

2026-27 Multicultural Festivals and Events 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.

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ISBN 978-1-925789-98-0 (pdf/online/MS word)

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Accessibility

To receive this document in an alternative format, phone **1300 112 755**, email **multicultural-festival.events@dpc.vic.gov.au**, or contact National Relay Service on **1800 555 660** if required. HTML format is available at Multicultural Festival and Events Program **vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program**



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

Contents

Victorian Government Values Statement	3
Victorian Values Statement.....	3
Commitment to Social Cohesion.....	3
Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs	4
What is the 2026-27 Multicultural Festivals and Events Program?	5
Key dates	6
What type of grants are available?	6
Priority groups and events	7
Rural and regional communities.....	8
New and emerging communities	8
Women, young people and LGBTQIA+ communities	9
Expectations of funded festivals and events	10
Acknowledgement of Country or a Welcome to Country	10
Accessibility.....	10
Environmental impact	10
Eligibility overview	11
General eligibility.....	11
Funding stream eligibility.....	11
General eligibility	12
Organisation eligibility	12
Grant activity eligibility.....	15
Costs/budget eligibility	16
Funding stream eligibility	17
Small stream eligibility.....	17
Medium stream eligibility	18
Large stream eligibility.....	19
Matched Funding, Quotes and Partnership explained	20
How will your application be assessed?	21
Merit assessment criteria (medium and large stream only).....	21
Assessment process overview	24
Submitting your application	24
Successful grant recipients	25
Funding agreements.....	25
Use of funds	25
Insurance.....	25

Good and Services Tax (GST).....	25
Final reports	25
Do you need more information or help?	26
Information sessions.....	26
Contacting the Multicultural Affairs Programs and Grants team.....	26
More information	26
MFE Program acronyms and definitions.....	27
Appendix 1: Checklist.....	30

Victorian Government Values Statement

The Victorian Government is committed to building community harmony and ensuring every Victorian feels safe and can participate in all aspects of Victorian life. This commitment is reflected in the contractual relationship with funded organisations, which sets out the expectation that organisations will uphold the Victorian Government values and the Commitment to Social Cohesion when delivering their funded projects.

Victorian Values Statement

Whether at home, at work, while volunteering in the community, these are the values that make Victoria a great place to live – and a place we can all be proud of.

1. One law for all

All Victorians have the same responsibilities, rights and protections under the law.

2. Freedom to be yourself

Everyone is free to be themselves and to feel safe in being true to themselves.

3. Discrimination is never acceptable

Everyone has a responsibility to promote inclusion and participation and to reject exclusion, racism and all forms of violence.

4. A fair go for all

Every Victorian should be given the support they need to enjoy the Victorian way of life.

5. It is up to all of us to contribute to a Victoria we can be proud of

We all want similar things – the opportunity to thrive, for our successes to be recognised, and for our families and loved ones to be safe, secure and happy.

Commitment to Social Cohesion

Victoria is a proudly diverse community.

Our social cohesion is part of what makes our state a great place to live.

It is expected that your organisation will commit to upholding Victoria's social cohesion.

You will do this in your daily conduct as an organisation by:

- Supporting shared understanding and celebration
- Being respectful of different views and perspectives
- Creating an inclusive environment where everyone can belong
- Rejecting racism, vilification and discrimination in all forms.

You will acknowledge that the conduct of your organisation, its employees, its contractors and/or volunteers, adheres to the Victorian Values statement and the Commitment to Social Cohesion.

You are required to read, understand and make your employees, contractors and volunteers aware of the Victorian Values statement and the Commitment to Social Cohesion.

Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

I am pleased to announce the 2026-27 Multicultural Festivals and Events Program.

Victoria's diversity is one of our greatest strengths and a defining part of who we are. Generations of multicultural and multifaith communities have helped shape our vibrant state, and their contributions continue to enrich our shared identity.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting multicultural communities as they celebrate their heritage. Festivals and events play a vital role in keeping traditions alive and sharing them with all Victorians. They foster connection, understanding and respect across the many cultures that call Victoria home.

In 2026-27, the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program will provide more than \$5 million for events delivered between 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2027.

An extra \$1 million will be available through the Regional Multicultural Festivals and Events Fund to support events held outside metropolitan Melbourne.

As we launch this year's program, we acknowledge the enormous contributions multicultural communities make in Victoria. Their traditions, resilience and generosity strengthen our state, and through this program, we look forward to supporting the festivals and events that bring Victorians together.



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

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

What is the 2026-27 Multicultural Festivals and Events Program?

The Multicultural Festivals and Events (MFE) Program offers grants to help multicultural communities run events that bring people together and celebrate our shared diversity.

The program has two objectives:

Program objective 1

To help Victorians celebrate and preserve cultures, and share traditions

Program objective 2

To encourage all Victorians to take part in cultural events and develop understanding and respect for different cultures.

This program is:

- **open** – any community organisation that meets the criteria can apply
- **discretionary** – funding depends on how much money is available
- **merit-based** – applications are assessed on their strength and how well they meet the program objectives
- **competitive** – there is no guarantee you will receive funding or the full amount you request.



Key dates

Event date	Round	Application open date	Application close date	Outcome expectations
Between July to December 2026	Round one	19 March 2026	17 April 2026	End of June 2026
				End of September 2026
Between January to June 2027	Round two	August 2026 – exact date TBC	September 2026 – exact date TBC	End of December 2026
				End of February 2027

What type of grants are available?

Grants of **up to \$50,000** are available. The program has **three funding streams** to support activities that meet the program's objectives:

Small Stream	Medium Stream	Large Stream
Up to \$5,000	\$5,001 to \$15,000	\$15,001 to \$50,000

Important: Please find helpful MFE Program acronyms and definitions at the end of the guideline.



Priority groups and events

The Victorian Government wants everyone to feel welcome and included no matter their background or where they live. This is why the MFE program shares the funding fairly and supports communities that have fewer resources or smaller networks.

The program is open to all eligible community organisations. To make access fairer, the program gives priority to communities that face more challenges when hosting events or reaching audiences.

These communities are:

- rural and regional communities
- new and emerging communities
- events that clearly include or engage:
 - Women
 - Young people
 - LGBTIQ+

These communities may sit across multiple priority groups and often have fewer resources and networks. Giving them priority helps make cultural celebrations possible across the whole state and builds stronger community connections.

If your application meets a priority group eligibility, you may receive:

- lower attendance requirements
- reduced or no matched funding requirements
- no maximum funding limit
- a higher score in the “Engagement with priority groups” criteria.

More information is available in the [“Funding stream eligibility”](#) section on page 17.



Rural and regional communities

Events in rural and regional Victoria are supported through the Regional Multicultural Festivals and Events Fund (RMFEF). The fund aims to:

- help multicultural communities in rural and regional Victoria celebrate and share their culture
- bring more visitors to rural and regional Victoria.

The RMFEF supports:

- rural and regional community organisations
- metropolitan community organisations that deliver events in rural and regional Victoria in partnership with multicultural communities located in that area.

Which Victorian rural and regional areas are prioritised by the program?

- Barwon South West
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee

Rural and regional eligibility

Your organisation must be:

- based in rural/regional Victoria **or**
- a metropolitan organisation partnering with a rural/regional organisation to deliver an event in rural/regional Victoria.

For more information on regional areas visit rdv.vic.gov.au/victorias-regions

New and emerging communities

New and emerging communities are groups of people who are relatively new to Australia, often arriving through refugee or humanitarian programs. They may face challenges as they establish their new lives, such as:

- having few or no family or support networks
- unfamiliarity with mainstream services and find them difficult to access
- difficulty getting funding for programs and community spaces.

Which new and emerging communities are priorities by the program?

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) has put together a list of priority communities. These are mostly communities that are part of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

The priority list provided below includes both countries of origin and ethnicities:

- Afghanistan
- Assyrian
- Burundi
- Chaldean
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Hazara
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kenya
- Kurds
- Liberia
- Myanmar
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea
- Pashtuns
- Pasifika communities
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda

- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajiks
- Timor Leste
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbeks
- Yemen.

You can also view the list here: vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program.

New and emerging groups eligibility

- most of your members must be from one of the listed new and emerging communities
- select the community your members belong to on the application form.

Women, young people and LGBTQIA+ communities

Applicants are encouraged to plan events that consider the different barriers people may face.

Women, young people and LGBTQIA+ communities from multicultural communities may experience more than one barrier at the same time. This can affect their safety, access, well-being and participation in programs.

Applications that show genuine efforts to include and engage with the following groups will receive higher scores against this assessment criterion:

- Multicultural Women
- Multicultural Young people
- Multicultural LGBTQIA+ groups

Women, young people, LGBTQIA+ eligibility

Your organisation or event must mainly involve at least one of the priority groups listed below:

- Women
- Young people
- LGBTQIA+

Expectations of funded festivals and events

Events funded by this program must be respectful and open to all Victorians.

Acknowledgement of Country or a Welcome to Country

We encourage events to include an Acknowledgement of Country or a Welcome to Country. An Acknowledgement of Country recognises that Victoria has a strong and proud Aboriginal history and pays respect to the Traditional Owners.

More information is available here:

<https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/welcome-country-and-acknowledgement-traditional-owners>.

Accessibility

Your organisation must make sure the event can be enjoyed by everyone, including people with disability. This includes but is not limited to:

- Easy physical access – Choose a venue that people can move around safely and easily. For example, entrances, paths, and toilets should be accessible for wheelchair users and people with mobility needs.
- Cultural and language inclusion – Think about language needs and cultural sensitivities so all Victorians feel welcome. This could include using clear, simple promotional materials, offering interpreters, or providing bilingual signs.
- Financial accessibility – Events must be free so everyone has an equal opportunity to attend.

Environmental impact

Your organisation must take steps to reduce harm to the environment. This includes:

- making the event more environmentally friendly
- managing waste responsibly. For example:
 - advertising online instead of printing lots of paper
 - avoiding single-use plastics.

