

2025-26 Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program

Program Guidelines



Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of Country.

We respectfully acknowledge all First Peoples of Victoria and celebrate their enduring connection to land, skies and waters. We thank First Peoples for their care of Country and contributions to Victorian communities. We honour and pay our respects to First Peoples' Elders past and present.

© State of Victoria (Department of Premier and Cabinet) August 2025

Creative Commons

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence, visit the Creative Commons website (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>). You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria (Department of Premier and Cabinet) as author, indicate if changes were made and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any third-party images, photographs or branding, including Victorian Government and Department logos.

ISBN 978-1-923294-39-4 **(pdf/online/MS word)**

Available at the Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program website: <https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>

Image credit

All images are from Adobe Stock.

Disclaimer

The State of Victoria does not guarantee that this publication is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for your purposes. We disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from your relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

To receive this document in an alternative format, phone **03 9651 5111**, email **contact@dpc.vic.gov.au**, or contact National Relay Service on **1800 555 660** if required. HTML format is available at Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program <https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>



For languages other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service National hotline 131 450 then ask for 1300 112 755.

Contents

Victorian Government values.....	1
Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.....	2
Introduction and program objective.....	3
Funding available.....	3
Priority groups and projects.....	4
Regional based projects.....	4
New and emerging communities.....	5
Organisations that have not previously received multicultural infrastructure grant funding from the department.....	5
Eligibility overview.....	6
Organisation eligibility.....	6
Grant activity eligibility.....	9
Mandatory documents.....	12
Optional documents.....	16
Possible project examples.....	17
Matched funding.....	18
Assessment process.....	19
Stage 1. Eligibility assessment.....	19
Stage 2. Merit-based assessment.....	19
Stage 3. Assessment panel.....	19
Stage 4. Ministerial approval.....	19
Stage 5. Application outcome.....	19
Merit-based assessment criteria.....	20
How to apply.....	22
Getting ready.....	22
Submitting your application.....	22
Strengthen your application.....	22
Application outcome.....	22
Successful grants.....	23
Funding agreements.....	23
Funding conditions.....	23
A note about GST.....	23
Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support.....	23
Need more information or help?.....	24
Information sessions.....	24
Contacting the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team.....	24
Glossary.....	25

Victorian Government values

Multiculturalism in Victoria is more than just diversity of cultures, languages, faiths and traditions. It is providing the systems and supports that make our shared community stronger. It is the knowledge that sharing cultures and understanding our cultural differences is a strength. It also provides a sense of belonging that contributes to the community harmony Victorians are so proud of.

The Victorian Government is committed to:

- protecting the rights of all Victorians to be free from racism, vilification, and discrimination of any kind
- building community harmony
- ensuring every Victorian feels safe and can participate in all aspects of Victorian life, irrespective of Aboriginality, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, faith, language, culture, migration or visa status, class, ability and age.

The contractual relationship between funded organisations and the Department of Premier and Cabinet reflects this commitment. It sets out the expectation that in the delivery of projects and initiatives funded by the Victorian Government, organisations will promote and uphold the government's stated values of:

- one law for all
- freedom to be yourself
- discrimination is never acceptable
- a fair go for all
- it is up to all of us to contribute to a Victoria we can be proud of.



Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

I'm pleased to open the Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program (MISP).

The Allan Labor Government is committed to strengthening multiculturalism in Victoria. Vital to this is ensuring all Victorians have safe, accessible and culturally appropriate spaces to gather and celebrate their heritage.

This grant program contributes to that goal by allocating \$2.5 million to support multicultural and multifaith organisations to carry out maintenance works, renovations and security upgrades to their community facilities.

These spaces where Victoria's multicultural and multifaith communities gather are more than just buildings. They are spaces where people come together to reflect, to share traditions, to mark milestones and to pass down culture on to future generations.

This funding will allow Victoria's diverse communities to celebrate their culture, build connections, access opportunities and improve community infrastructure.

Victoria is a proudly multicultural state. Victorians come from more than 300 ancestries, speak 290 languages and follow almost 200 different faiths.

Support from the MISP will ensure organisations can continue their invaluable contribution to our state by providing safe spaces where Victorians can connect and find a sense of belonging.

We remain dedicated to supporting our diverse communities and I strongly encourage all eligible organisations to apply for this opportunity.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Stitt'.

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Introduction and program objective

The objective of the Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program (MISP) is to support Victoria's multicultural and multifaith community organisations to maintain and upgrade their community facilities and create a safe and secure place to celebrate and share their history and traditions.

The MISP acknowledges the importance of upgrading and securing community infrastructure that will support Victoria's diverse multicultural and multifaith communities to:

- celebrate and share their culture, history and traditions
- build community connections and networks to participate in society
- help communities to access social and cultural opportunities
- improve the security of community facilities

To achieve this objective, MISP is offering grants to Victorian multicultural and multifaith community organisations to support maintenance works, renovations, and security upgrades to their community facilities.

Funding available

Grants of up to **\$400,000** are available per project to maintain, upgrade, and secure multicultural community infrastructure.

Organisations can apply for multiple grant activities in the one application. Please see [Grant activity eligibility](#) for details on eligible activities and activity funding limits.

Note: MISP includes the requirement for organisations to contribute matched funding. Please see [Matched funding](#) for more information.

Key dates

- Applications open on **Monday 13 October 2025**.
- Applications close at **3:00pm on Monday 12 January 2026**.
- Funding outcomes are expected from **end of May 2026**.

Note: late applications will not be accepted.



Priority groups and projects

The Victorian Government is committed to building a safe, inclusive, and accessible community that supports and celebrates Victoria's diverse population.

The MISP provides opportunities for multicultural and multifaith organisations to upgrade their community facilities, providing a welcoming and safe environment for the community to come together and share their culture and traditions.

The department acknowledges the additional challenges faced by some communities and is committed to prioritising the following groups and projects:

- regional based projects
- new and emerging communities
- organisations that have not previously received multicultural infrastructure grant funding from the department

These groups will be prioritised because they often:

- are smaller communities
- have limited access to resources and networks
- have less funds for infrastructure projects.

Organisations must outline in the application form how the application meets priority group eligibility criteria.

Applications which meet priority group eligibility will receive extra points in the merit assessment process. They will also have reduced matched funding requirements.

Note: Where applications only partially meet the priority group eligibility, they will not receive priority assessment scoring and must provide matched funding.

If you are not sure whether your organisation meets a priority group eligibility criteria, please email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au before starting your application.

Regional based projects

To be eligible as a regional project, the project must be delivered in regional Victoria. Metropolitan Melbourne based organisations delivering projects in regional Victoria are also eligible as a regional based project priority group.

Refer to the Regional Development Victoria's list of regional and rural councils for eligible local government areas <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/victoriasregions#region-listing>.

New and emerging communities

New and emerging multicultural community organisations need to provide further support to newly arrived members of their community in Victoria. They also play a critical role in developing strong community networks and supporting their members. These communities often develop over time from small and less established to large and well established.

To support these communities, the department has created a prioritised list of new and emerging communities in consultation with the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). Many of the listed communities have recently been or are currently part of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Programs. The list comprises both countries of origin and specific ethnicities.

To be eligible as a new and emerging community, the organisation must identify with one of the countries or ethnicities on the new and emerging priority list.

New and Emerging Priority List

- Afghanistan
- Assyrian
- Burundi
- Chaldean
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Hazara
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kenya
- Kurds
- Liberia
- Myanmar
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- Pashtuns
- Pasifika communities
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajiks
- the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Timor Leste
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbeks
- Yemen.

The new and emerging community eligibility refers only to the countries and ethnicities listed on our priority list. A newly formed organisation is not eligible unless they identify with one of the countries or ethnicities on the **New and Emerging Priority List**.

Organisations that have not previously received multicultural infrastructure grant funding from the department

To be eligible as an organisation that has not previously received multicultural infrastructure grant funding, your organisation cannot have received any infrastructure grants from the Multicultural Affairs portfolio offered through either the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing.

Eligibility overview

To be eligible to apply for funding through MISP, your organisation's application must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **Organisation eligibility:** meet the organisation eligibility criteria.
- **Grant activity eligibility:** include only eligible grant activities that align with the aim of MISP.
- **Mandatory documents:** submit all mandatory documents.

Only applications that meet all eligibility criteria will progress to the merit assessment stage and be considered for funding.

Note: Organisations are limited to one application. If more than one application is submitted, the department will only consider the first application. All other applications will not be accepted.

Organisation eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

To apply for MISP, your organisation **must meet all** organisation eligibility criteria in the table below.

Organisation eligibility criteria	Requirements
Multicultural or multifaith organisation	<p>Your organisation must be a multicultural or multifaith community organisation.</p> <p>See the Glossary for definitions of multicultural community organisation and multifaith community organisation.</p>
Incorporated legal entity	<p>Your organisation must be an incorporated legal entity under one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the <i>Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012</i> (Vic) registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria consumer.vic.gov.au• the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) connectonline.asic.gov.au/• an Act of Parliament. You must provide a copy of the Act with your application.
Current Australian Business Number	<p>Your organisation must have a current ABN matching the organisation's name in your application.</p> <p>To check if your organisation has a current ABN, go to ABN Lookup abr.business.gov.au/.</p>

Organisation eligibility criteria	Requirements
Not-for-profit	<p>Your organisation must be a not-for-profit demonstrated under one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) <acnc.gov.au/charity> • registered as an incorporated association with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) <consumer.vic.gov.au> • registered as a company limited by guarantee with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) <connectonline.asic.gov.au/> • a social enterprise with a clearly stated purpose or mission related to supporting Multicultural communities in Victoria. Social enterprises must attach their constitution, rules, or governance documents with their application. <p>Note: incorporated organisations are considered not-for-profit entities.</p>
Not be the responsibility of another ministerial portfolio	<p>Your organisation must not be the responsibility of another ministerial portfolio (such as health, education, and sport and recreation)</p>
No overdue grant requirements with the department	<p>Your organisation must be up-to-date with all requirements for grants your organisation currently has from Multicultural Affairs.</p> <p>To check if your organisation is up to date with grant reporting requirements email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.</p>
No active multicultural infrastructure grants	<p>Your organisation must not have any active multicultural infrastructure grants managed by Multicultural Affairs.</p> <p>To check if your organisation has any active multicultural infrastructure grants email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.</p>
Can meet the organisation's cash contribution	<p>Your organisation must provide evidence that it can meet the cash contribution requirement to complete the project.</p> <p>See Mandatory documents for more information.</p>

Who is not eligible to apply

Organisations that are **not eligible** to apply for MISIP funding include:

- organisations that are not a multicultural or multifaith community organisation
- unincorporated legal entities
- individuals and sole traders
- organisations that are commercial or set up to make a profit (except social enterprises)
- public companies limited by shares (unless a foundational document can prove not-for-profit status)
- commercial enterprises
- organisations whose activities or facilities sit in another ministerial portfolio (such as health, education, or sport and recreation)
- TAFE institutes and universities
- registered pre-, primary, and secondary schools
- local government authorities (LGAs) including council-managed, operated, administered, and regulated trusts
- organisations that have not complied with the terms and conditions of previous Multicultural Affairs grants
- organisations applying under an auspice agreement.



Grant activity eligibility

What grant funding can be used for?

Grant funding can support infrastructure activities listed below **on existing community facilities**. Organisations can apply for one or more of the eligible grant activities listed.

- **Maintenance:** minor works to maintain an existing facility. Activities include repairs and fixes to roofing, flooring, plumbing, and painting.
- **Upgrades:** improvements to existing facilities to support the organisation's full use of available facilities. Activities include upgrades to existing kitchen or bathroom facilities, installation of accessibility features, and upgrades to existing parking facilities.
- **Renovation:** structural alterations and internal remodelling. Activities include creation of new rooms, and addition of new kitchen or bathroom amenities.
- **Physical security:** upgrading or installing new physical security elements for the purpose of improving security at your facility. Activities include installation of alarm and CCTV systems, security lighting, securing doors and windows, fencing and perimeter security, and permanent traffic barriers and bollards.
- **Security planning:** services focused on planning for the physical security of facilities for a specific community group. Activities include threat analysis and risk assessments. Security planning activities are only eligible for multicultural and multifaith peak bodies, and larger organisations based on evidence of community members attending facilities, with multiple premises and general higher outreach. See the [Glossary](#) for more information on peak bodies.
- **Outdoor areas:** improvements to facility outdoor areas. Activities include stages, pergolas, and water tanks 10,000 litres or bigger.
- **Fixed assets:** items that will be fixed, non-transferable, and form part of the fabric of the facility. The assets must be closely related to the facility's use. Activities include solar panels and batteries, heat pumps, heating and cooling, and industrial kitchen appliances. Up to 25% of the grant amount requested (**maximum of \$25,000**) can be used for fixed asset activities.
- **Project management:** professional project manager that is not a member of the organisation. Up to 25% of the grant amount requested (**maximum of \$25,000**) can be used for project management.

All grant funded activities need to be clearly detailed in your organisation's project plan and quotes for all activities must be provided. See [Mandatory documents](#) for more information on the project plan.

Funding limitations

Applications for places of worship can only include physical security activities.

Organisations using leased facilities cannot apply for funding for maintenance activities, fixed assets, and activities that are the responsibility of the property owner. The organisation must also obtain permission from the property owner to complete all activities included in the application.

What grant funding cannot be used for?

Grant funding cannot be used to support the activities listed below.

