educational and cultural building to facilitate religious and community events inclusive of a car park at the Perth Hindu Temple.	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002242	The trustee for DUNNIEH ASSOCIATION TRUST	Upgrade Community Centre's internal facilities, including meeting spaces and new bathrooms.	$ 350,000.00	$325,000.00	$325,000.00	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002243	Khalsa Shaouni Inc	Construction of a new dining hall and commercial-grade kitchen and upgrades to existing amenities to ensure a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment.	$3,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-002244	MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	Establishment of the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia Women's Shed and Multicultural Hub.	$250,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$450,000.00**
G48-R-002257	Sydney Marae Alliance	Establishment of a dedicated Māori Cultural Centre and Marae in Western Sydney, creating a dedicated space in the heart of South West Sydney for traditional ceremonies, festivals, exhibitions and education programs.	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002258	MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	Construction of a second storey and rooftop community garden at 20 Cobbler Place, Mirrabooka, principally to be used as a Multicultural Hub. The Hub will also provide a physical space for multicultural communities to connect and allow for facilitation of meetings, shared spaces for skills building, income earning opportunities for CaLD women and visual arts exhibitions for emerging CaLD artists	$300,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$500,000.00**
G48-R-002262	Shree Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir) Perth Australia Inc	Creation of a multipurpose multistorey facility at the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, including relocation of existing shed, service upgrade and foreshore management.	$3,250,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$3,250,000.00**
G48-R-002265	SAIVA MAHA SABAI OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	Building of a multicultural community centre in Mandogalup WA, to support cultural events, educational programs and social activities.	$ 0	$1,800,000.00	$ 0	**$1,800,000.00**
G48-R-002284	AUSTRALIA BUDDHIST BLISS CULTURE MISSION INC	Expansion of the current Australian Buddhist Bliss Culture Mission building, including improvements of existing facilities, a reconfigured courtyard and parking area, a kitchen relocation and technology upgrades	$400,000.00	$500,000.00	$700,000.00	**$1,600,000.00**
G48-R-002285	THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF MELBOURNE AND VICTORIA	Creation of the St Dimitrios Multi Function Art Space in Windsor. This project will improve existing facilities and create a multi-function arts and community space that will provide versatile, inclusive space for community gatherings, educational activities and for local events	$123,000.00	$800,000.00	$300,000.00	**$1,223,000.00**
G48-R-002290	AL-MINIA CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION LTD	Build the Al Minia Charitable Association's new Indoor Sports Facility, including the construction of a purpose-built, multifunctional recreational facility designed to to support a variety of community-based sporting and social activities.	$700,000.00	$300,000.00	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002291	* Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East Property Trust	Establishment of a new 600 person St Yosip Parish community hall in Leppington, including site costs, services, parking, landscaping and	$2,500,000.00	$2,500,000.00	$ 0	**$5,000,000.00**

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Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (excluding GST)
		construction of the community hall which will service both the wider community and church community.				
G48-R-002294	THE MELBOURNE VINAYAGAR HINDU SANGAM INCORPORATED	Construction of the community hub at the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple in The Basin, including adaptable spaces designed for multiple uses.	$1,800,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002297	St Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church Incorporated	Construction of a Youth and Community Centre at St Mary's the Nativity Orthodox Church in Mays Hill	$2,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002313	* AFGHAN ISLAMIC CENTRE AND OMAR-FAROOQ MOSQUE INC.	Construction of a new Afghan Islamic Centre & Omar Farooq Mosque (AICOM) community hub in Melbourne's southeast. The centre will feature a mosque, multipurpose hall, classrooms, offices, and support facilities	$1,000,000.00	$3,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$5,000,000.00**
G48-R-002323	* The Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales Ltd	Construction of the Hellenic Historical and Cultural Centre	$ 0	$4,500,000.00	$ 0	**$4,500,000.00**
G48-R-002324	Chaldean Catholic Dioces Incorporated	Establishment of the Chaldean Diocese youth centre that features meeting rooms, a library, a media room and a pastoral centre for assisting Chaldean Australians	$500,000.00	$2,000,000.00	$500,000.00	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-002326	TIGRAY ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO DEBRE AMIN ABUNE TEKLEHAIMANOT CHURCH INC	Construction of a multipurpose hall that will be used as a hub for our community, especially our youth, the multipurpose hall will provide a flexible, inclusive community event space, along with 130 car parking bays	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002328	* UMA CENTRE LTD	Construction of a Community Centre integrating sport, education and social services in Western Sydney.	$ 0	$10,000,000.00	$ 0	**$10,000,000.00**
G48-R-002332	SRI DURGA ARTS/CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL CENTRE INC.	Construction of a Community and Cultural Precinct on Neale Road, Deanside. The Centre will cater for a wide variety of immediate social needs and community activities.	$250,000.00	$2,500,000.00	$2,250,000.00	**$5,000,000.00**
G48-R-002334	The Trustees Of The Roman Catholic Church For The Diocese of Saint Maron Sydney	Lift infrastructure and shaft works at the St Joseph's parish site on Acton Street in Croydon	$500,000.00	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	**$1,500,000.00**
G48-R-002354	City of Ryde Council	Revitalisation and upgrade of the Eastwood Town centre.	$100,000.00	$250,000.00	$1,650,000.00	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002356	The Trustees Of The Roman Catholic Church For The Diocese of Saint Maron Sydney	The development of the piazza forecourt and ANZAC Memorial above the car park that is being developed.	$500,000.00	$500,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002360	* FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED	Establish a new 'House of India' community and cultural centre in South East Queensland including a dedicated hub for community activities and cultural events, as well as a meeting place for Indian community associations, and other multicultural and faith groups.	$2,500,000.00	$2,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$5,500,000.00**
G48-R-002482	* Turbans 4 Australia	Support the delivery of a multipurpose facilities in Thomastown Victoria. The proposed new facilities in Thomastown will include community kitchen and multicultural support centre	$988,399.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$988,399.00**
G48-R-002505	* Turbans 4 Australia	Support the delivery of a multipurpose facilities in Cowan Perth. The proposed new facilities in Cowan will include community kitchen and multicultural support centre	$1,600,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,600,000.00**

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Department of Home Affairs

Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience

Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure
Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Opening date:	**14 November 2025**
Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEDT on 11 December 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Home Affairs
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub[1] Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEDT on 4 December 2025
Date guidelines released:	14 November 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Closed non-competitive
Version:	1.0 November 2025

[1] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us

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1. Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure process

The Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Home Affairs' Program 2.5 Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship. The Department of Home Affairs works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024*[2] (CGRPs).

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The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on GrantConnect[3].

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You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.

↓

We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. If you are eligible, we then assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money. A Selection Advisory Panel will be convened to contribute to the review of applications.

↓

We make grant recommendations

We provide advice, through the Selection Advisory Panel, to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

↓

Grant decisions are made

The decision maker, either the Minister for Multicultural Affairs or the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, decides which applications are successful.

↓

We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

↓

We enter into a grant agreement

We enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature or complexity of the grant and is proportional to the risks involved.

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[2] https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

[3] https://www.grants.gov.au/

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Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.

↓

Evaluation of the Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information you provide us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure grant opportunity.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs (the department).

2. About the grant program

The Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure (SMC - Infrastructure) grant opportunity will run over 3 years from 2025–26 to 2027–28.

The program will fulfil the 2025 election commitments to support multicultural communities as outlined in *Labor's costed plan to Build Australia's Future*. These projects will provide direct support to multicultural community organisations demonstrating the Government's commitment to support both small and large communities and more diverse organisations with strong local links and who provide innovative support direct to their communities.

The SMC - Infrastructure grant opportunity is being provided under Program 2.5 Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Program, within Outcome 2 of the Department of Home Affairs Portfolio Budget Statement[4].

- Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.
- Program 2.5: Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship: To support a prosperous and inclusive society through the promotion, delivery and effective management of the Australian multicultural and citizenship programs.

[4] https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reports/budgets/portfolio-budget-2024-25

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The objectives of the program are to:

- support multicultural organisations to deliver new construction or extend/upgrade existing infrastructure to provide access to purpose-built facilities
- improve amenity and accessibility through investment in community infrastructure.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- maintain and enhance access to multicultural infrastructure and amenity
- encourage and facilitate multicultural communities to connect and commune in a designated safe physical environment
- improve equity outcomes and social inclusion.

The Community Grants Hub administers the program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024*[5] (CGRPs).

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced funding over 4 years from 2025–26 to 2028–29 for the Supporting Multicultural Communities program.

For the SMC - Infrastructure grant opportunity, a total of up to $109.38 million (GST exclusive) is available over 3 years from 2025-26.

The SMC - Infrastructure grant opportunity will run from 14 November 2025 to 11 December 2025.

Funding will be available for Australian Government identified projects that are scheduled for completion with final payment made before 30 June 2028.

There is no minimum grant amount. A maximum amount available to each invited organisation is listed in **Appendix A** of this document. Funding will be provided in 2025–26, 2026–27 and 2027– 28, depending on the nature of the project.

Requests for additional funding from the Australian Government will not be considered in this program. If your project is solely for the development of a business case, feasibility study, masterplan or similar, no additional funding is available for the construction phase of the project under this program.

The split of funding between financial years in the below table may change due to negotiation for multi-year funding agreements or projects not expected to commence until forward years. These changes will not affect the total funding amount.

Table 1: Available funding for this grant opportunity.

Financial Year	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total
Funding per year (GST exclusive)	$45,631,399	$54,775,000	$8,975,000	**$109,381,399**

[5] https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

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3.2 Grant period

The maximum period of this grant is 3 years.

All projects must be completed no later than **30 June 2029**.

The department may approve up to a further 12-month extension provided you have met all of your reporting requirements and can display that your project has incurred at least one of the following:

- Natural disaster.
- Change in scope.
- Delays in development approvals.
- Delays in obtaining materials to complete your project.

3.3 Designated Use Period

After the grant period, applicants will be expected to use the developed facility/ies for the agreed purpose from the date on the Certificate of Completion (or equivalent), until the end of the Designated Use Period (DUP), according to the schedule below:

Total Grant Value (GST exclusive)	Designated Use Period
Below $5 million	5 years
$5 million to $10 million	10 years
Above $10 million	15 years

During the DUP, any intention to change the use, ownership or lease arrangements of the property including if the facility is sold, novated, or otherwise disposed of by you, in part, or entirely, you must notify the department and you must inform the new owner/occupier of this requirement, and the remaining period.

4. Eligibility criteria

This is a closed non-competitive grant selection process. The department considers this is an appropriate type of selection process considering the nature of the grant opportunity is in response to the commitments made by the Government during the 2025 Federal Election campaign, addressing the needs of multicultural communities in local areas of Australia.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible to receive a grant, you must be one of the invited organisations listed in **Appendix A** and have received an invitation to apply through GrantConnect.

The list of eligible applicants was determined by the Australian Government during the 2025 Federal Election. Eligible applicants hold relevant project knowledge, and are considered to possess:

- appropriate cultural awareness to deliver facilities that will meet the needs of multicultural communities
- an ability to work with multicultural communities to increase the uptake of Australian values, boost civic participation and enable connection through the use of community spaces
- a willingness to strengthen inclusion and social cohesion.

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No further organisations will be invited to apply.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you:

- have not received an invitation to apply through GrantConnect and your organisation is not listed as an eligible invited organisation in **Appendix A**
- are an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the National Redress Scheme's website[6] on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- are an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website[7] on the non-compliant list.

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, all personnel working on the grant project may be required to meet certain qualifications, accreditation, registration or checks such as Working with Children check or Working with Vulnerable people registration. These requirements will be identified in the agreement.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible, your grant activity or project must be included in **Appendix A** and:

- be consistent with the intent of the announced commitment
- have as a primary outcome the construction, upgrade (renovation), extension or purchase of infrastructure that provides benefit to multicultural communities
- not be located on privately owned land where you do not have a formal arrangement, such as a lease, for use of the land or building.

The decision maker makes the final decision on what are eligible grant activities and may also approve other activities.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on your eligible grant activity as detailed in **Appendix A**.

Expenditure must be a direct cost related to the project, and consistent with the policy intent announced by a Labor candidate prior to the federal election and not be listed as an ineligible expense.

Expenditure on your grant must be incurred on or after Sunday 4 May 2025. Any expenditure incurred prior to entering into your grant agreement, should not exceed **40%** of the total approved grant funding. Applicants will be required to provide detailed financial documentation to support any costs incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement, including invoices, contracts and payment records. If costs are incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement, and they exceed 40% of the total approved grant funding, the grant opportunity delegate will make a

[6] https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/

[7] https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list

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decision on the approval of these costs. You must complete the 'pre-incurred expenses' template and provide evidence such as quotes, receipts in your application.

Eligible expenditure items may include, but are not limited to:

- pre-construction and development activities, including architect services, design, surveying, planning, levies, zoning, environmental or other regulatory approvals costs, limited to 10% of the overall project costs
- costs associated with project management services for the delivery of the project
- materials for construction such as:
  - building materials
  - fit-out of the infrastructure, such as window dressings
  - fixed furniture, such as kitchen fit outs as part of the construction of a building
  - landscaping paths, outdoor areas, driveway, and parking areas
- labour costs for wages and salaries for workers undertaking eligible project activities
- connection of sewage, water and electricity or other services and/or upgrades to utility services
- costs associated with preserving and protecting the infrastructure, including ensuring users accessing the venues are safe
- excavation, site clearance/demolition and asbestos removal
- hired/leased plant equipment for the project period only
- safety compliance costs and insurances that are specifically required to cover the grant, during the activity period
- fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals (for example Final Certificate of Occupancy)
- financial auditing of project expenditure (maximum 5% of total eligible project expenditure).

This is not a definitive list. Other expenditure may be eligible. The decision maker makes the final decision on eligible expenditure.

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- costs associated with the purchase of land, existing infrastructure or vehicle, unless specified in the activity description in **Appendix A**
- costs associated with the development, construction or fit-out of a childcare centre, unless it directly relates to a broader construction project
- costs associated with the maintaining and running the facility during the Designated Use Period

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- costs associated with:
  - employees of your organisation including wages or employee on-costs such as superannuation, holiday loading, overheads, except where they are undertaking eligible project activities
  - consumables such as paper, printer cartridges, office and kitchen supplies, brochures and other marketing materials
  - routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
- subsidy of general ongoing administration, such as electricity, phone and rent
- costs relating to the ongoing maintenance of any fit-out items purchased with grant funding
- costs relating to construction or fit out of any accommodation or domiciles
- relocation costs
- ongoing upgrades, updates and maintenance of existing ICT systems, the cost of ongoing subscription-based software, and IT support memberships and warranties for purchases
- domestic or overseas travel
- funding to develop or deliver ongoing training or educational courses
- funding to purchase items that will not remain the property of the organisation, including items to be given away
- purchase and installation of manufacturing equipment
- project overhead items, including office equipment, or mobile capital equipment. Examples include trucks and earthmoving equipment and the applicant's internal plant operating costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation for example business case development and feasibility studies
- making donations, gifts and sponsorships
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application.

All the assessment criteria are equally weighted.

The application form includes character limits – up to 3,500 characters (approximately 525 words) per criterion.

The application form will not accept characters beyond this limit. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

In assessing your responses to each of the criteria below, the Panel will rate the response as:

- fully meets the criterion
- partially meets the criterion
- does not meet the criterion.

Applicants must at least partially meet each of the criteria in order to be deemed suitable.

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Fully meets the criterion	Partially meets the criterion	Does not meet the criterion
• All sub-criteria have been addressed. • A good case has been made by the applicant through clear and convincing arguments that are supported by evidence. • The applicant has provided relevant information for all of the sub-criteria. • All the claims made are reasonable, generally convincing and well explained. • All the claims made are supported by evidence. • All the claims made and evidence provided generally link back to the grant activities and objectives/outcomes. • All the evidence provided is relevant. • Very limited areas of relevant weakness may have been identified.	• Some or most of the sub-criteria have been addressed. • A satisfactory case has been made by the applicant through information that is generally relevant. While some information is ambiguous, overall a clear picture emerges. • The applicant has provided some or mostly relevant information. • Some or most of the claims made are reasonable and supported by some evidence. • Some or most of the evidence provided is relevant. • Some areas of relevant weakness have been identified.	• No real case has been made against the criterion or any of the sub-criteria. • No relevant information has been provided or the response field is blank. • No analysis has been provided or the sub-criteria are largely repeated. • A very poor case has been made with limited information supplied. • Any claims made may be inadequate, ambiguous or not clearly explained. • Critical areas of weakness have been identified.

Criterion 1: Project need

Describe how your proposed project will contribute to the objectives and intended outcomes of this grant opportunity (refer to section 2) and why it is needed.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- Describe the need your project will meet for your community.
- Describe the community that will benefit from the project.
- Outline how your project will support multicultural communities connect and commune in a safe physical environment.
- Describe your project outcomes and how you will know the project has been successful.

Criterion 2: Organisation Capability

Describe how you will manage grant funds while completing your project.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- Provide a budget, on the mandatory template as specified in section 7.1, outlining the total cost of the project, how you will allocate the grant funding to complete the project.
- Describe how you will ensure the success of your project, which should include:
  - project designs and costings, such as quotes or tender documents

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- details of any consultation with your community on your project, including design
- sustainability once construction is complete including maintenance and upkeep of buildings, fit-outs and/or vehicles.