Eligibility overview

To apply for funding, your organisation must meet the eligibility criteria.

General eligibility

These are the basic rules that all applicants must meet before applying.

- **Organisation eligibility** – Your organisation must be the right type to apply.
- **Event eligibility** – Your event must meet the program rules.
- **Cost/Budget eligibility** – Your budget must include only costs allowed by the grant.

Funding stream eligibility

You can apply for one of the following funding streams:

- **Small stream**
- **Medium stream**
- **Large stream**

More information on general eligibility and funding stream eligibility is provided below.



General eligibility

Organisation eligibility

Who can apply

Your organisation **must meet all four** conditions below:

1. You must be an incorporated legal entity under one of the following:
 - the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria
 - the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)
 - an Act of Parliament. You must provide a copy of the Act with your application.
2. You must have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) matching the organisations name in your application
3. You must be a not-for-profit demonstrated under one of the following:
 - registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
 - registered as an incorporated association with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV)
 - registered as a company limited by guarantee with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)
 - a social enterprise with a clearly stated purpose or mission related to supporting Multicultural communities in Victoria.
4. You should have no overdue final reports from previous Victorian state government funded grants (including Multicultural Affairs grants) by 17 April 2026 for applications in Round 1. Round 2 closing dates will be confirmed later in the year.

If you are an unincorporated association or community organisation without an ABN, you can apply using an auspice. See the [Auspice applications](#) on page 13 for more information.

Note: incorporated organisations are considered not-for-profit entities.

How to check your Australian Business Number (ABN)

- To check your ABN, visit the Australian Business Register (ABR):
<https://abr.business.gov.au/>

How to check your organisation type

- For incorporated associations, co-operatives or organisations incorporated through other means go to Consumer Affairs Victoria:
<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/>
- For a Company Limited by Guarantee go to ASIC Connect Online:
<https://connectonline.asic.gov.au/Registry/Search/>
- For registered charities go to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC):
<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities>

How to check if your organisation is up to date on reporting requirements

- You can check your current grants in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Grants Gateway here:
<https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/>
- Any report marked as red is overdue. You must complete overdue reports before you apply.

Who cannot apply

The following organisation type are not eligible to apply:

- unincorporated associations (unless applying with an eligible auspice)
- state and federal government departments, agencies and sports regulatory bodies
- individuals and sole traders
- public companies limited by shares (unless they can prove they are not-for-profit)
- commercial (for-profit) businesses
- Local Government Authorities (LGAs), including LGA-managed, operated, administered and regulated trusts. LGA's can act as an auspice for an unincorporated organisation
- registered public or private primary and secondary schools, preschools, TAFE institutes and universities. Community language schools are eligible and can act as an auspice for an unincorporated organisation
- organisations that have not followed the rules of previous Multicultural Affairs grants
- groups delivering projects that are the responsibility of another Victorian Government department
- hospitals and health service organisations
- organisations that already receive government funding for a multicultural event between 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

Auspice eligibility

You can apply using an auspice arrangement for the:

- small and medium stream
- large stream if you are
 - a new or emerging community group or
 - based in a rural or regional area.

An auspice organisation can support more than one application.

What is an auspice arrangement?

An auspice arrangement helps your organisation apply for a grant if you:

- are not incorporated or
- do not have an ABN.

To do this, you need an eligible organisation (called an auspice organisation) that agrees to support your organisation.