- **Inappropriate use of public funds:** activities that do not align with the objectives of MISP and the Victorian values.
- **Property purchases:** activities include purchase of land, established buildings and properties, and new prefabricated buildings.
- **New construction:** construction, trades, and works to create or extend a new community facility. Activities include construction of new buildings and the extension of existing building.
- **Pre-construction:** all costs associated with the preparation and design of the project and application to MISP. Activities include feasibility studies, business case development, conceptual design, architectural works, and all permit fees.
- **Security services:** all security costs that are not associated with the physical security of the facility. Activities include security guards and similar services, cyber security, and CCTV and alarm monitoring services.
- **Unfixed assets:** items that are unfixed, mobile or transferable. This includes:
 - furniture such as tables, chairs, desks, and couches.
 - technology and audio-visual equipment such as computers, tablets, phones, televisions, projectors, screens, cameras, speakers, and microphones.
 - kitchen appliances and equipment such as domestic fridges and freezers, microwaves, blenders, toasters, glassware, plates, bowls, and cutlery.
 - gardening such as gardening tools, plants, water features, and garden ornaments.
 - ornamental items such as statues, and artwork.
 - other items such as sporting equipment and musical instruments.
- **Outdoor areas:** playgrounds, sporting grounds, garden beds, plants, and water tanks under 10,000 litres, and gardening equipment.
- **Operational costs:** ongoing or recurring costs associated with the operation of the organisation. Activities include staff salaries, utilities, rent, administrative costs, cleaning, gardening, appliance servicing, and subscription fees.
- **Overseas purchases:** all contractors and suppliers must be based in Victoria.
- **Existing projects:** activities include complete or partially complete projects, works, or activities.
- **Previously funded projects:** activities that have been previously funded by Multicultural Affairs. Organisations can apply for funding for a new project at a location that has previously received funding from Multicultural Affairs. However, the previously funded project must be complete and acquitted.
- **Religious focused projects:** projects advancing religious activities and used exclusively for worship. Activities include construction of altars, shrines, pulpit, purchase of fixed assets used in religious ceremonies and rituals only, and purchase of religious artifacts and symbols.
- **Political focused projects:** projects advancing political activities.
- **Decorative or ornamental projects:** projects that are only decorative or ornamental in nature. Activities to include murals, friezes, mosaics, stained glass, and elaborate woodwork, plasterwork, and façade decorations.
- **Ineligible facilities:** all activities at ineligible facilities. Ineligible facilities include facilities located outside Victoria, facilities owned by another State or territory or the Commonwealth Government, facilities not owned or leased by the organisation, privately owned facilities that do not have public access, facilities that sit in another ministerial portfolio (such as health, education, or sport and recreation), and facilities that are under construction.

- **Project management:** project management costs paid to a member of the organisation.
- **Consultants:** costs paid to a consultant for pre-construction activities. Activities include consultants undertaking permit preparation and application activities, grant writers, building surveyors, engineers, architects, and lawyers.
- **Projects with a negative impact:** projects that could have a negative impact on existing businesses and services, or compete with other local commercial interests, as per the National competition policy
<<http://ncp.ncc.gov.au/>>
- **Contingency:** organisation cannot apply for contingency or funding for unknown costs. All project activities and their cost must be included in the MISP project plan.

To check your organisation's grant activities are eligible, please email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team
<multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au> before starting your application.



Mandatory documents

The following documents are mandatory and must be submitted with all applications. Organisations may be asked to provide further information on any documents provided.

Please check the documents can be clearly read and all pages are provided. Applications missing any of the mandatory documents or provide incomplete documents will be ineligible and will not progress through the application process.

Note: Documents must be provided in PDF or word formats, or JPG or PNG for photos.

Mandatory document	Requirements
Project Plan	<p>Complete the MISP Project Plan template <https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>. Project Plans that are incomplete or in other formats will not be accepted.</p> <p>The project plan must detail all project activities including construction works, fixed assets to be purchased, and professional project management. Each activity listed in the project plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the cost of the activity• details of quotes received for the activity• the contractor selected to complete the activity• the timeframe to complete the activity• the funding source for each activity (either MISP grant funding OR funding from your organisation).
Timetable of facility use	<p>Complete the MISP Timetable of Facility Use <https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>. Timetables of facility use that are incomplete or in other formats will not be accepted.</p> <p>The document must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• normal use: all uses of your organisation's facility in an average month in 2025. The facility use includes all activities, events, festivals, workshops, education sessions, social support, and meetings by your organisation and any other organisation using the facility.• yearly use: all use of the facility on a yearly or irregular basis. <p>Applicants are encouraged to include any additional timetables or schedules prepared by your organisation and distributed to members or the wider community that shows the use of the facility.</p> <p>Note: the use of the facility includes all use by the organisation and any other organisations that using the facility.</p>
Risk plan	<p>Complete the MISP Risk Plan template <https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>. Risk Plans that are incomplete or in other formats will not be accepted.</p> <p>The risk plan must include details for the risks already listed in the Risk Plan.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to include additional risks relevant to their project.</p>

Mandatory document	Requirements
Planning approval (Planning permit and Endorsed plans)	<p>Provide one of the following for all project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning approval: a copy of an approved current planning permit AND a copy of the endorsed plans relevant to all activities in your organisations project plan. • written evidence that planning approval is not required: this evidence can be from either your organisation’s local council, surveyor, or lead contractor. Accepted evidence includes emails from a professional email address or letters on an official letterhead. The evidence must be no more than three months old, include the details of your organisation’s project, and clearly state planning approval is not required. For projects with a total project cost of more than \$200,000, the evidence that planning approval is not required must be from your organisation’s local council or surveyor. <p>Note: Planning permit applications and unendorsed plans will not be accepted.</p>
Building permit	<p>Provide one of the following for all project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building permit: A copy of an approved current building permit relevant to all activities in your organisation’s project. Building permits that have expired or do not cover all project activities will not be accepted. • written evidence that a building permit is not required: this evidence can be from either your organisation’s local council, surveyor, or lead contractor. Accepted evidence includes emails from a professional email address or letters on an official letterhead. The evidence must be no more than three months old, include the details of your organisation’s project, and clearly state a building permit is not required. For projects with a total project cost of more than \$200,000, the evidence that a building permit is not required must be from your organisation’s local council or surveyor. <p>Note: Building permit applications will not be accepted.</p>
Quotes or cost estimates	<p>Provide one of the following for each project activity in your organisation’s project plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quotes: official quote from a contractor or supplier. • cost estimates: a cost estimate from a registered quantity surveyor. <p>Note: one quote or cost estimate can include more than one project activity.</p> <p>All quotes or cost estimates provided must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be an official quote including the name of the contractor • list the project activities included in the quote • be no more than 60 days old from the date of application • list the activity costs excluding GST. If quotes that do not clearly exclude GST, the department will assume the quote is GST inclusive and will deduct the GST amount from the quote • match the project activity details listed in the project plan. <p>Note: At least two quotes must be provided for any individual item over \$100,000.</p>