- Describe how you will manage the project to ensure it is successfully completed.
- Provide details of how your project can be delivered in isolation of funds from other sources.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Grant Opportunity Guidelines and the questions and answers. These documents are found on the GrantConnect website. Any changes to grant documentation are published as addenda[8] on GrantConnect.

All other grant opportunity documentation (including the online application form) will only be available to invited applicants via GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

If your organisation is listed against multiple activities in **Appendix A**, you must submit a separate application for each listed activity. If more than one application is submitted from a single applicant for the same Activity, the latest accepted application form will progress.

To apply, you must:

- complete the online application form on GrantConnect[9]
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- submit your application to the Community Grants Hub by 9:00 pm AEDT on 11 December 2025.

We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail.

The application form includes help information. You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*[10] and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you need more help about the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission, but before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately by email support@communitygrants.gov.au or by visiting the Community Grants Hub's Contact Us[11] page. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

[8] Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

[9] https://www.grants.gov.au/

[10] http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cca1995115/sch1.html

[11] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us

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You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information. This will not change your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents submitted.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

7.1 Attachments to the application

All of the following documents listed as mandatory must be attached to your application for it to be considered compliant and for it to proceed to assessment. Templates are provided for your use with the grant opportunity documents as specified.

- Detailed grant activity budget – mandatory template provided – mandatory.
- Project and Risk Management plan – mandatory template provided - mandatory.
- If applicable, pre-incurred expenses table – mandatory template provided.
- If applicable, evidence of pre-incurred expenses, such as quotes and/or receipts.
- Evidence of land ownership or approval from land owner to complete the project and carryout the designated use for the designated use period on the property, such as, Certificate of Title or a letter agreeing to enter into a Use Agreement from land owner– mandatory.
- Evidence of regulatory and development approvals, where available – non-mandatory.

Your application may be considered non-compliant and may not proceed to assessment if the required attachments are not provided and/or the mandatory templates are not used.

At any time during the assessment and decision making process, the department or its representative may request additional details or evidence to support an attachment you provided.

You must attach supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the application form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments we have not asked for. Mandatory documents form part of the application and will be used to support assessment of the application.

Please note: There is a 2MB limit for each attachment.

7.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

Late applications

We will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

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How to lodge a late application

Applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit an email request to the Community Grants Hub via support@communitygrants.gov.au. Where appropriate, applicants may provide supporting evidence to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances. Email requests are required within **3 business days** of the grant opportunity closing. There will be no further consideration of requests made outside of the 3 business days.

Upon receipt of a late application email request, the Community Grants Hub will send a link to the late application form, which will detail the due date and time for submitting the late application.

The late application form will prompt applicants to provide a detailed explanation of the exceptional circumstances, which prevented submission of their application prior to the closing date and time.

The Community Grants Hub will provide all exceptional circumstances for consideration to the Grant Opportunity Delegate[12] or their appointed representative. The Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative will determine based on the merits of the exceptional circumstances, in accordance with probity principles, whether a late application is accepted.

The Grant Opportunity Delegate or their appointed representative's decision will be final and not subject to a review or appeals process.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

If you are successful, you will be expected to start your grant activity around June 2026.

Table 3: Expected timing for this grant opportunity.

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	Within 10 weeks from the closing date
Approval of outcomes of selection process	Within 16 weeks from the closing date
Notification to applicants	Within 18 weeks from the closing date
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	Within 20 weeks from the closing date
Earliest start date of grant activity	4 May 2025
Grant Activity must end no later than	30 June 2029

7.3 Questions during the application process

Only invited applicants' questions will be answered during the application submission period. Please contact the Community Grants Hub by email support@communitygrants.gov.au or by visiting the Community Grants Hub's Contact Us[13] page.

The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days. The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on GrantConnect[14].

The question period will close at 5:00 pm AEDT on 4 December 2025. Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the application form will be answered.

[12] This may be the department's delegate or nominated staff member at the EL2 level or above.

[13] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us

[14] https://www.grants.gov.au/

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8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Community Grants Hub will first review all applications for eligibility and compliance against the requirements of the application process. Applicants will be rated as eligible or ineligible, compliant or not compliant. The Grant Opportunity Delegate will provide a final determination on eligibility and/or compliance. Eligible applications will move to the next stage (assessment).

If eligible and compliant, the department will then assess your application through a closed non-competitive grant process against the assessment criteria (see section 6). Your application will be considered on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

A Selection Advisory Panel will then be convened by the department to review applications and assessment outcomes and make final recommendations to the decision maker as part of the selection process.

When assessing whether the application offers value with relevant money, the department will consider the following factors:

- the initial preliminary score against the assessment criteria
- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- whether the proposed project is in scope
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives of the SMC - Infrastructure grant opportunity
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals
- the outcome of the financial viability assessment
- any and all risks whether actual or perceived that the applicant or project may pose to the department and/or the Commonwealth. This includes financial, fraud-related, reputational, and other relevant risks.

8.2 Financial viability

Applicants will be asked in their application to provide financial data from the last 2 full years' profit and loss statements and balance sheets (where available) in order to determine the organisation's financial risk. Based on the risk level, applicants may then be subject to a more in-depth financial viability assessment. You may be requested to provide further information or documentation to support this assessment.

The financial viability assessment can include:

- assessing the financial health of your organisation
- establishing whether you or relevant persons in your organisation (as applicable) have any adverse business history (for example, current or past bankruptcy).

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The outcome of the financial viability assessment will be considered when assessing and/or selecting applications.

8.3 Who will assess applications?

The department will undertake the assessment of eligible applications against the assessment criteria. The assessment will consider applications on their merits and provide a score for each eligible application to inform the deliberations of the Selection Advisory Panel who will then make final recommendations to the decision maker on which applications to approve for a grant.

The Selection Advisory Panel will be established by the department and may include a mix of employees of the department, experts from the sector, and other Commonwealth officers with relevant specialist expertise.

The department may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor who is not a Commonwealth official will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs. Experts/advisors will generally be those with specialised knowledge or experience in providing grants to infrastructure projects.

The Selection Advisory Panel may seek additional information about you or your application to support their assessment which may delay the completion of the selection process. This may include information received or requested within other Commonwealth and State or Territory agencies. The Selection Advisory Panel may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

An independent probity advisor will attend all Selection Advisory Panel meetings.

A strategy for any potential conflict of interest that could be identified between the department or external officials and applicants will be in place. If any actual or perceived conflict of interest is identified, the staff member is required to immediately disclose the conflict to the department and agree to abstain from any decisions. All staff involved in the assessment process will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest form.

The Selection Advisory Panel may seek additional information from the applicant to assist in making its final recommendations.

8.4 Who will approve grants?

Based on the value of the grant opportunity, and in line with the Department's Financial Delegations, either the Minister for Multicultural Affairs or the Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs will be the decision maker for this grant opportunity. The decision maker decides which grants to approve based on the recommendations of the Selection Advisory Panel, taking into consideration any further information that may become known, including the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the:

- approval of the grant
- grant funding amount to be awarded
- approval of eligible expenditure incurred prior to the grant agreement execution
- risks that are acceptable to the department and/or the Commonwealth
- terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

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9. Notification of application outcomes

We will write to you about the outcome of your application. If you are successful, you are advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Your grant will be based on the Capital Works Grant Agreement.

Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. The type of grant agreement used and its specific conditions may also be determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the decision-maker. We will identify these in the grant agreement.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed.

Eligible expenditure must have been incurred on or after 4 May 2025. Any costs incurred after this date, but before the grant agreement is executed should not exceed 40% of the total approved grant funding. Applicants will be required to provide detailed financial documentation to support any costs incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement, including invoices, contracts and payment records. If costs are incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement, and they exceed 40% of the total approved grant funding, the grant opportunity delegate will make a decision on the approval of these costs. You must complete the 'pre-incurred expenses' template and provide evidence such as quotes, receipts in your application.

We may manage the grant agreement through our Grant Recipient Portal[15]. Accepting the agreement through the Grant Recipient Portal is the equivalent of signing a grant agreement. After you have accepted it, we will execute the agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have entered into the grant agreement. We will notify you when this happens and a copy of the executed agreement will be available through the portal. The agreement will not become binding until it is executed.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Capital Works Grant Agreement

We will use a Capital Works Grant Agreement.

You will have 15 business days from the date of a written offer to sign and return this grant agreement. The grant agreement is not considered to be executed until both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

[15] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grant-recipient-portal

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10.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

The Australian Government has a commitment to effectively support cultural change in Australian workplaces and drive improved gender equality outcomes. Requirements have been implemented for fairer and more consistent measures to ensure the Government deals with organisations who comply with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*[16] (the WGE Act).

Applicants may need to satisfy a requirement to be compliant with the WGE Act.

- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are registered with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) and have been issued with a compliance letter are eligible to apply for a grant.
- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are **not** registered with WGEA will need to register to be issued with a compliance letter prior to applying for a grant.
- Applicants with less than 100 employees across their entire structure are not required to submit a report to WGEA; however, you are required to complete the registration form on the login page of the WGEA Portal[17]. WGEA will use the details provided in the registration form to issue your organisation with a tender letter, which must be attained prior to applying for a grant.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant:

- your organisation must not be included on the WGEA website on the non-compliant list or
- you must be able to provide your compliance or tender letter to the Community Grants Hub when requested.

If you are unable to provide your compliance or tender letter and appear on the non-compliant list, you will be deemed non-compliant and withdrawn from the grant process.

More information regarding reporting requirements can be found at the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website[18].

10.3 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government has put in place ways to apply certain child safety requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned.

[16] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03332/latest/text

[17] https://client-portal.wgea.gov.au/s/

[18] https://www.wgea.gov.au/reporting/reporting-guide

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The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

10.4 Indigenous organisation type classifications

All Australian governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their communities, organisations and businesses to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The National Agreement identifies 4 priority areas for reform within government. One of these is Priority Reform 2, building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To assist government with improving and reporting on the level of community grant funding going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, changes have been made to the way organisation data is collected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will now be classified into 3 groups and asked to self-identify which group they fall under. The 3 groups and their definitions are:

Organisation type	Definition
Group 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 3: Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

10.5 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards in your state or territory for the expenditure of public money and the procurement of good and services. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

In particular, you will be required to comply with:

- *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*[19] reporting requirements[20].
- State/territory legislation in relation to working with children.

[19] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03332/latest/text

[20] https://www.wgea.gov.au/reporting/reporting-guide

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- Working with Vulnerable People registration.
- Building and construction requirements.

To be eligible for a grant, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements. You may need to declare you can meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Where the Building Code or WHS Accreditation Scheme applies, construction activity must be undertaken by an accredited builder as specified under the Building Code and WHS Accreditation Scheme.

10.6 Multicultural access and equity

The Australian Government's Multicultural Access and Equity Policy obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services – including those provided by contractors and service delivery partners – are accessible to, and deliver equitable outcomes for, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Grant applicants should consider how they will ensure their services will be accessible to people from CALD backgrounds. For example, service delivery partners may require cultural competency skills. In addition, services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with clients who have limited English proficiency. Based on an assessment of the client target group, costs for translating and interpreting services should be factored into grant applications.

10.7 Governance requirements

Successful applicants will be required to adhere to the below minimum requirements:

Grants not exceeding $10.0 million	Grantee is required to engage and utilise a qualified Project Manager
Grants in excess of $10.0 million	▪ Grantee is required to engage and utilise a Project Manager ▪ Establish a Project Control Group to: – facilitate communications – receive and consider all reports and information about the Activity and the Works – make all necessary approvals, notices, consents and decisions in relation to the Works – comprise, where appropriate, the following positions (i) one representative of the Grantee (ii) one representative of the architect (iii) one representative of the quantity surveyor (iv) one representative of the project manager (v) one representative of the building contractor (once engaged) (vi) other representatives notified by the Commonwealth to the Grantee in writing.

10.8 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

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Your grant agreement will outline when your grant payment/s will be made.

We will either pay 100% of the grant at the commencement of the grant agreement.

OR

We will make an initial payment at the commencement of the grant agreement. We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement, usually upon completion of milestones reflecting the stage of construction. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds throughout your project and at the completion of your project.

10.9 Grants payments and GST

GST will be paid for this grant. If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax[21] (GST), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice[22].

If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will apply.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office[23]. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website no later than 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by section 5.4 of the CGRPs[24].

We may also publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on websites managed by the department. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

[21] https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/gst-excise-and-indirect-taxes/gst/registering-for-gst

[22] https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/recipient-created-tax-invoices

[23] https://www.ato.gov.au/

[24] https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024

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12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due because of these changes.

You must also inform your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub of any changes to your:

- organisation name
- ABN
- addresses
- contact person/s
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

The details of your Funding Arrangement Manager will be included in your grant agreement.

If you become aware of a breach of the terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress towards achievement of outcomes
- expenditure of the grant.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant and the grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, ask for more information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Activity Work Plan and Budget

You must submit a completed Activity Work Plan and Budget on the template provided by us after execution of the grant agreement. An Activity Work Plan and Budget will be used to outline the specific grant requirements. The Activity Work Plan and Budget documents planned deliverables, milestones, budget and outputs for the funded project as well as risk management and community engagement relevant to the funded project.

Successful applicants' progress and outcomes against the Activity Work Plan and Budget including any compliance requirements will be monitored throughout the grant through quarterly Activity Work Plan and Budget Reports.

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Projects in receipt of $10.0 million or greater of grant funding will be required to establish a Project Control Group. The Project Control must provide quarterly Project Control Group reports as part of the quarterly Activity Work Plan reporting.

Annual Child Safe Statement of Compliance

You may be required to submit an annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance. This will be a statutory declaration on a form provided by the Hub affirming that you are compliant with the Child Safe Supplementary Term in your grant agreement.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity or project.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted by the due date and in the format provided in the grant agreement.

Designated Use report

Your project will have a specified Designated Use Period commencing on the date of practical completion of the project. During this period, you must submit an annual Designated Use report, certifying the project is meeting the Designated Use requirements.

12.3 Acquitting your grant

Depending on the associated risks, value and complexity of each grant activity, we will ask you to provide one of the following:

Non-audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide a non-audited financial acquittal report covering the entirety of the grant activity period. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds. A non-audited financial acquittal report is an income and expenditure statement from grant recipient stating that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. If relevant, the grant recipient must include in the statement the details of any unspent funds. Non-audited financial acquittals must be certified by the Board, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised officer of the organisation.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

Or

Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report covering the entirety of the grant activity period. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds.

An Independently audited financial acquittal report is a report prepared independent to the grant recipient by a:

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- Registered Company Auditor under the *Corporations Act 2001*
- certified Practising Accountant
- member of the National Institute of Accountants, or
- member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

who is not a principal member, shareholder, officer or employee of the grantee or a related body corporate.

The report includes an income and expenditure statement, verifying that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. It must include details on spending against line item expenditure and, if relevant, detail reasons for any unspent funds. The report is to be accompanied by the audit opinion.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager. Variations for increased funding amounts will not be considered.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to see how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

Successful grantees will be required to comply with general guidelines for acknowledging funding received under the Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure grant opportunity. This includes notifying and inviting the relevant Minister or delegate of the Minister to the opening event for your completed project, or in print or publication by using the following wording:

‘This project is supported with grant funding from the Australian Government’s Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure grant opportunity.’

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13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs[25].

These guidelines may be changed by the department. When this happens, the revised guidelines are published on the GrantConnect[26] website.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant process

Complaints about this grant process or the Community Grants Hub's service/s must be made in writing using the online complaints form[27] on the Department of Social Services[28] website, or by contacting the Department of Social Services complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints about the Department of Home Affairs grant opportunity, selection process or grant decisions

The department's Complaints Procedures apply to complaints about the grant program, selection process or grant decisions.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the department. All complaints not specific to this grant opportunity or the Community Grants Hub's service/s (including the selection process and grant decisions) should be addressed to the department in writing to Compliments, complaints and suggestions[29].

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub or the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman[30]. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or the department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au/

[25] https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

[26] https://www.grants.gov.au/

[27] https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form

[28] https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/complaints-page

[29] https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions

[30] https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/

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13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the department and Community Grants Hub staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (section 13(7))[31] of the *Public Service Act 1999*[32]. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the Community Grants Hub website[33].

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988*[34] and the Australian Privacy Principles[35]. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

[31] http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

[32] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00538/latest/versions

[33] https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/conflict-intrest-policy

[34] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text

[35] https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles

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As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, the Australian Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below:

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*[36] (FOI Act).

[36] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A02562/latest/versions

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The purpose of the FOI Act gives people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
Government and Executive Services Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au

14. Consultation

These guidelines have been developed by the department in consultation with:

- Department of Social Services
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Finance
- Australian Government Solicitor.

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15. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act)[37].
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024[38] (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Funding Arrangement Manager	the officer responsible for the ongoing management of the grantee and their compliance with the grant agreement.

[37] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2013A00123/latest/text

[38] https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

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Term	Definition
grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[39] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund[40] (CRF) money[41] is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Department of Home Affairs Portfolio Budget Statement program.
GrantConnect[42]	the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
National Redress legislation	means the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*[43].