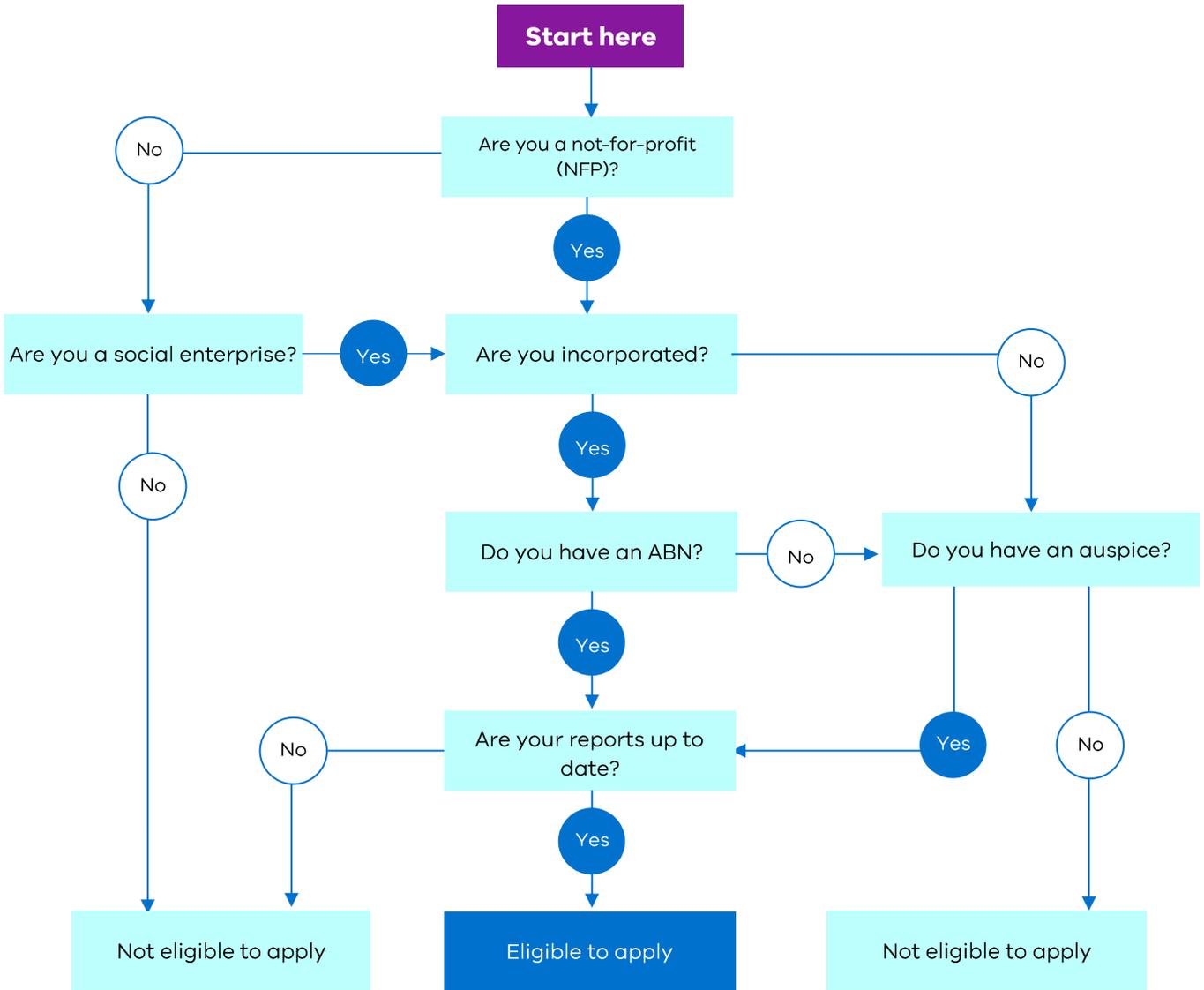
Your organisation is the grant recipient, and the auspice organisation manages the grant funding and responsibilities outlined in the agreement. A letter of support from the auspice organisation **must** be included with your application.

What does an auspice organisation do?

If your application is successful, the auspice organisation:

- signs the funding agreement (Victorian Common Funding Agreement)
- communicates with the department on your behalf
- takes legal and financial responsibility for the grant
- receives and distributes the grant money
- makes sure your event or activities happen
- submits final reports and financial documents on time.

Use the chart below to check whether your organisation can apply.



Grant activity eligibility

What events and activities can be funded

- one day events
- multiple events held within 30 days that share the same theme or focus. Your application must explain why the events are culturally important and how they are linked together
- events that celebrate cultural and religious dates or festivals
- activities that help different communities connect, share and understand each other
- hybrid events that are in-person and online (for example, live-streaming, to reach people across the state).

Important: All promotional materials must clearly say “free entry”.

What events and activities cannot be funded

- sporting competitions (modern or contemporary sports tournaments)
- digital only activities (for example, online campaigns or events with no in-person element)
- invite-only, members-only events or VIP-only events or areas
- exhibition-only events (events that only display items without other activities)
- events that promote political parties, candidates or political causes
- conferences

- events that charge an entry fee
- fundraising events
- events focused mainly on commercial activities (for example, trade events, business activation or markets where selling goods is the main purpose)
- events already funded by the department
- events used to cover organisation ongoing operating costs.
- events advertised only in a language other than English (you can advertise in other languages, but English must also be used)
- events that run longer than 30 days
- a series of events within 30 days that do not share a clear cultural theme (or where the connection is not explained in the application)
- performance-only or talent showcase only events (if they do not include other activities for attendees)
- gala dinners
- events held in restaurants
- events held in private homes or offices
- events or activities funded by another state, federal or local government program
- events or activities that the responsibility of another government body
- events or activities that have already started or finished (including anything done before the grant is approved)
- private-sector projects delivered as part of a Victorian Government contract.

Costs/budget eligibility

What costs are supported

Face-to-face event costs the program can fund:

- fees for artists and performers
- food and drinks for all attendees at the event
- venue hire
- security services
- short-term staff to help run the event (for example event or project managers)
 - you must provide evidence of this arrangement as part of the acquittal process.
- advertising and promotion (such as marketing, printing and publicity)
- event equipment hire and cleaning
- auspice fees
- transport within Victoria for attendees and performers (for example, bus hire, public transport, petrol costs directly linked to the event).

Hybrid event costs the program can fund:

- digital equipment hire
- one-off venue or studio hire for live streaming or filming
- administration costs (for example, streaming membership)
- short-term digital specialist to support the event
- podcast or videocast production.

Note: All costs must show good value for money. If you are not sure whether a cost is allowed, contact the MFE team before you apply.