Mandatory document	Requirements
Land title or lease agreement	<p>Provide one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land title: copy of a Certificate of Title or Register Search Statement showing the organisation is the registered proprietor of the project location. • lease agreement and property owner permission: formal lease agreement between the organisation and the property owner. The lease agreement must be for sole use of the property and have at least three years remaining from date of application. The organisation must also provide a letter or email from the property owner giving permission for the project activities to be completed. The letter must include all project activities and be no more than 60 days old at the time of application.
Organisation's cash contribution (if applicable) Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of matched funding • Additional funding 	<p>Provide evidence that the organisation can meet the organisation's cash contribution requirements for matched funding and any additional funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matched funding: the minimum amount of funding the organisation must contribute to match grant funding provided by the department. See Matched funding for more information. • Additional funding: the balance of funding required to complete the project that will not be covered by grant funding from the department. Additional funding may include some matched funding. <p>Acceptable evidence of funding sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bank statements or bank account summary: an official statement or summary for the organisations bank showing a balance that at least meets the minimum cash contribution requirement. The account must be in the organisation's name and the document must be no more than 3 months old at the date of application. • bank loan: approved bank loan for an amount that at least meets the minimum cash contribution requirement. The bank loan must be in the organisations name and must show the balance available on the loan at least meets the minimum cash contribution requirement. <p>Note: Financial statements, statutory declarations, letters of commitment, pledges, fund raising plans, and in-kind contributions are not an acceptable form of minimum cash contribution.</p> <p>If your organisation has an alternative funding source that is not listed, please email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.</p>
Financial statement	<p>Provide the organisation's financial statement for the 2024-25 financial year. This is the same statement organisations provide to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) through myCAV or to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).</p> <p>Note: If the financial statement is older than the 2024-25 financial year or is in another format, please email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au> before starting your application.</p>

Mandatory document

Requirements

Photographs

Provide 5-10 current photos showing the areas of the facility where project activities will take place.

Note: the photos must be at least 2MB each in size and be in a JPG or PNG file format.



Optional documents

Organisations are encouraged to provide additional documents that support their application. The following are examples of optional documents that can be included in the application. Please check the documents can be clearly read and all pages are provided.

Note: Documents must be provided in PDF or word formats, or JPG or PNG for photos.

Optional document	Requirements
Evidence of security incidents (only applications including security activities)	<p>Provide any evidence of security incidents at the project location. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• police incident reports• claims on the organisation's insurance• photographs of intentional damage to the project location. <p>Note: The above documents will be considered in the merit assessment for applications that include security activities.</p>
Project drawings / schematics	<p>Provide any professional designs, drawings, or schematics that include any of the project activities included in the application.</p>
Public liability insurance	<p>Provide a certificate of currency for public liability insurance that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is in the name of the organisation• shows the insurance is valid at the time of application• clearly shows the organisation has a minimum cover of \$10 million for any one incident <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All projects supported through the program must have active public liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10 million for any one incident.• A certificate of currency for public liability insurance must be provided by successful applicants before entering into a funding agreement.• Insurance from the Multicultural Seniors Grants Program cannot be accepted.
Letters of support	<p>Provide letters of support for your project from stakeholders. Examples include letters of support from stakeholders that use the facility on a recurring or regular basis.</p>
Other supporting documents	<p>Provide any other documents related to the project that support your application.</p> <p>Note: Peak bodies applying for security planning activities must provide their constitution or other governance document that outlines their role as a peak body and the community they represent.</p>

Possible project examples

You can also 'test' possible projects by emailing a short description to the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>

Project example 1: Project in regional Victoria

Project example 1 summary

- A multicultural community organisation requested funding to replace the roof and install an alarm system at their community hall in Bendigo.
- The cost of the roof replacement is \$100,000 and the alarm system is \$25,000.
- **Grant amount requested:** \$125,000
- **Total project cost:** \$125,000

Project example 1 outcome

- The organisation was successful in receiving funding to replace the roof and install the alarm system.
- Matched funding of 1:4 was required as the grant amount requested was over \$100,000 and the department confirmed the project location was in regional Victoria.
- **Grant amount awarded:** \$100,000
- **Matched funding required:** \$25,000

Project example 2: Project at a place of worship

Project example 2 summary

- A place of worship in North Melbourne requested funding to install security cameras and upgrade their bathrooms.
- The place of worship had been vandalised six months ago and the police incident report was provided with their application.