[39] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

[40] https://www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf

[41] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

[42] https://www.grants.gov.au/

[43] https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2018A00045/latest/text

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Term	Definition
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement[44], PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant programs. A PBS program may have more than one grant program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Selection Advisory Panel	provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision maker on assessed applications from the program specific, service provider composition and service location perspectives.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to the: ▪ quality of the project proposal and activities ▪ fit for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives ▪ absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved ▪ potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

[44] https://budget.gov.au/

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Appendix A. list of Invitees

Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Org ABN	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (GST exclusive)
G48-R-000424	JEWISH ARTS QUARTER LTD	34 649 543 822	Construction of the Jewish Arts Quarter (JAQ) on Selwyn Street Melbourne, delivering a multi-purpose precinct including accommodating several key institutions, a performing arts theatre, co-working facilities and activated open areas to offer a rich and immersive community space.	$8,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	$ 0	**$18,000,000.00**
G48-R-001530	THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEBANESE MARONITE MISSIONARY	90 233 549 241	The design and construction of a 2 storey community centre with offices and amenities over a basement parking. Including concrete slabs, metal roof frame and covering, brickwork and glazing, soundproofing, solar panels and an internal lift.	$2,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-001614	The Greek Orthodox Community of Oakleigh and District Inc	78 446 978 431	Construction of a Greek Cultural Hub in Oakleigh, including site works.	$500,000.00	$4,000,000.00	$ 0	**$4,500,000.00**
G48-R-001617	Trustee for Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Bhuj - Sydney Australia Trust	18 973 817 136	Establish the Nilkanth Community Hub in Kings Park, converting a warehouse into a multipurpose space.	$ 0	$1,300,000.00	$ 0	**$1,300,000.00**
G48-R-001693	CHUNG WAH ASSOCIATION	31 621 821 100	Construction of a new community centre in Bently, Western Australia. The two-storey facility will include a main performance hall, a dining hall, two dance studios, three activity rooms, office spaces, landscaped gardens, and a car park.	$750,000.00	$250,000.00	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-001725	Turbans 4 Australia	64 704 364 097	Turbans 4 Australia to expand facilities into Adelaide, South Australia. The proposed new facilities in Adelaide will serve as multipurpose community centre, including a community kitchen and multicultural support centre.	$1,600,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,600,000.00**
G48-R-001934	SRI KRISHNA BRUNDAVANA LTD	19 164 178 330	Construction of a state of the art cultural and multifunctional facility at Marsden Park, NSW. The project includes basement parking, a multi-purpose hall, kitchen, dining hall, outdoor dining area, basement car park, footpaths, a children's play area, additional hall and classrooms, and accommodation facilities. The design focuses on accessibility, sustainability, and safety, with features such as ramps, energy-efficient lighting, solar systems, and CCTV security.	$1,500,000.00	$750,000.00	$250,000.00	**$2,500,000.00**
G48-R-001992	WERRIBEE ISLAMIC CENTRE LIMITED	17 286 943 994	Construction of a purpose-built library at the Werribee Islamic Centre, to support the development of a shared community space, library and gym facilities in addition to a recently completed mosque and childcare centre on-site.	$350,000.00	$150,000.00	$ 0	**$500,000.00**
G48-R-002007	HINDU COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED	32 082 437 670	Upgrades to the Karma Kitchen, including new dining area and industrial kitchen, storage, bathroom facilities, landscaping and refurbishment of the existing house on site.	$ 2,400,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,400,000.00**
G48-R-002008	VITRAAG JAIN SHWETAMBAR SANGH INCORPORATED	85 422 639 495	Creation of a multipurpose community and cultural centre in Girraween, including an assembly hall with advanced AV systems, storage, and parent rooms; classroom facilities; a library; and supporting infrastructure including	$2,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**

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Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Org ABN	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (GST exclusive)
			a commercial kitchen, over 100 car parking spaces, loading docks, offices, male and female amenities, and other essential services.				
G48-R-002033	SANTHOM CULTURAL CENTRE LTD	74 675 516 257	Creation of the Santhom Community Hub and Resource Centre, a multipurpose facility including a South Indian migration museum and library showcasing Malayalam literature and resources.	$500,000.00	$3,500,000.00	$ 0	**$4,000,000.00**
G48-R-002190	SOUTHERN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE INC	44 877 224 580	Establishment, including design and fit-out, of a permanent facility to house the Southern Migrant Resource Centre in east Victoria.	$ 0	$1,250,000.00	$ 0	**$1,250,000.00**
G48-R-002192	ABU TALIB COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.	43 598 795 591	Expansion of the Abu Talib Community Centre in Hallam.	$420,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$420,000.00**
G48-R-002240	HINDU ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC	52 149 783 309	To build an educational and cultural building to facilitate religious and community events inclusive of a car park at the Perth Hindu Temple.	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002242	The trustee for DUNNIEH ASSOCIATION TRUST	70 100 292 049	Upgrade Community Centre's internal facilities, including meeting spaces and new bathrooms.	$ 350,000.00	$325,000.00	$325,000.00	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002243	Khalsa Shaouni Inc	77 309 098 903	Construction of a new dining hall and commercial-grade kitchen and upgrades to existing amenities to ensure a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment.	$3,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-002244	MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	18 563 729 871	Establishment of the Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia Women's Shed and Multicultural Hub.	$250,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$450,000.00**
G48-R-002257	Sydney Marae Alliance	54 599 783 835	Establishment of a dedicated Māori Cultural Centre and Marae in Western Sydney, creating a dedicated space in the heart of South West Sydney for traditional ceremonies, festivals, exhibitions and education programs.	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002258	MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	18 563 729 871	Construction of a second storey and rooftop community garden at 20 Cobbler Place, Mirrabooka, principally to be used as a Multicultural Hub. The Hub will also provide a physical space for multicultural communities to connect and allow for facilitation of meetings, shared spaces for skills building, income earning opportunities for CaLD women and visual arts exhibitions for emerging CaLD artists	$300,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$500,000.00**
G48-R-002262	Shree Swaminarayan Temple (Mandir) Perth Australia Inc	40 589 248 982	Creation of a multipurpose multistorey facility at the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, including relocation of existing shed, service upgrade and foreshore management.	$3,250,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$3,250,000.00**
G48-R-002265	SAIVA MAHA SABAI OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED	39 364 584 677	Building of a multicultural community centre in Mandogalup WA, to support cultural events, educational programs and social activities.	$ 0	$1,800,000.00	$ 0	**$1,800,000.00**
G48-R-002284	AUSTRALIA BUDDHIST BLISS CULTURE MISSION INC	37 683 727 239	Expansion of the current Australian Buddhist Bliss Culture Mission building, including improvements of existing facilities, a reconfigured courtyard and parking area, a kitchen relocation and technology upgrades.	$400,000.00	$500,000.00	$700,000.00	**$1,600,000.00**
G48-R-002285	THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF	14 004 258 360	Creation of the St Dimitrios Multi-Function Art Space in Windsor. This project will improve existing facilities and create a multi-function arts and	$123,000.00	$800,000.00	$300,000.00	**$1,223,000.00**

