MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Victoria’s vibrant communities are a cornerstone of our state’s identity. As Australia’s most multicultural state, we host and celebrate many different culturally significant events across the year. Funding to support these celebrations allows all Victorians to embrace, preserve and celebrate multiculturalism.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I am proud to announce another funding round to support multicultural festivals and events. Victoria’s multicultural communities are growing in number and diversity with each year, and it’s more important than ever to ensure Victorians from all backgrounds have the support they need to celebrate their cultural identity and heritage.

Due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19), the Victorian Government has introduced some significant amendments to the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program 2020-21 Round One. We know that this pandemic has presented multicultural Victorians with disproportionate challenges, and the changes to this grant round will support community organisations to move their multicultural festivals and events online.

This funding will enable community organisations to increase their digital capability and is available to organisations wishing to host events from 1 October 2020 to 28 February 2021. This will ensure Victorians can continue to participate in festivals and events that celebrate and embrace our state’s vibrant cultural diversity, whilst ensuring the health and safety of all Victorians remains a priority.

While coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be an ongoing challenge, the need to celebrate cultural identity and heritage remains, and this program seeks to ensure that Victorians from all backgrounds have the support they need to do so – continuing Victoria’s enviable record of fostering a diverse, open and welcoming society.

The program also acknowledges our multicultural community organisations as key partners in supporting our strong and socially inclusive state. This year will encourage stronger partnerships with an emphasis on building capacity in new and emerging communities. In 2019-20, the program supported over 837 events, attracting over 2.6 million participants and $18 million of economic activity to the state.

I encourage community organisations to apply for a grant and to continue to embrace and be proud of their contribution to our proudly multicultural state.

Our Government believes that Victoria’s diversity is one of our state’s greatest strengths and will continue to work with our proud multicultural communities to make Victoria safer and fairer.

Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs