

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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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.

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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 and Multifaith Victoria

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 and Multifaith Victoria

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 – for July to September 2026 events
				End of September 2026 – for October to December 2026 events
Between January to June 2027	Round two	31 July 2026	31 August 2026	End of December 2026 – for January to March 2027 events
				End of February 2027 – for April to June 2027 events

Important: Organisations can receive funding for **one event in the 2026-27 financial year**, either for an event between July – December 2026 or an event between January – June 2027.

For example, if your organisation is approved for an event between July – December 2026, you will not be eligible to apply for an event between January – June 2027. This helps to ensure fair distribution and wider access of MFE funding to support more groups.

What types 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

Please find helpful MFE program acronyms and definitions at the end of the guidelines.

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 priority 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.



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 a regional multicultural organisation.

Applicants should note:

- For large stream regional festivals with an expected attendance of more than 2,000 people, there is no maximum funding amount. We will assess each funding request based on the expected attendance and proposed budget (see [large stream eligibility](#)).
- Matched funding is not a requirement for eligible organisations under the RMFEF, even under the large stream.

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

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

Rural and regional eligibility

To be eligible for the RMFEF program, your event must be delivered in [regional Victoria](#).

Your organisation must also be:

- based in rural/regional Victoria **or**
- a metropolitan organisation partnering with a rural/regional multicultural organisation. A partnership letter from your regional partner organisation must be provided with your application to be eligible for the RMFEF.

Eligibility as a rural or regional organisation is based on your organisation being located outside the metropolitan Melbourne area, as defined by Regional Development Victoria's list of [Victoria's regions](#) <<https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/victorias-regions#region-listing>>.

New and emerging priority communities

New and emerging priority communities are groups of people from humanitarian backgrounds or communities who are more likely to have higher needs. They often arrive in Australia through refugee or humanitarian programs and may face challenges as they establish their new lives, such as:

- having few or no family or support networks
- unfamiliarity with mainstream services and difficulties with accessing them
- difficulty getting funding for programs and community spaces.

Which communities are on the priority list under 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 on the [Multicultural Festivals and Events Program webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program) <<https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>>

New and emerging priority communities eligibility

Most of your members must be from one of the listed priority communities. In the application form you must select the priority community your members belong to.

Organisations will not be eligible for reduced threshold requirements, if they:

- only represent a range of multicultural communities, including some communities from the priority list, or
- only partner with communities or community organisations from the priority list.

Women, young people and LGBTIQA+ communities

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

Women, young people and LGBTIQA+ 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 LGBTIQA+ groups

Women, young people, LGBTIQA+ eligibility

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

- Women
- Young people
- LGBTIQA+

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 on the [First Peoples State relations webpage](https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/welcome-country-and-acknowledgement-traditional-owners) <<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 organisation's 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). This entity type is considered not-for-profit.
 - 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.

Note: If you are not registered with the ACNC or if you are not registered with CAV as an incorporated association, you must attach a copy of your organisation's constitution, rules or governance documents to your application to show your organisation's not-for-profit eligibility.

4. You should have no overdue final reports from previous Victorian state government funded grants (including Multicultural Affairs grants) by 31 August 2026 for applications in Round 2.

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

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/RegistrySearch/>>
- 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](#)
<<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 types 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. LGAs 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 and emerging priority community organisation or
 - a rural or regional organisation.

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.

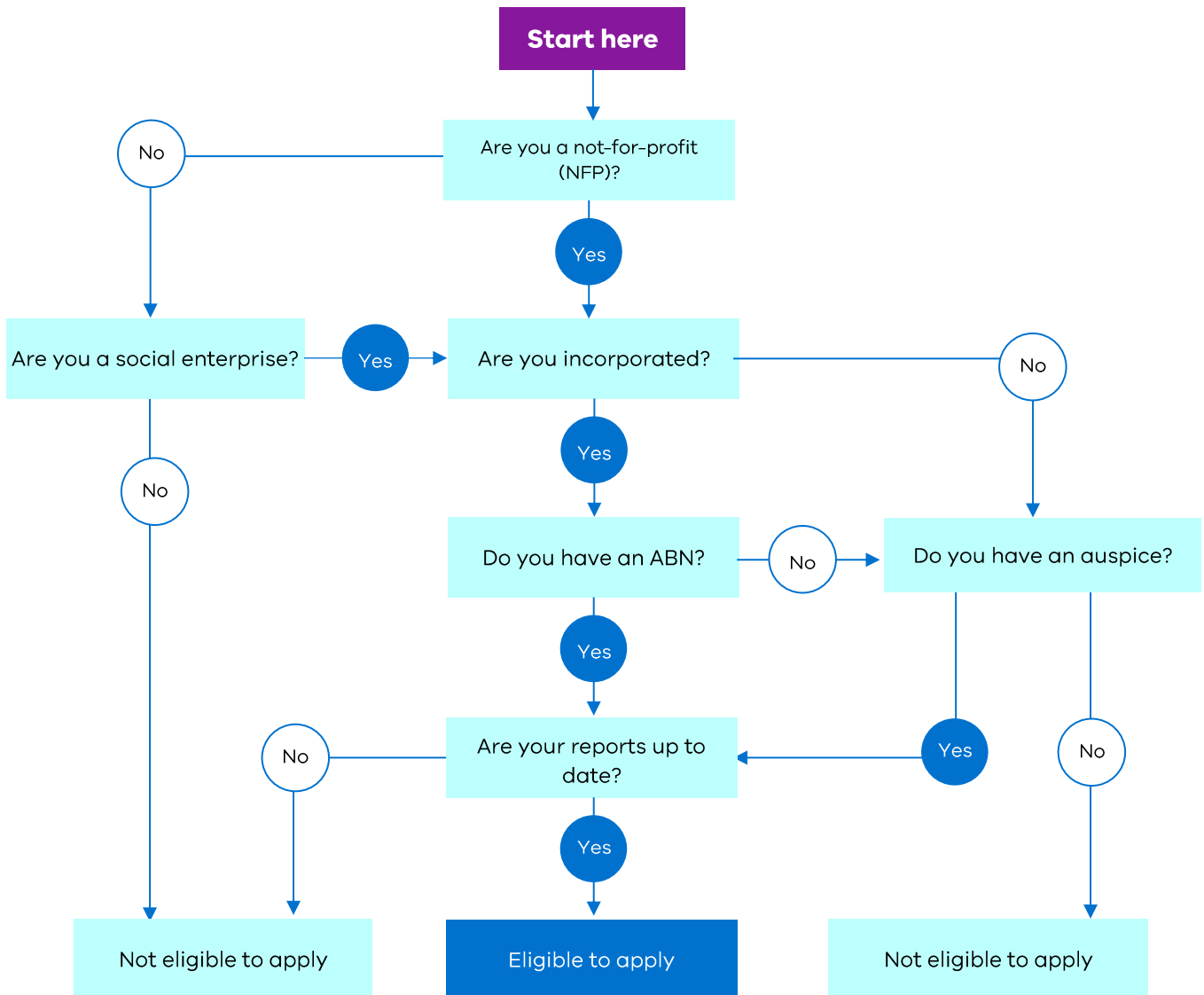
Your organisation is the grant recipient, and the auspice organisation manages the grant funding and responsibilities outlined in the agreement. A letter of support from the auspice organisation that clearly states they are auspicings your organisation **must** be included with your application.

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 an organisation’s ongoing operating costs

- events that are dependent on recurrent annual funding
- events or related deliverables funded under an election commitment
- 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 at residential settings or in private offices
- events or activities primarily funded by another state, federal or local government program
- events or activities that are 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 (for example, disposable cutlery, event décor, flowers). Only up to 15% of MFE funds can be used on this cost
- 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
- expenditure items that are already receiving funding through other Multicultural Affairs grant programs.