What costs are not supported

The program does not support:

- event materials and supplies (up to 15% of program funds can be used towards these costs. For example, disposable cutlery, event décor, flowers)
- ongoing salaries
- ongoing operating costs of the organisation
- public liability insurance
- costs for digital capability or website development
- business or organisation set-up or running costs, subscriptions, or licences
- costs for permits, registrations or other required approvals
- pre-event rehearsal costs (for example, venue/artist hire for dance practice)
- contingency/unforeseen costs (all costs must be itemised)
- buying:
 - vouchers
 - event equipment (for example tents, chairs, stages, lighting, microphones)
 - cultural or religious items
 - costumes
 - alcohol
 - digital equipment (like laptops)
 - rapid antigen tests
 - gifts, honorariums, prizes or awards
- private dining (for example, meals for members or volunteers only)
- travel outside Victoria
- interstate or overseas travel costs
- accommodation costs
- transport costs relating to event logistics.

Funding stream eligibility

You can apply under one of the following 3 funding streams:

1. Small stream
2. Medium stream
3. Large stream

Please find the eligibility criteria for each stream below. Use checklist in Appendix 1: Checklist to make sure you meet all the requirements.

Small stream eligibility

Small Stream Up to \$5,000			
	Metropolitan organisation or event	New and emerging organisation	Rural and regional organisation or event
Minimum attendance	100 people	50 people	50 people
Funding amount available	Up to \$5,000		
Match funding required?	Not required		
In-kind contributions required?	Not required		
Partnership required?	Not required unless you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria.		
Mandatory documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auspice letter (if using an auspice) • A partnership letter (only if you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria) 		

Medium stream eligibility

Medium Stream \$5,001–\$15,000			
	Metropolitan organisation or event	New and emerging organisation	Rural and regional organisation or event
Minimum attendance	250 people	100 people	
How funding amounts apply	Maximum of \$5,001 for 250 people	Maximum of \$5,001 for 100 people	
	Maximum of \$10,000 for 1,000 people	Maximum of \$10,000 for 400 people	
	Maximum of \$15,000 for 1,500 people	Maximum of \$15,000 for 600 people	
Match funding required?	Not required		
In-kind contributions required?	Not required		
Partnerships required?	Not required unless you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria.		
Mandatory documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plan (you must use the MFE template available on the website) • Quotes for items \$10,000 and more • Auspice letter (if using an auspice) • Partnership letter, if you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria. 		

Large stream eligibility

Large Stream \$15,001–\$50,000			
	Metropolitan organisation or event	New and emerging organisation	Rural and regional organisation or event
Minimum attendance	1,500	600	
How funding amounts apply	Maximum of \$15,001 for 1,500 people	Maximum of \$15,001 for 600 people	
	Maximum of \$20,000 for 2,000 people	Maximum of \$20,001 for 800 people	
	Maximum of \$30,000 for 3,000 people	Maximum of \$30,001 for 1,200 people	
	Maximum of \$40,000 for 4,000 people	Maximum of \$40,001 for 1,600 people	
	Maximum of \$50,000 for 5,000+ people	Maximum of \$50,001 for 2,000+ people	\$50,001 and above for 2,000+ people
Match funding required?	Yes – you must contribute \$1 for every \$1 granted	Yes – you must contribute \$1 for every \$3 granted	Not required, but allowed
In-kind contributions required?	Yes – up to 50% of your matched amount	Yes – up to 100% of your matched amount	Not required, but allowed
Partnership required?	Yes – mandatory. You must partner with another community organisation. A partnership letter must be submitted with application. If you are a metropolitan organisation delivering an event in rural/regional Victoria, you must partner with a rural/regional organisation.		
Documents you must provide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plan (you must use the MFE template available on the website) • Total event budget (you must use the MFE template available on the website) • Quotes for items \$10,000 and more • Auspice letter (if using an auspice – New and Emerging Community and Regional Multicultural Festival and Events Fund ONLY) • Partnership letter. 		

Matched Funding, Quotes and Partnership explained

Matched funding (Large stream only)

If your application is successful, your organisation must include matched funding in the final report.

The following are examples of matched funding calculations:

Metropolitan applications

If you request \$20,000 from the program, your organisation must contribute \$20,000 towards the event, with up to \$10,000 of your contribution being from in-kind support.

New and emerging applications

If you receive \$18,000, your organisation must contribute \$6,000 in matched funding.

In this example, the entire \$6,000 can be in-kind.

Quotes for expenditure items of \$10,000 and over

You do not need to supply a quote if you can break down the total amount into smaller line items in the budget template.

For example:

If the total performer fees are \$10,500, you can explain this in the budget as:

- performer 1 - \$3,500
- performer 2 - \$3,500
- performer 3 - \$3,500

A quote will be ineligible if:

- it does not include the letter head and ABN of the company providing the service or item
- the quote does not match the activity, service or cost listed in the budget
- the quote is older than 24 months before the application deadline
- the MFE template budget does not match the costs in the online application budget section.

Partnerships

Working in partnership means your group works together with at least one other community organisation to plan and run your event.