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Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Org ABN	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (GST exclusive)
	MELBOURNE AND VICTORIA		community space that will provide versatile, inclusive space for community gatherings, educational activities and for local events.				
G48-R-002290	AL-MINIA CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION LTD	75 001 703 046	Build the Al Minia Charitable Association's new Indoor Sports Facility, including the construction of a purpose-built, multifunctional recreational facility designed to support a variety of community-based sporting and social activities.	$700,000.00	$300,000.00	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002291	Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East Property Trust	84 594 873 037	Establishment of a new 600 person St Yosip Parish community hall in Leppington, including site costs, services, parking, landscaping and construction of the community hall which will service both the wider community and church community.	$2,500,000.00	$2,500,000.00	$ 0	**$5,000,000.00**
G48-R-002294	THE MELBOURNE VINAYAGAR HINDU SANGAM INCORPORATED	50 275 645 361	Construction of the community hub at the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple in The Basin, including adaptable spaces designed for multiple uses.	$1,800,000.00	$200,000.00	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002297	St Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church Incorporated	57 330 501 152	Construction of a Youth and Community Centre at St Mary's the Nativity Orthodox Church in Mays Hill.	$2,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002313	AFGHAN ISLAMIC CENTRE AND OMAR-FAROOQ MOSQUE INC.	50 084 731 946	Construction of a new Afghan Islamic Centre & Omar Farooq Mosque (AICOM) community hub in Melbourne's southeast. The centre will feature a mosque, multipurpose hall, classrooms, offices, and support facilities.	$1,000,000.00	$3,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$5,000,000.00**
G48-R-002323	The Greek orthodox Community of New South Wales Ltd	50 000 018 128	Construction of the Hellenic Historical and Cultural Centre.	$ 0	$4,500,000.00	$ 0	**$4,500,000.00**
G48-R-002324	Chaldean Catholic Diocese Incorporated	26 649 045 706	Establishment of the Chaldean Diocese youth centre that features meeting rooms, a library, a media room and a pastoral centre for assisting Chaldean Australians.	$500,000.00	$2,000,000.00	$500,000.00	**$3,000,000.00**
G48-R-002326	TIGRAY ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO DEBRE AMIN ABUNE TEKLEHAIMANOT CHURCH INC	73 992 183 906	Construction of a multipurpose hall that will be used as a hub for the community, especially youth, the multipurpose hall will provide a flexible, inclusive community event space, along with 130 car parking bays.	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,000,000.00**
G48-R-002328	UMA CENTRE LTD	65 604 205 334	Construction of a Community Centre integrating sport, education and social services in Western Sydney.	$ 0	$10,000,000.00	$ 0	**$10,000,000.00**
G48-R-002332	SRI DURGA ARTS/CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL CENTRE INC.	47 799 049 841	Construction of a Community and Cultural Precinct on Neale Road, Deanside. The Centre will cater for a wide variety of immediate social needs and community activities.	$250,000.00	$2,500,000.00	$2,250,000.00	**$5,000,000.00**
G48-R-002334	The Trustees of The Roman Catholic Church for The Diocese of Saint Maron Sydney	41 627 619 405	Lift infrastructure and shaft works at the St Joseph's parish site on Acton Street in Croydon.	$500,000.00	$1,000,000.00	$ 0	**$1,500,000.00**
G48-R-002354	City of Ryde Council	81 621 292 610	Revitalisation and upgrade of the Eastwood Town centre.	$100,000.00	$250,000.00	$1,650,000.00	**$2,000,000.00**

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Ref	Organisation legal entity name	Org ABN	Activity description	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	Total funding (GST exclusive)
G48-R-002356	The Trustees of The Roman Catholic Church for The Diocese of Saint Maron Sydney	41 627 619 405	The development of the piazza forecourt and ANZAC Memorial above the car park that is being developed.	$500,000.00	$500,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$2,000,000.00**
G48-R-002360	FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED	89 440 569 010	Establish a new 'House of India' community and cultural centre in South East Queensland including a dedicated hub for community activities and cultural events, as well as a meeting place for Indian community associations, and other multicultural and faith groups.	$2,500,000.00	$2,000,000.00	$1,000,000.00	**$5,500,000.00**
G48-R-002482	Turbans 4 Australia	64 704 364 097	Support the delivery of multipurpose facilities in Thomastown Victoria. The proposed new facilities in Thomastown will include community kitchen and multicultural support centre.	$988,399.00	$ 0		**$988,399.00**
G48-R-002505	Turbans 4 Australia	64 704 364 097	Support the delivery of multipurpose facilities in Cowan Perth. The proposed new facilities in Cowan will include community kitchen and multicultural support centre.	$1,600,000.00	$ 0	$ 0	**$1,600,000.00**

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Australian Government

OFFICE FOR
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure

Selection and Assessment Plan

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Purpose

This Selection and Assessment Plan details the approach for the selection and assessment processes, including the deliverables and activities, for the Supporting Multicultural Communities – Infrastructure (SMC-Infrastructure) grant opportunity. This Selection and Assessment Plan outlines the responsibilities and processes to administer the assessment and selection phases in accordance with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the Guidelines, **Attachment A**) and the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles 2024* (CGRPs).

This Selection and Assessment plan is complemented by the Conformance Assessment Plan (**Attachment B**) developed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) Community Grants Hub (the Hub). The Conformance Assessment Plan outlines the compliance and eligibility checks undertaken by the Hub that will be submitted to the Grant Delegate for approval.

Overview

This grant opportunity will fulfil elements of the commitments made by Labor candidates in the 2025 Federal election to support multicultural communities as outlined in Labor's costed plan to *Build Australia's Future*. These projects will provide direct support to multicultural community organisations demonstrating the Government's commitment to support both small and large communities and more diverse organisations with strong local links and who provide innovative support direct to their communities.

Summary

Summary	Details
Grant Round Type	Closed Non-competitive
Open Date	14 November 2025
Close Date	11 December 2025 at 9:00PM AEDT
Expected number of applications	39
Expected number of agreements	39

Delegations

Delegation	Personnel
Grant Lead	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) EL1, Multicultural Grants Election Commitments (up to 20 January 2026) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) A/g EL 1, Multicultural Grants Infrastructure (from 21 January 2026)
Grant Director	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) EL2, Multicultural Grants Election Commitments s. 22(1)(a)(ii) A/g EL2, Multicultural Grants (from 21 January 2026 to 6 February 2026)
Grant Opportunity Delegate	Malcolm McAllister, SESB1, Special Envoys Support and Grants Programs
Decision Maker/Financial Delegate	Minister for Multicultural Affairs or Assistant Minister for Customs, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

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Timeframes

The timeframes for completion of processes and deliverables are outlined below in line with the agreed timeframes with the Hub. All timeframes are dependent on the final number of applications and are detailed in the Amenities SelectAssess Run Sheet (ADD2025/7945919).

Task	Start Date	End Date	Owner
Conformance Assessment (Hub)			
Conduct Conformance Assessment	12/12/2025	12/01/2026	Hub: ODM
Provide on time applications to the Department	16/12/2026	16/12/2026	Hub: Selections
Provide late applications to the Department	22/12/2025	22/12/2025	Hub: Selections
Delegate decision: Conformance Assessment Outcomes	12/01/2026	15/01/2026	Department: Grant Opportunity Delegate
Finalise Conformance Assessment Report and Application Data Report	15/01/2026	20/01/2026	Hub: Selections and ODM
Assessment			
Preliminary Assessment of grant applications	12/12/2025	09/01/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Training of Assessors	15/01/2026	15/01/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Assessment and moderation of applications by Department	15/01/2026	02/02/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Finalise Assessment Report	03/02/2026	13/02/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Selection Advisory Pannel and Decision Making			
Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) training and probity briefing	16/02/2026	16/02/2026	Department: Grant Lead
SAP meeting/s convened	20/02/2026	23/02/2026	Department: SAP
Finalise SAP Report and circulate for approval of members	24/02/2026	27/02/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Draft Ministerial Submission	03/02/2026	04/02/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Finalise Ministerial Submission	05/02/2026	19/03/2026	Department: Grant Lead
Approval of Grant Round Outcomes	05/03/2025	02/04/2026	Decision Maker

Responsibilities

Department Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Department are outlined in this Selection and Assessment Plan.

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- Making decisions on ineligible, non-compliant and late application findings.
- Conducting further reviews of applicants included on the National Redress Scheme's list of *'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'* and on the *Workplace Gender Equality Agency* non-compliant organisations list at the Organisational Risk Review (ORR) stage.
- Undertaking assessment against the assessment criteria and conducting additional eligibility checks specified in the guidelines.
- Undertaking the recruitment of a SAP chair and SAP members.
- Conducting ORR on organisations and key personnel for each application.
- Producing the final selection report detailing assessment processes undertaken in line with the CGRPs and relevant legislation.
- Ensuring appropriate delegation for decision making.
- Preparing, briefing and making final recommendations to the financial delegate for decision.
- Providing the signed Spending Minute, all associated attachments, and the completed application data report to the Hub to reconcile outcomes.
- Reviewing and amending draft general feedback (template to remain unchanged, information to be inputted as directed).

Hub Responsibilities

The Hub will provide the Department with the following administrative services to assist in delivering the grant opportunity:

- Provide applications and attachments via GovTeams 3 business days after the closure of the grant opportunity, this is to include potential late application submissions.
    - **Please note:** the Department accepts the risk of commencing work on these applications as they have not yet undergone compliance and eligibility preliminary assessment checks.
- Undertake conformance assessment: compliance and eligibility checks, compile and provide the compliance and eligibility finding report for the grant opportunity delegates decision, including:
    - Review applicants included on the National Redress Scheme's list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' prior to issuing the compliance and eligibility report.
    - Review applicants included on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency non-compliant organisations list prior to issuing the compliance and eligibility report.
    - Notify applicants of ineligible and non-compliant selection outcomes upon receipt of the eligibility and compliance findings.
- Facilitate financial viability assessments, as requested by the department.
- Provide the Selection Report: Conformance Assessment to the Department outlining the work undertaken and results.
- Provide an application data report to the Department to assist in the deliberation and review of applications.
- Reconcile and action the signed spending minute into the Grant Payment System (GPS), against the spending minute, associated attachments, and the application data report.
- Notify all applicants of the outcome of their application upon receipt of the spending minute.