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 the 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 priority community	Rural and regional organisation or event
MFE objectives	The event must meet and clearly demonstrate alignment with both program objectives		
Minimum attendance	100 people	50 people	50 people
Funding amount available	Up to \$5,000		
Matched funding required?	Not required		
In-kind contributions required?	Not required		
Mandatory documents	- Auspice letter (only if using an auspice) - Organisation's constitution or foundation documents only if you are: — applying as a social enterprise or — not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) or not registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) as an incorporated association - A partnership letter (only if you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria applying for the RMFEF)		

Medium stream eligibility

Medium Stream \$5,001–\$15,000			
	Metropolitan organisation or event	New and emerging priority community	Rural and regional organisation or event
MFE Objectives	The event must meet and clearly demonstrate alignment with both program objectives		
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	
Matched funding required?	Not required		
In-kind contributions required?	Not required		
Mandatory documents	• Project plan (you must use the MFE template available on the website) • Quotes for items \$10,000 and over • Auspice letter (only if using an auspice) • Organisation’s constitution or foundation documents only if you are: — applying as a social enterprise or — not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) or not registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) as an incorporated association • A partnership letter (only if you are a metropolitan organisation holding an event in regional Victoria applying for the RMFEF)		

Large stream eligibility

Large Stream \$15,001–\$50,000			
	Metropolitan organisation or event	New and emerging priority community	Rural and regional organisation or event
MFE objectives	The event must meet and clearly demonstrate alignment with both program objectives		
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 \$20,000 for 800 people	
	Maximum of \$30,000 for 3,000 people	Maximum of \$30,000 for 1,200 people	
	Maximum of \$40,000 for 4,000 people	Maximum of \$40,000 for 1,600 people	
	Maximum of \$50,000 for 5,000+ people	Maximum of \$50,000 for 2,000 people	\$50,001 and above for 2,000+ people
Matched 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 allowed?	Yes – up to 50% of your matched funding amount	Yes – up to 100% of your matched funding amount	Not required, but allowed
Partnership required?	Yes – mandatory. You must partner with another community organisation in the planning and delivery of the event. A partnership letter that shows how your partner organisation will help deliver the event must be submitted with your application. If you are a metropolitan organisation delivering an event in rural/regional Victoria, to be eligible for the RMFEF you must partner with a rural/regional multicultural organisation and provide a partnership letter from your regional partner organisation.		
Documents you must provide	• 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 over • Partnership letter from your community partner organisation		

- Auspice letter (if using an auspice – New and Emerging Priority Community and/or Regional Multicultural Festivals and Events Fund ONLY)
- Organisation’s constitution or foundation documents only if you are:
 - applying as a social enterprise **or**
 - not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) or not registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) as an incorporated association

Matched Funding, Quotes and Partnerships explained

Matched funding (Large stream only)

The MFE program provides an opportunity for the Victorian Government to co-invest in multicultural festivals and events. Funding provided under the MFE program is considered a contribution to total event costs, and events should not rely on the contributions of this program.

Matched funding forms part of the eligibility criteria for the MFE large stream. It is not required under the small or medium stream, or for large stream applications under the RMFEF.

Your matched funding can come from your organisation and other sources, such as partners and other grants.

A portion of matched funding can be contributed in-kind (for more information see [‘In-kind contribution’ definition](#)). It is important to consider that different ratios apply. Organisations applying under the large stream will only be eligible to receive the amount of funding they have matched, according to the requirements in the large stream eligibility table (see [‘Large stream eligibility’](#)).

For example, if you are a metropolitan organisation applying for \$50,000 and can only demonstrate (through the budget section) that you can contribute \$25,000 as matched funding, you will only be considered eligible to receive up to \$25,000.

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. Up to \$10,000 of your matched funding contribution can be from in-kind support.

New and emerging priority community 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

For medium and large stream applications to be eligible, you must attach evidence of expenditure for all budget items of \$10,000 and over, where MFE program funds will be used to support the cost. Evidence of expenditure includes quotes and must be for the event that you are seeking funding for.

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 gaining access to useful networks.

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

What your partnership letter must include:

- the partner organisation's name and ABN, and be signed by someone who is authorised to sign for that organisation
- a clear description of what the partner organisation will do, including their 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
- letters from non-community organisations, such as Members of Parliament, local council representative, businesses, individuals or sole traders. Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with the following to show cross-cultural partnerships:
 - a new and emerging priority community organisation, or
 - an organisation from outside your own community.
 - Intercultural and interfaith partnerships are also strongly encouraged.

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 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	To have the best chance of being funded, your application must show how your event supports the two objectives of the program. Program objective 1: to help Victorians celebrate and preserve cultures, and share traditions We look at how well your event: • 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. Program objective 2: to encourage all Victorians to take part in cultural events and develop understanding and respect for different cultures We look at how well your event: • 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%

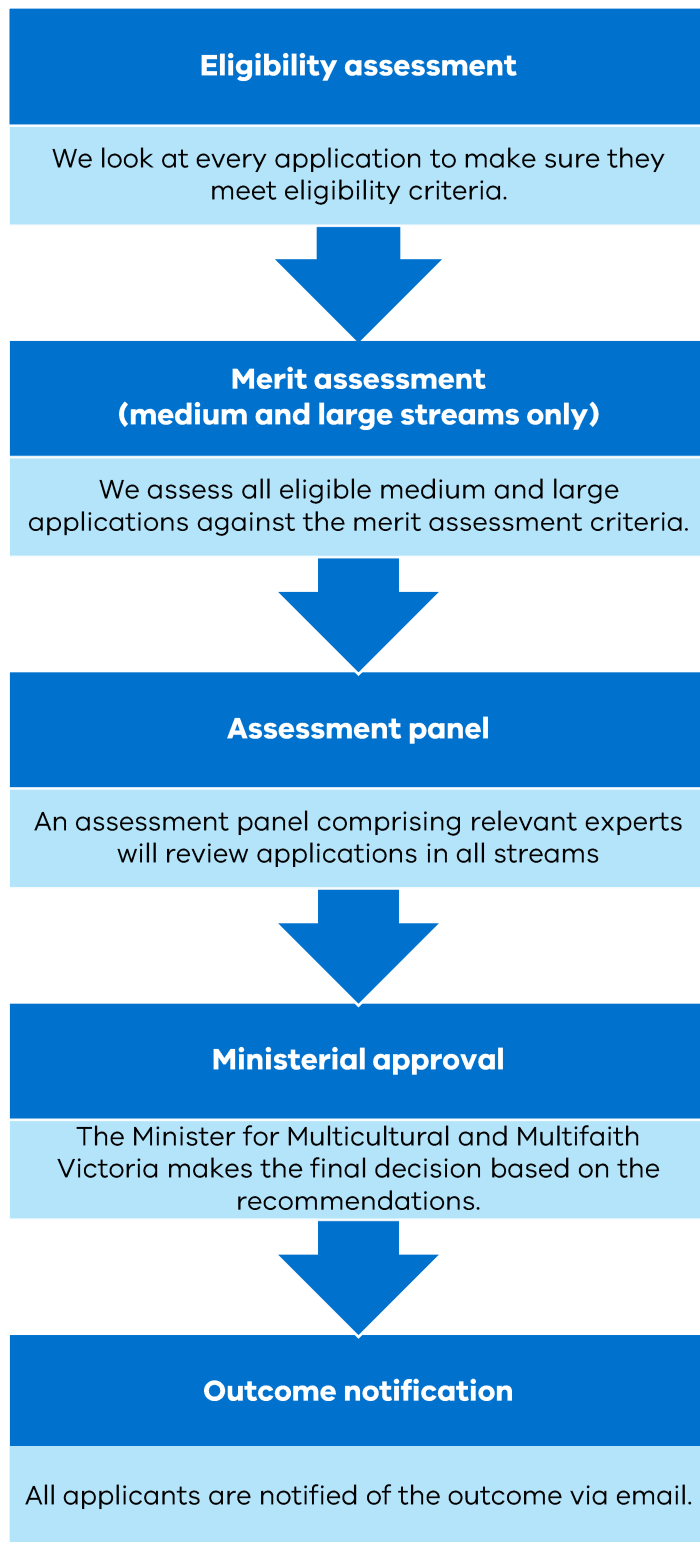
Assessment criteria	Criteria guidance	Weighting
Budget	Your budget needs to show that the event offers good value for money. The costs you list must be accurate, reasonable, and clearly linked to running your event. You must: - list all costs for your event - clearly show how you will spend the MFE Program grant money - include quotes for any item that costs \$10,000 or more if you want to use MFE Program funds for it. <u>Additional requirements for the large stream only:</u> If you are applying for the large stream, you must also: - 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	Your application must show that your organisation can successfully plan and deliver the festival or event. You must attach your project plan using the MFE template with your application. We look at the following: Your project plan: You must include a clear project plan (using the MFE template). The plan should show: - 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: You need to show that your organisation has the skills, experience or resources to run the event well. You can do this by including: - 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. Organisations are encouraged to include a list of past events and the resources they already have. Providing this will help increase the criteria score.	20%

Assessment criteria	Criteria guidance	Weighting
Engagement with priority groups	Your applications must show whether your event will mainly involve or support one of the priority groups listed below: • new and emerging priority communities (listed on page 9). You must select the priority community your organisation belongs to from the list provided in the application form • rural and regional communities • women • young people • LGBTIQ+ communities. To receive a score for this criterion, explain: • which priority group the event focuses on, and • how the event will involve or support them. For example: • 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 priority 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
- attend an information session. For available sessions, please visit the [Multicultural Festivals and Events Program webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program) <<https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>>
- submit your application through the online portal by 3pm on Monday 31 August 2026 for Round 2 applications
- only submit one application per organisation. Please note that organisations and any affiliated organisations with the same ABN can only submit one application per round. If you submit more than one application, the department will only assess the first application
- Applications should not assume they will receive funding, nor the level of funding requested. 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 only partly funded
- events previously funded are not guaranteed to receive funding, and the amount of funding may vary
- do not make commitments until you are formally notified of the outcome of your application.

Please note: we will not accept late or incomplete applications or documentation.

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 is 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](https://www.ato.gov.au) <https://www.ato.gov.au>.

Final reports

- if you receive funding, you must complete an online final report through the [Grants Gateway portal](https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/s/login/) <https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/s/login/>
- 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
- 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)
<<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 the [Multicultural Festivals and Events Program webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program)
<<https://www.vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program>>
- for information and guidance on the below topics and other resources, please visit the [Multicultural grant resources webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/applying-and-reporting-multicultural-grants)
<<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	An auspice organisation is an organisation who manages grant funding on another organisation's behalf. This will include taking responsibility to: • 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. Examples include: • 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
Matched 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 Festivals and Events
Multicultural	Racially and ethnically diverse people who live in Victoria
New and emerging priority communities	People from humanitarian backgrounds or communities who arrive in Australia who are more likely to have higher needs and who may need extra support in the settlement process. The main identifiers are: • 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 Festivals and Events Fund

Rural and regional Victoria	These are the five regions listed in the <i>Regional Development Victoria Act 2002</i>: • 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 of 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 for money	All supported costs must show good use of funding. This means the cost should be accurate, 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 ☐ No ☐
Does your event meet program objective 2?	Page 5	Yes ☐ No ☐
Is your organisation type eligible?	Page 12	Yes ☐ No ☐
Do your activities meet the program activity requirements?	Page 16	Yes ☐ No ☐
Are all event costs supported?	Page 17	Yes ☐ No ☐
Does your event meet the attendance threshold for the stream selected and the amount requested?	Small stream: Page 18 Medium stream: Page 19 Large stream: Page 20	Yes ☐ No ☐
Does your organisation have any overdue final reports?	Page 13	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached an auspice letter (if using an auspice)?	Page 13 Page 14	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached a copy of your organisation's constitution, rules or governance documents – only if you are: • applying as a social enterprise, or • not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), or • not registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) as an incorporated association	Page 13	Yes ☐ No ☐
Has the online application form been completed and submitted before 3pm on 31 August 2026 (for Round 2 applications)?		Yes ☐ No ☐

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 MFE template available online)?	Page 19 Page 24	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached quotes for items \$10,000 and over?	Page 19 Page 24	Yes ☐ No ☐
Large stream only		
Have you attached the project plan (you must use the MFE template available online)?	Page 20 Page 24	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached the Total Event Budget (you must use the MFE template available online)?	Page 20 Page 24	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached quotes for items \$10,000 and over?	Page 20 Page 24	Yes ☐ No ☐
Have you attached a partnership letter that has: - 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 organisation will do, including roles and responsibilities in planning and delivering the event?	Page 20 Page 22	Yes ☐ No ☐