Partnering with another organisation can help you by:

- building understanding and stronger relationships between different communities
- sharing knowledge, which can make your organisation stronger when delivering events
- reaching more people, including communities from different cultures, faiths and locations
- sharing resources, such as venues, volunteers, equipment or marketing, and gain access to useful networks.

Your partnership letter must explain how the other organisation will support the event.

What your partnership letter must include:

- the partner organisation's name and ABN, and signed by someone who is authorised to sign for that organisation
- a clear description of what the partner will do, including roles and responsibilities in planning and delivering the event.

Letters that are not eligible:

- general letters of support that only show endorsement and do not explain a clear role in the event
- letter from non-community organisation, such as Members of Parliament, local council representative, businesses, individuals or sole traders (unless they are a community organisation).

How will your application be assessed?

- All applications will be checked to make sure they meet the eligibility requirements. This is called an eligibility assessment. See the [Funding stream eligibility section](#) on page 17 for more details.
- Small stream applications only go through an eligibility assessment.
- Only medium and large stream applications that pass the eligibility check will move to the next stage, called a merit assessment. A merit assessment looks at the quality, impact and community benefit of your event.
- If a medium or large stream application does not meet a specific merit criterion (such as priority group engagement or demonstrated capacity) it will receive no score for that criterion.

Merit assessment criteria (medium and large stream only)

Assessment criteria	Criteria guidance	Weighting
How your event supports the program objectives	<p>To have the best chance of being funded, your application must show how your event supports the two objectives of the program.</p> <p>Program objective 1: to help Victorians celebrate and preserve cultures, and share traditions</p> <p>We look at how well your event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • celebrates or shares culture, including traditions, stories or practices • helps keep cultural knowledge alive • supports something important to your community, such as a cultural holiday, an anniversary or a special community milestone. <p>Program objective 2: to encourage all Victorians to take part in cultural events and develop understanding and respect for different cultures</p> <p>We look at how well your event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcomes people from outside your community • gives people opportunities to learn about your culture • is promoted to the wider public, not just your own community • includes activities that invite people to take part, not only watch. 	40%

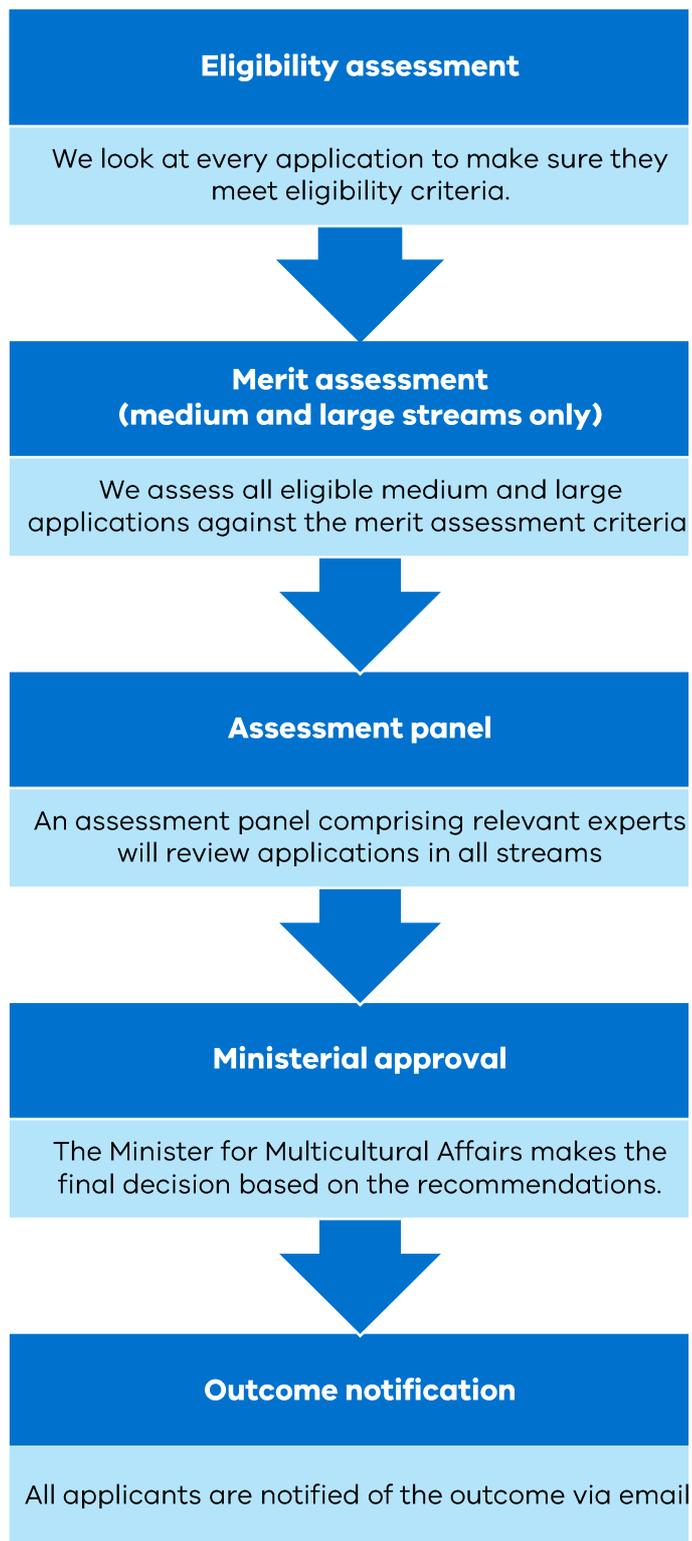
Assessment criteria	Criteria guidance	Weighting
Budget	<p>Your budget needs to show that the event offers good value for money. The costs you list must be accurate, reasonable, and clearly linked to running your event.</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> list all costs for your event clearly show how you will spend the MFE Program grant money include quotes for any item that costs \$10,000 or more if you want to use MFE Program funds for it. <p><u>Additional requirements for the large stream only:</u></p> <p>If you are applying for the large stream, you must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attach a Total Event Budget using the MFE template. This must list all your costs and all your income sources. 	25%
Your experience and skills to run the event	<p>Your application must show that the organisation can successfully plan and deliver the festival or event.</p> <p>You must attach the project plan with the application.</p> <p>We look at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your project plan: <p>You must include a clear project plan (using the MFE template). The plan should show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what tasks will be done who will do them when they will happen what you will do before, during and after the event Your experience or resources: <p>You need to show that your organisation has the skills, experience or resources to run the event well. You can do this by including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> details of a previous event your organisation has run with similar attendance numbers, or evidence that you have the people, equipment or knowledge needed to deliver this event. <p>Organisations are encouraged to include a list of past events and the resources they already have. Providing this will help increase the criteria score.</p>	20%