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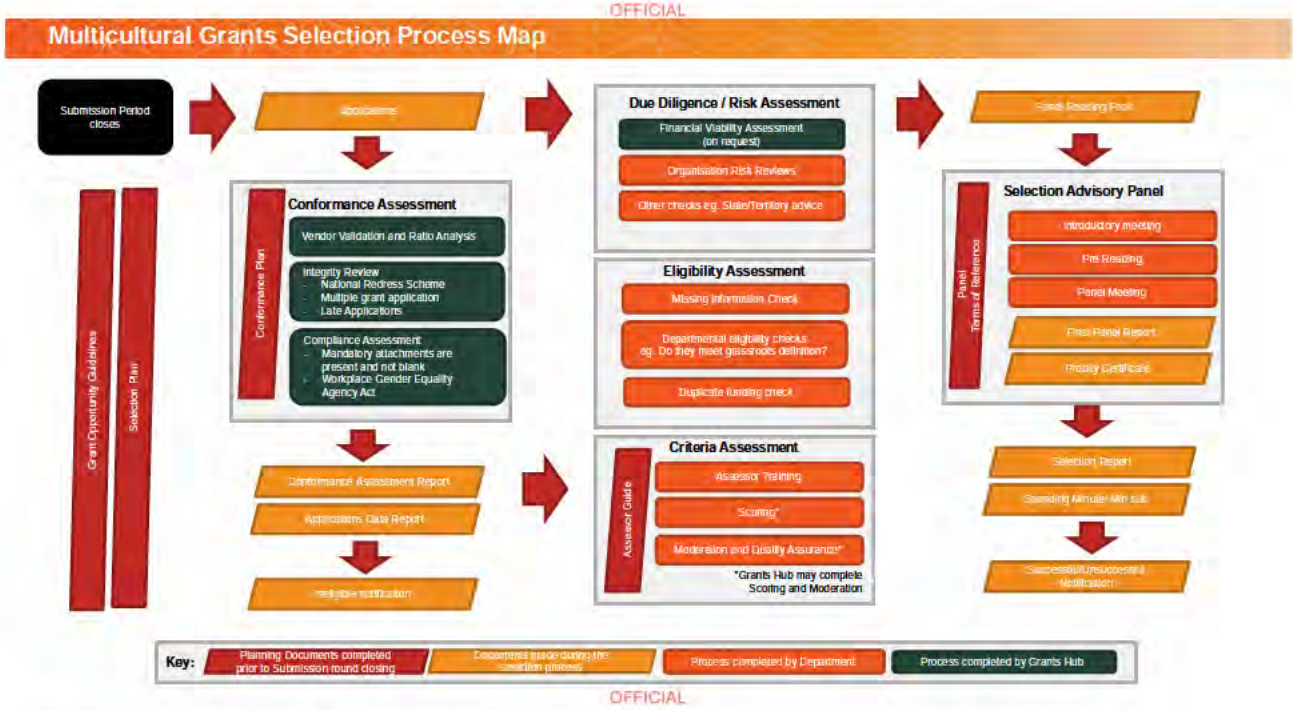
Related Documents and Artefacts

The following outlines the documents and artefacts to be developed to support the assessment and selection process.

Name of Document	Selection of Plan	Location	Owner
Decision Tracker	All	ADD2025/6060140	Design
Assessors Training Presentation	Assessment Team	ADD2025/8221579	Design
Conformance Plan	Conformance Assessment Plan and Report	ADD2025/8166491	Hub
Conformance Report	Conformance Assessment Plan and Report	ADD2026/884915	Hub
Organisation Risk Review Report	Organisation Risk Review	ADD2025/8116863	Design
Assessors Guide	Assessment	ADD2025/7077523	Design
Assessors Workbook	Assessment	ADD2025/8202650	Design
Application Data Report	Assessment Report	ADD2026/885820	Hub
Assessment Report	Assessment Report	ADD2026/885899	Design
SAP Terms of Reference	Selection Advisory Panel Members	ADD2025/7065593	Design
SAP Training Presentation	Introductory SAP Meeting	ADD2025/8221555	Design
SAP Report	SAP Report	To Be Developed	Design
Selection Report	Selection Report and Grant Round Outcomes	To Be Developed	Design
Probity Certificate	Briefing the Decision Maker	To Be Received	Probity
Spending Minute (Executive Communication)	Briefing the Decision Maker	PDMS Reference to be developed	Design

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Assessment Process

1. Assessment Team

An assessment team consisting of the below members will be established.

The assessment team will receive training from the Grant Lead on the background of the grant opportunity and how to assess the applications, including using the assessors guide and completing the Assessors workbook.

Role	Name	Position/Team
Initial Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Grant Support, Multicultural Grants
Grant Lead	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) to 20 January 2026)	EL1, Multicultural Grants Election Commitments
	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) from 21 January 2026)	A/g EL1 – Multicultural Infrastructure Grants
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	EL1, Multicultural Infrastructure Grants
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	EL1, Multicultural Grants
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	EL1, Settlement Network
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	APS 6, Skilled Visa Branch (from 2 February 2026 to 9 February 2026)
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	APS 5, Partner Visa Delivery Branch (from 2 February 2026 to 9 February 2026)
Assessor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (to 20 January 2026)	A/g EL1, Multicultural Infrastructure Grants

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2. Conformance Assessment Plan and Report

Compliance and eligibility requirements, which are detailed in the Guidelines, will be conducted in accordance with the process outlined in the Conformance Assessment Plan (Attachment B) developed by the Community Grants Hub.

Following the completion of all checks outlined in the Conformance Assessment Plan, the Hub will provide the Selection Report: Conformance Assessment which will include:

- a summary of grant applications
- a summary of the conformance assessment outcomes
- risks, issues, or probity advice to be noted
- information regarding any deviation from the Conformance Assessment
- Application Data Report as an attachment

The Hub will provide a Conformance Report on the outcomes and decisions for approval by the specified Grant Opportunity Delegate[1]. The Conformance report will be attached to the final selection plan submitted to the decision maker.

Ratio Analysis

The Hub will conduct ratio analysis for this grant opportunity to provide the Department with a basic indication of the grant applicant's financial health.

The required information will be captured electronically by requesting the financials in the grant application form and balance four ratio scores (current ratio, liquidity ratio, debt ratio and net profit ratio) to generate a low to high-risk rating.

The Hub will provide the results of the ratio analysis to the Department for inclusion in the Assessment Report.

3. Organisation Risk Review

An initial assessor will undertake the Organisation Risk Review following the process specified in the Multicultural Grant standard scope as detailed in the Multicultural Grant guide to conducting organisational risk reviews guide (located at ADD2025/7227235). An ORR report on outcomes will be developed for consideration by the Grant Lead.

The purpose of these checks is to help determine whether there are concerns that could potentially harm the achievement of the grant objectives.

The ORR report will be signed off by the Grant Director. Risks and issues identified in the report will be incorporated into the assessment report.

4. Initial Checks

Following the Hub provision of applications through GovTeams and after they are saved into TRIM, the Grant lead/initial assessor will conduct an initial review and check of the applications to identify:

- Did the applicant apply for the correct activity, aligned with Appendix A of the Guidelines?
- Does the application funding reflect the same amount and profile specified in Appendix A of the Guidelines?
- Are all mandatory attachments included and are they complete and accurate (ie funding matches the total amount)

[1] For the Conformance Reports, the Grant Opportunity Delegate is different for the purposes of this Selection and Assessment Plan to manage the reporting from the Hub. Any issues with the rounds will be escalated to the Grant Opportunity delegate specified in this plan.

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This information will be recorded in the assessment report.

In these checks, the Grant lead/initial assessor will consider the project financial risk and determine which applications will be provided to the Hub to conduct a FVA. The threshold for conducting a FVA will be the total cost of the project being over $5 million.

5. Assessment

The grant lead will allocate applications to teams of two assessors. Each application must be reviewed by at least two independent assessors, following the guidance in the Assessors' Guide and applying the scoring matrix.

Score	Basis for Score
3	The applicant has provided a strong response to the criterion.
2	The applicant has provided a satisfactory response to the criterion.
1	The applicant has provided a poor response to the criterion.
1	The applicant has provided no relevant response to the criterion.

Project Description, Budget and Project Plan

Assessors will review the applicant's brief description of their project and prepare a short summary for inclusion in the Assessors Workbook.

Assessors will also review the budget and project plan submitted by each applicant. For the project plan, assessors will prepare a short summary for inclusion in the assessors workbook highlighting key dates and deliverables, any potential issues (for example, pre-incurred expenses).

Process

Each assessor will record their scores and justifications on each application in their Assessors Workbook. Where the assessors final score vary by more than 2 points, the Grant Lead will act as moderator and conduct a third assessment to be used in the Assessment Report. The Grant Lead will also review all applications with a score of 0 in any criteria from any assessor to ensure scores, assessment justifications and summaries are fair, defensible, and consistent across the grant opportunity.

The Assessor's Guide provides further details about the assessment process.

All issues identified during the assessment process by the assessment team will be discussed with the Grant Lead. Key decisions on seeking additional information or requiring further work are to be documented in the decision tracker and approved by the Grant Director.

6. Assessment Report

The Assessment Report will be completed by the Grant Lead, incorporating:

- Initial checks
- FVA Outcomes
- Assessor scores and justifications
- Any other risks or issues identified during the assessment process, including in the ORR report where additional information may need to be requested, such as a project budget, if there is a risk or issue with an applicant's claims (only under exceptional circumstances).

A quality assurance check of the Assessment Report will be conducted by the Grant Director prior to collating this with other documents to be provided to the SAP in the SAP Reading Pack to inform deliberations

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Selection Process

1. Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) Members

The Department will establish a Selection Advisory Panel (SAP). An independent probity advisor will provide training for the SAP and attend meetings.

For this grant opportunity SAP members include:

Role	Name	Position/Team
Chair	Malcolm McAllister	SESB1, Special Envoys Support and Grants Programs
Members	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	EL1, Multicultural Grants A/g EL2, Multicultural Grants
Probity Advisor	s. 47F(1)	s. 47G(1)(a)
Secretariate	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	APS 6, Multicultural Grants Election Commitments
Policy Advisor	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (to 20 January 2026) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (from 21 January 2026)	EL1, Multicultural Grants Election Commitments A/g EL1, Multicultural Grants - Infrastructure

The SAP will be conducted in line with the SAP terms of reference. Below is a summary of critical steps in this process.

2. Introductory SAP Meeting

An introductory meeting will be arranged by the grant lead where the SAP panel will be provided with information and training using the SAP training presentation.

3. SAP Reading Pack

The SAP reading pack will be circulated following the introductory meeting and it will include:

- all applications with attachments
- SAP Terms of Reference
- SAP Assessment Report
- Application Data Report
- Selection and Assessment Plan
- Hub list of justifications

4. Meeting and Decision Making

In line with the Guidelines, the SAP must rate each selection criteria response as:

- fully meet the selection criteria
- partially meet the selection criteria
- do not meet any of the selection criteria.

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Fully meets the criterion	Partially meets the criterion	Does not meet the criterion
• All sub-criteria have been addressed. • A good case has been made by the applicant through clear and convincing arguments that are supported by evidence. • The applicant has provided relevant information for all sub-criteria. • All the claims made are reasonable, generally convincing and well explained. • All the claims made are supported by evidence. • All the claims made and evidence provided generally link back to the grant activities and objectives/outcomes. • All the evidence provided is relevant. • Very limited areas of relevant weakness may have been identified.	• Some or most of the sub-criteria have been addressed. • A satisfactory case has been made by the applicant through information that is generally relevant. While some information is ambiguous, overall a clear picture emerges. • The applicant has provided some or mostly relevant information. • Some or most of the claims made are reasonable and supported by some evidence. • Some or most of the evidence provided is relevant. • Some areas of relevant weakness have been identified.	• No real case has been made against the criterion or any of the sub-criteria. • No relevant information has been provided or the response field is blank. • No analysis has been provided or the sub-criteria are largely repeated. • A very poor case has been made with limited information supplied. • Any claims made may be inadequate, ambiguous or not clearly explained. • Critical areas of weakness have been identified.

All panel determinations on the selection criteria scoring must be recorded in the SAP Report.

5. SAP Report

All decisions made by the SAP will be clearly documented in a SAP Report. This SAP Report will be developed during the Panel meeting by the secretariat.

The SAP Report must provide clear advice about the merits of the recommended grant/s relative to the Guidelines and the key principle of achieving value with relevant money.

The SAP Report must include:

- the names and details, including funding, in application for all applicants
- assessment score
- rating (fully meets criteria, partially meets criteria, does not meet criteria)
- recommended funding total and by financial year
- justifications for decisions using the standard SAP justifications (as required by the Hub)
- special conditions for the Grant Agreement and Activity workplan, if any
- a column for approval and comments by the decision maker

The SAP Report must also indicate which of the applications can be supported within the available funding including a yearly financial allocation and recommend that applications that do not meet any of the selection criteria be rejected.

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The SAP must approve the SAP Report

6. Selection Report and Grant Round Outcomes

The Department will prepare a Selection Report that confirms the selection process was completed in line with this Selection and Assessment Plan, the Guidelines and CGRPs. If there was a deviation from the Selection Plan and Assessment, an appropriate explanation will be provided and evidence of the approved decision.

The Selection Report will follow the template and be attached to the Spending Minute (Executive Communication). It must include:

- A summary of the assessment process
- Funding recommendations, including funding allocation by financial year and funding breakdown by service area/s (if applicable)
- Risks, issues or probity advice to be noted
- Information regarding any deviation from the Selection and Assessment Plan
- Attachments to the Report will be:
    - Grant Opportunity Guidelines
    - Selection and Assessment Plan
    - Conformance Assessment Plan
    - Conformance Assessment Report
    - SAP Report endorsed by Pannel
    - Probity Certificate

7. Briefing the Decision Maker

The Department will prepare a Spending Minute (Ministerial Submission) for the decision maker using the Selection Report.

The Ministerial Submission must provide recommendations to the decision maker on:

- Approval of applicants and funding, as detailed in the Selection Report
- Identifying any conflicts of interest
- Noting the requirements relating to decision making by Ministers, including if the Minister rejects a recommendation of the Department or approves a grant in their electorate, they need to advise the Finance Minister
- Agree to an official of the department being the decision maker who exercises the power to vary and administer the grants

In accordance with the CGRP's, when briefing the decision maker, the following information must be included in the document and the Hub must receive the approval:

- decisions to fund and not fund applications;
- funding amounts including breakdown by financial year;
- service areas (coverage) including breakdown of funding (dollar amount) per service area, and
- the Panel's overall assessment justifications, SAP Report (fully meets, partially meets, or does not meet).

The probity advisor will provide a probity certificate confirming the probity principles were utilised in the process. This will be added as an attachment to the recommendations to the Decision Maker/Financial Delegate.

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8. Approval to fund applicants

In accordance with the CGRP's and the Guidelines, the decision maker will make the final decision to fund and not fund applicants.

Following the Decision Makre/Financial Delegate's decision, the Department will provide the Hub with the Financial Delegate's written authority (including all attachments) to fund successful applicants. The Hub will notify all applicants of the outcome of their grant application.

Project Management

Risks and Issues Management

Further to the Hub's risks and issues management strategies for this grant, the Multicultural Grants section established a risk management process to identify and assess risks or issues which will be promptly escalated to Grant Opportunity Delegates for decision-making. The focus is to find suitable resolutions to potential risk or issues to achieve policy outcomes.

Examples of possible risks and issues can be:

- Tight timelines
- Incomplete applications
- Delays in providing outcomes decisions
- IT issues
- Natural disasters such as fire or floods
- Potential for another pandemic.

The Multicultural Grants section has oversight of the risks for the deliverables that the Department is responsible for including additional eligibility checks, organisational risk checks, and assessment and selection activities.

Conflict of Interest and Declaration of Confidentiality/Probity

All personnel involved in the select phase of the grant opportunity selection process will be required to complete the Multicultural Grants Acknowledgement of Confidentiality and Disclosure of Conflict of Interest as per the *Multicultural Grants Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Management – Standard Operating Procedure*.

Probity

Probity is the evidence of ethical behaviour, and can be defined as complete and confirmed integrity, uprightness, and honesty in a grants process. The CGRP's specifically identify the principles, public sector values and duties of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and accountability whilst working on grant opportunities.

The Australian Government ensures that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRP's.

During the select phase of this grant opportunity, the Department or the Hub may request to receive probity advice. For this grant opportunity s. 47G(1)(a) is the nominated independent probity advisor who can assist the Department to ensure compliance with the Guidelines, Departmental selection documentation and the CGRPs.

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Approval to Proceed

Grant Opportunity Delegate

You:

1. **Note and agree** to the Selection and Assessment Plan for Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure Grant Opportunity.
2. **Note** the process in which the Multicultural Grants section will administer the grant opportunity for Supporting Multicultural Communities - Infrastructure Grant Opportunity in accordance with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Malcolm McAllister

Assistant Secretary

Multicultural Grants, Special Envoy Support and Grants Programs Branch

Signature: Date:

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Related Documents

Document	
Multicultural Grant Guide to Conducting Organisational Risk Reviews	ADD2025/7227235
Multicultural Grants Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Management – Standard Operating Procedure	ADD2024/8254806
SMC – Infrastructure – Grant Opportunity Guidelines	ADD2026/670068

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