- The cost of the security cameras is \$20,000 and the cost to upgrade the bathrooms is \$50,000.
- **Grant amount requested:** \$35,000
- **Total project cost:** \$70,000

Project example 2 outcome

- The place of worship was successful in receiving funding to install security cameras only.
- The bathroom upgrade was not funded as places of worship are only eligible to apply for physical security activities under MISP.
- **Grant amount awarded:** \$10,000
- **Matched funding required:** \$10,000

Project example 3: Project with eligible and ineligible activities

Project example 3 summary

- A multicultural community organisation based in St Kilda requested grant funding to extend their community hall and install new solar panels.
- The cost of the community hall extension is \$125,000 and the cost of the new solar panels is \$25,000.
- **Grant amount requested:** \$75,000
- **Total project cost:** \$150,000

Project example 3 outcome

- The organisation was successful in receiving funding for their new solar panels.
- The kitchen extension was not funded as building extensions are not eligible under MISP.
- **Grant amount awarded:** \$12,500
- **Matched funding required:** \$12,500

Matched funding

The MISP offers an opportunity for the government to co-invest in multicultural community infrastructure projects. Matched funding demonstrates your organisation’s commitment to completing the project.

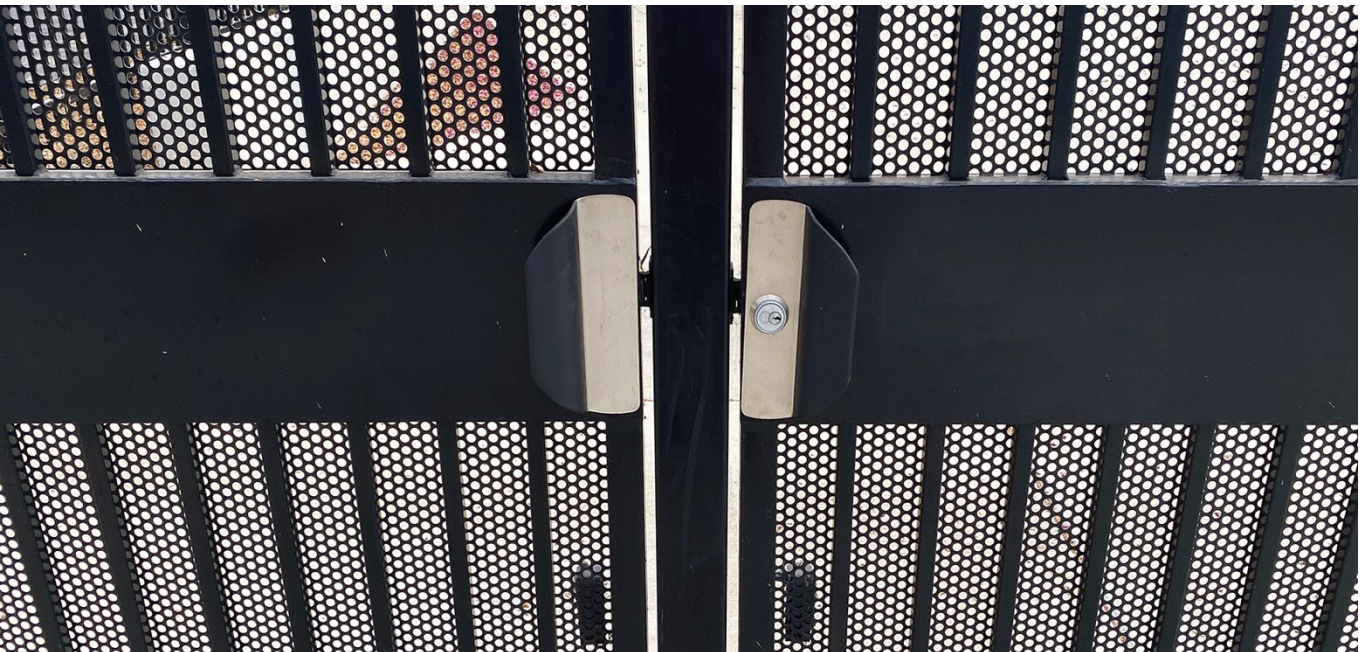
All organisations must provide evidence of their capacity to meet the matched funding requirement for the project. Organisations that meet one or more of the priority groups will have reduced matched funding requirements.

See **Organisations cash contribution** under Mandatory Documents for accepted evidence of matched funding.

If you are unsure if your organisation needs to provide matched funding, please email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.