Assessment criteria	Criteria guidance	Weighting
Engagement with priority groups	<p>Your applications must show whether your event will mainly involve or support one of the priority groups listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new and emerging communities (listed on page 8). You must select the community from the list provided in the application form • rural and regional communities • women • young people • LGBTIQ+ communities. <p>To receive a score for this criterion, explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which priority group the event focuses on, and • how the event will involve or support them. <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the planning committee is led by women • the event takes place in rural and regional Victoria, so rural and regional communities are the main audience • activities are designed for young people • performers or speakers are from a community in the new and emerging communities list. 	15%



Assessment process overview

Completed applications will go through these steps:



Submitting your application

To make sure your application is accepted, remember to:

- read the 2026-27 MFE Program guidelines carefully before starting your application online
- check the application closing time and date and set a reminder
- fill out the application form as early as possible.
- make sure the event meets all eligibility criteria for the stream you are applying under. Use the checklist in the appendix section to prepare all items
- answer all questions and upload the correct documents. Please note that the application form will not allow you to proceed if your organisation does not meet eligibility criteria
- attend an information session. For available sessions, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>
- submit your application through the online portal by 3pm on Friday 17 April 2026 for Round 1 applications
- only submit one application per organisation. If you submit more than one, the department will only assess the first application
- plan for the unexpected. If your application is successful, the funded amount may be less than what you requested. Consider other funding sources in case your application is unsuccessful or partly funded.
- do not make commitments until you have received formal confirmation of your funding.

Please note:

- we will not accept late or incomplete applications
- the online application will not let you continue if you do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Successful grant recipients

Funding agreements

- if your organisation is successful, you must sign the Victorian Common Funding Agreement (VCFA) within 30 days of receiving the funding offer
- if you do not sign the agreement in time, the department may withdraw the grant
- the VCFA will explain:
 - the terms and conditions
 - how you can use the funds
 - what you must deliver and by when
 - your reporting requirements
- you will receive the VCFA electronically, and it must be signed online by the deadline
- printed copies are not accepted
- if you do not sign the VCFA, you will not receive the funding.

Use of funds

Your organisation must:

- use the grant during the activity period set out in the VCFA
- meet all conditions listed in your letter of offer or funding agreement, such as
 - minimum attendance
 - matched funding (if required)

If these conditions are not met, you will need to return the funds.

Insurance

- all funded events must have public liability insurance
- it is the responsibility of the organisation to source an appropriate insurance provider.
- you do not need to submit proof when signing the VCFA, but insurance must be in place for your event. This a condition of funding.

Good and Services Tax (GST)

If your organisation is:

- **registered for GST:** GST will be added on top of your grant amount
- **not registered for GST:** you will receive only the grant amount (no GST added).

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) treats grants and sponsorships as taxable income.

For tax or GST questions, call 13 28 66 or visit the ATO webpage at <https://www.ato.gov.au>.

Final reports

- if you receive funding, you must complete an online final report through the Grants Gateway portal
- the report must meet all requirements listed in your funding agreement.

Do you need more information or help?