Non-priority applicants	Priority applicants requesting \$100,000 or more	Priority applicants requesting less than \$100,000
Matched funding required – 1:1 Minimum of \$1 in matched funding for every \$1 in government funding. Example: a grant of \$50,000 to a non-priority group organisation requires \$50,000 in matched funding.	Matched funding required – 1:4 Minimum of \$1 in matched funding for every \$4 in government funding. Example: a grant of \$100,000 to a priority group organisation requires \$25,000 in matched funding.	Matched funding is not required. Example: a grant of \$90,000 to a priority group organisation requires no matched funding.

See **Priority groups and projects** for more information.



Assessment process

The MISP is an open and competitive grant program. Applications to MISP will follow a structured assessment process.

Stage 1. Eligibility assessment

The department reviews all applications against the eligibility criteria outlined in these guidelines. Only applications that meet all eligibility criteria will progress to the merit-based assessment stage.

Stage 2. Merit-based assessment

The department assesses the responses and attachments provided in the application against the merit assessment criteria outlined in these guidelines. The merit-based assessment determines the merit assessment score for each application. The score is used in the department's funding recommendations to the assessment panel in Stage 3 and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs in Stage 4.

Stage 3. Assessment panel

An assessment panel reviews the department's assessments and recommendations prepared in Stages 1 and 2. The panel provides independent recommendations that are included in the department's funding recommendations to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs in Stage 4.

The panel includes representatives from the Multicultural Affairs portfolio, Victorian Multicultural Commission, and government infrastructure experts.

Stage 4. Ministerial approval

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs makes the final decisions based on the department's funding recommendations.

Stage 5. Application outcome

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing after all applications have been assessed and the assessment process is complete.

Not all applications will be successful. Only the most competitive applicants will be offered funding following the assessment process. Successful applications may only be offered part of the total funding amount requested.

All decisions by the department or the Minister for Multicultural Affairs are final. This includes any aspect of:

- the eligibility and merit-based assessments
- any decision to offer or award a grant under this program
- any decision to withdraw the offer or cancel the grant funding agreement.

Merit-based assessment criteria

Applications that progress to the merit assessment stage will be assessed against the following criteria.

Assessment criteria	Criteria measures	Weighting
Alignment to objectives	<p>The application must show strong alignment to the MISP objectives and how the project will support the organisation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> celebrate and share their history and traditions build community connections and networks to participate in society help communities to access social and cultural opportunities improve the security of community facilities. <p>Your organisation must clearly describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the project aligns with the MISP objectives the communities need for the project how the project fills a gap in community infrastructure. <p>Applications that clearly demonstrate how the project meets any of the following will be considered positively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourages diversity and inclusion addresses issues that prevent or restrict some community members from using the facility, including accessibility incorporate sustainable materials and considers environmental impact improve community facility security by addressing a clear security risk (applications including security activities only). 	30%
Value for public money	<p>The application must clearly demonstrate how the project provides value for public money by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrating how the project will provide short and long-term benefits to the community demonstrating how the project will support and improve the full use of the facility providing a detailed and realistic project budget that is consistent with the project plan and the scale of the project providing detailed quotes or cost estimates for all project activities that align the project plan. <p>Note: the department will consider previous funding provided to the organisation from the Multicultural Affairs portfolio to support infrastructure projects.</p>	20%

Assessment criteria	Criteria measures	Weighting
Project feasibility	<p>The application must clearly demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear and detailed scope, timeframes, and costs of all project activities • all project activities can be completed within a reasonable timeframe • the organisation can meet the organisation's cash contribution, and any cost increases that may occur during the life of the project. 	20%
Organisational capability	<p>The application must clearly demonstrate your organisations capability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake and complete all project activities within a reasonable timeframe • complete all grant requirements • identify and manage project risks. <p>Your organisation must clearly describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant and recent project management experience or evidence of the organisation's plans to source an independent professional with the relevant expertise to deliver the project • recent government grant management experience • the organisations risk management processes including how the organisation will identify and manage risks relevant to the project. 	10%
Alignment to priority group	<p>Applications that clearly demonstrates alignment with one or more priority group will receive priority weighting.</p> <p>Note: An applications alignment to a priority group is determined by the department.</p>	20%



How to apply

Applications open on **Monday 13 October 2025**.

Applications close at **3:00 pm on Monday 5 January 2026**.

Getting ready

- Read the program guidelines carefully
- Make sure your organisation and project meet the eligibility criteria before you start an application
- Make sure you have all the mandatory documents needed for your application
- Attend an information session. Information session details are located on the MISP website <<https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>>.

Submitting your application

- Submit your application by completing the online application form. You can access the online application form at:
 - the MISP website
<<https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>>
 - the Grants Gateway portal
<<https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/s/login/>>
- You must answer all questions and attach all mandatory documents. Incomplete applications will not be eligible.
- MISP applications close at 3pm. Late applications and draft applications will not be accepted.

Note: applications are limited to one application per organisation. If more than one application is submitted, the department will only consider the first application. All other applications will not be accepted.

Strengthen your application

Applicants can strengthen their applications by:

- responding carefully to all questions in the application form
- providing strong evidence of the community need for the project and its expected impact
- showing the feasibility and readiness of the project.