Information sessions

- there will be online information sessions to help you with the application process
- we will deliver these sessions online
- dates, times and details will be available on the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program webpage:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>

Contacting the Multicultural Affairs Programs and Grants team

We encourage you to ask for advice with your application. Asking questions can help strengthen your application and make the process easier. Contact the Multicultural Affairs Programs and Grants team by:

- phone on 1300 112 755
- or email multicultural-festivals.events@dpc.vic.gov.au

More information

- to access the program's frequently asked questions and application form guidance, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>
- for information and guidance on the below topics and other resources, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/applying-and-reporting-multicultural-grants>
 - how to write a grant application
 - grant terminology explained
 - understanding in-kind contributions
 - auspice and partnership applications
 - case studies.



MFE Program acronyms and definitions

ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
Acknowledgement of country	It's a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the land where a meeting or event is held. An Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners can be done by anyone.
ACNC	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
Auspice arrangement	An auspice arrangement is when a larger organisation partners with a smaller organisation to fund a grant activity or event. The larger organisation is known as the auspice organisation. Your organisation or community group is known as the grant recipient.
Auspice organisation	<p>An auspice organisation is an organisation who manages grant funding on another organisation's behalf. This will include taking responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sign the grant agreement• take legal and financial responsibility of the grant on your organisation's behalf• receive and distribute grant funds under the grant agreement• ensure all grant activities or events are completed• submit accountability and evaluation reports on your organisation's behalf.
Community organisation	These are not-for-profit organisations that exist to support and improve the well-being of people and communities. They run programs, services or projects that help the community in general, or support groups of people who need extra help because of age, disability, financial situation or social circumstance.
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Eligibility assessment	Checking whether an organisation meets the basic rules or requirements to take part in a program or grant.
Eligible	Your organisation or project meets the rules and requirements to apply for or receive funding.
Funding stream	Funding streams indicate the various funding amounts available for a grant program. Each funding stream may have different eligibility, application and project requirements depending on the funding stream.
GST	Goods and Services Tax

Ineligible	Your organisation does not meet the rules and requirements, so it cannot apply for or receive funding.
In-kind contribution	An in-kind contribution is a contribution of goods or services to your event, other than money, which would normally have a financial value. For examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteer labour • donated goods (such as an event space, equipment, or food) • donated services (such as project management or security).
LGA	Local Government Authority
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, or Asexual
Match funding	Under the large stream, the organisation must financially contribute to the project as well, whether through a dollar or in-kind amount. This is called matched funding.
Merit assessment	Looking at the quality or strengths of an application or idea to decide which ones are the best or most suitable.
MFE	Multicultural Festival and Events
Multicultural	Racially and ethnically diverse people who live in Victoria.
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: <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.
Not-for-profit organisation	An organisation that does not work to make money for its owners or members whether directly or indirectly. A not-for-profit organisation can still make a profit, but this profit must be used to achieve the purposes of the organisation - not given to owners, members or private individuals.
Public companies limited by shares	A type of company that is listed on the stock market and owned by shareholders.
Public liability insurance	Public liability insurance protects your organisation or community group if someone from the public is injured or their property is damaged because of your activities. It helps cover the costs of claims or legal action.
RMFEF	Regional Multicultural Festival and Events Fund

Rural and regional Victoria

These are the five regions listed in the *Regional Development Victoria Act 2002*:

- Barwon South West
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee

Social enterprise

Social enterprises are organisations that:

- 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)

TAFE

Technical and Further Education

Unincorporated associations

A group of people who come together for a common purpose, like a community group, without becoming a formal legal organisation.

Value of money

All supported costs must show good use of funding. This means the cost should be reasonable, necessary for the event, and provide clear benefit to the community.

VCFA

Victorian Common Funding Agreement

Welcome to country

A Welcome to Country ceremony is performed by Aboriginal Traditional Owners for people visiting their Country. These ceremonies vary from speeches of welcome to traditional dance and smoking ceremonies.

Appendix 1: Checklist

Use the checklist before you submit your application.

Criteria	Guideline section	You must check yes to all to be eligible
All streams		
Does your event meet program objective 1?	Page 5	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does your event meet program objective 2?	Page 5	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is your organisation type eligible?	Page 12	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do your activities meet the program activity requirements?	Page 15	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are all event costs supported?	Page 16	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does your event meet the attendance threshold for the stream selected and the amount requested?	Small stream: Page 17 Medium stream: Page 18 Large stream: Page 19	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does you have any overdue final reports?	Page 11	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you attached an auspice letter (if using an auspice)?	Page 11 Page 13	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you attached documentation to prove a social enterprise status (if necessary)?	Page 11	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the online application form been completed and submitted before 3pm on 17 April 2026 (for Round 1 applications)?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Criteria	Guideline section	You must check yes to all to be eligible
Medium stream only		
Have you attached the project plan (you must use the template available online)?	Page 18 Page 22	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Large stream only		
Have you attached the project plan (you must use the template available online)?	Page 19 Page 22	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you attached the budget (you must use the template available online)?	Page 19 Page 22	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you attached the quotes for items \$10,000 and more?	Page 19 Page 20	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you attached a partnership letter that has:	Page 19 Page 20	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the partner organisation's name and ABN is signed by someone who is authorised to sign for that organisation has a clear description of what the partner will do, including roles and responsibilities in planning and delivering the event. 		