Application outcome

- Your organisation will be notified of the outcome of your application in writing after all applications have been assessed and the assessment process is complete
- Funding outcomes are expected from May 2026.

If you have any questions about your project or the application process, email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team at <multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.

Successful grants

Funding agreements

Successful applicants must enter a Victorian Common Funding Agreement (VCFA) with the department. The VCFA outlines:

- the grant's terms and conditions, including how grant funds can be used
- grant funding approved and matched funding requirements
- key deliverables and due dates
- that all funded activities must be completed by the date specified in the VCFA
- grant reporting requirements (progress and final reports), including photographs and a financial acquittal, with final invoices and evidence that these invoices have been paid. Department staff may also visit the sites of funded projects.

The VCFA must be signed by two authorised representatives of the organisation. The VCFA will be sent to the representatives electronically and must be signed within the specified timeframe. If the VCFA is not signed by the two authorised representatives during this period, the grant offer may be withdrawn.

Organisations will be required to submit evidence of their public liability insurance when signing their funding agreement.

Note: successful applicants may be asked to provide updated copies of documents submitted in their application.

Funding conditions

MISP grants are paid in instalments based on completing the project milestones deliverables outlined in the VCFA. Milestone payments will not be approved and processed until all requirements of the milestone are completed to the department's satisfaction.

A note about GST

If your organisation is registered for GST, your organisation will be paid GST on top of the grant amount awarded.

If your organisation is not registered for GST, your organisation will receive just the grant amount awarded. GST will not be added on top. Organisations that are not registered for GST can use grant funds to cover the cost of GST from goods and services purchased with the department's grant funds.

Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support

Successful organisations must acknowledge the Victorian Government's support of the project. Promotional guidelines form part of the VCFA. They include the requirement that all activities acknowledge Victorian Government support through logo presentation on any activity-related:

- publications
- media releases
- social media
- promotional material.

MISP grant recipients will be published on the MISP website

<<https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>> The website will list the organisation's name and key project details such as project name, project description, and grant amount.

Need more information or help?

Information sessions

A series of online information sessions will be held to help you through the application process. The sessions are open to all potential applicants and are an opportunity to learn more about MISP.

Information session dates, times, and how to register are available on the MISP website <<https://www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program>>.

Contacting the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team

For more information on the program or help with your application, email the Multicultural Affairs Infrastructure Team

<multicultural.infrastructure@dpc.vic.gov.au>.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Additional funding	The balance of funding required to complete the project that is not grant funding or matched funding.
Fixed assets	Items that will be fixed, non-transferable, and form part of the fabric of the facility.
Matched funding	The minimum amount of funding the organisation must contribute to match grant funding provided by the department.
MISP	Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program.
Multicultural community facility	A facility operated by a multicultural community organisation where members of the community gather to participate in community events and activities. Community facility types for infrastructure projects include community centres, halls, hubs, youth centres, museums, theatres, and galleries.
Multicultural community organisation	An organisation that is owned and managed by a specific ethnic, language, or cultural community that has common needs, customs, and traditions. The organisation will exist to support people from that ethnic, language, or cultural group.
Multicultural peak bodies	Multicultural peak bodies are organisations that represent the interests of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities at a national or state level. They work in partnership with government to strengthen Australia's multicultural capacity, promote inclusion, and support civic participation. These bodies advocate for the needs of both emerging and established communities and deliver programs that enhance social cohesion and cultural understanding.
Multifaith community organisation	A faith-based organisation that is owned and managed by a specific faith community and has common religious beliefs, practices, and values.
Multifaith peak bodies	Multifaith peak bodies are representative organisations that bring together major religious groups to promote interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and collaboration. They serve as advisory bodies to government on issues related to religious diversity, discrimination, and social inclusion. These organisations facilitate dialogue between faith communities and contribute to policy development in areas such as multiculturalism, human rights, and reconciliation.
New and emerging communities	Communities of migrants and refugees that have recently arrived in Australia. These groups may need extra support in the settlement process. The main identifiers are:

Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a lack of established family networks, support systems, community structures and resources unfamiliarity with mainstream services and challenges in accessing these services.
Organisations cash contribution	The organisation's cash contribution requirements for matched funding and any additional funding.
Physical security infrastructure	Infrastructure which is intended to deter and/or reduce the risk of crime and violence against both the building, its immediate surrounds, and the community members using the building and its immediate surrounds.
Place of worship	A facility or place of religious significance with the primary of purpose of holding religious events and activities. Facilities include churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques.
Regional based projects	A project delivered in regional Victoria.
Security services	Security activities undertaken by service contractors that are not associated with the physical security of the facility.
Social enterprise	<p>Social enterprises are organisations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission that is consistent with a public or community benefit get most of their income from trade reinvest most their profit or surplus to fulfil their mission (at least 50 per cent).
Unfixed assets	Items that are unfixed, mobile or transferable
VCFA	Victorian Common Funding Agreement

