



Multicultural Capacity Building Program

2025-26

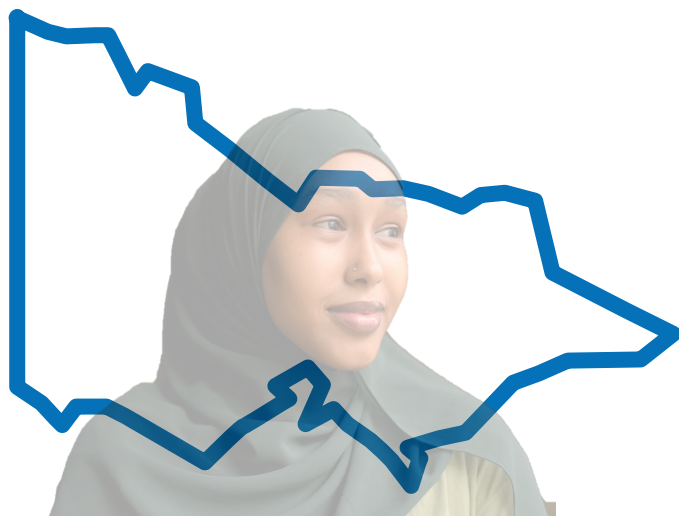
Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

Multicultural Capacity Building Program aim and objectives

The Multicultural Capacity Building Program (MCBP) provides up to \$400,000 to support multicultural community organisations in Victoria to strengthen their capacity and continue to create positive change for communities.

The program is a competitive one-year funding program that invests in Victoria's multicultural organisations.



All projects must meet one or both of these program objectives:

- enabling **strength-based capacity building** that supports organisational sustainability
- **fostering collaboration** between multicultural organisations, government and communities.

See page 4 of the program guidelines

Timelines

Open and closing dates



- **Applications open** Thursday 15 January 2026
- **Applications close** Thursday 19 February 2026 at 3pm

Grant outcomes and delivery period



- Projects must be delivered between 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2027
- Outcomes expected in May 2026

Available funding streams

The program has three funding streams to support multicultural organisations of different sizes and capacities.

Organisations can only submit one application.

SMALL STREAM	MEDIUM STREAM	LARGE STREAM
Up to \$10,000	\$10,001 to \$100,000	\$100,001 to \$400,000
<div>For emerging and established organisations that:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">reach less than 250 peoplehave an annual revenue of below \$100,000provide 2-3 mandatory documentationmust meet eligibility requirements only.	<div>For emerging and established organisations that:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">reach more than 250 peoplemust meet eligibility requirementsadditional assessment criteriaprovide 4-5 mandatory documentation.	<div>For established organisations that:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">reach more than 500 peoplemust partner with another community organisationmust meet eligibility requirementsadditional assessment criteriaprovide 6-7 mandatory documentation.

For more information see page 4 and 10-13 of the program guidelines

Organisations that can apply

To be eligible for this program, your organisation must:

1. be a multicultural organisation based and operating in Victoria **and**
2. have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) **and**
3. have no overdue final reports from previous grants by 19 February 2026 **and**
4. be a legal entity **and** a not-for-profit entity:
 - registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 as an incorporated association. This entity type is considered not-for-profit
 - registered as a company under the Corporations Act 2001 via the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)
 - incorporated through an Act of Parliament
 - eligible as a not-for-profit through your organisation's constitution, rules or governance documents.

Definition of multicultural organisation:

An organisation that is owned and managed by an ethnic, language, or cultural community that has common needs, customs, and traditions. The organisation will exist to support people from the ethnic, language or cultural group or several related ethnic groups.

Victoria's Multicultural Review

- Key action included the introduction of a social cohesion values commitment
- All organisations receiving funding from the Victorian Government will be expected to follow a simple and universal set of Victorian values, and commit to upholding social cohesion
- This action is being rolled out in stages, piloted with Multicultural Affairs (MA) grant programs before being introduced to other government grant programs

Victorian Government Values Statement

- All MA grants programs will include a new Victorian Government Values Statement, see page 2 of the MCBP guidelines
- This key document has two components:
 - Victorian Values Statement
 - Commitment to Social Cohesion
- **When applying:** your organisation must agree to uphold and promote this Statement
- **During the contracting stage:** you will be supported to understand your obligations
- **Failure to comply may constitute a breach:** this may incur consequences including suspension or repayment of funding, and termination of the contract.

Commitment to Social Cohesion

Your organisation will commit to upholding Victoria's social cohesion and will do this in your daily conduct 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.

Note: your employees, contractors and volunteers must read and understand the Victorian Values statement and this Commitment to Social Cohesion.



Eligibility criteria (all streams)

To be eligible for the program, your organisation must:

- ☐ Be a multicultural organisation based and operating in Victoria
- ☐ Have a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- ☐ Be a eligible legal entity (e.g. incorporated entities or companies)
- ☐ Be a not-for-profit organisation
- ☐ Have adequate public liability insurance
- ☐ Have no overdue reports from previous department-funded grants by 19 February 2026
- ☐ Be able to provide mandatory documents (based on your stream).

Your organisation must also agree:

- ☐ that employees, contractors, and volunteers will uphold and promote the Victorian Government Values Statement (which includes the Commitment to Social Cohesion) while delivering your project.

Mandatory documents for medium and large stream:

- ☐ Project Plan (must be completed using MCBP template)
- ☐ Quotes for items \$10,000 and over
- ☐ Partnership letter (large stream)
- ☐ Total Project Budget (large stream) (must be completed using MCBP template)

Funding priorities



The department will prioritise applications by organisations who engage with:

- new and emerging communities
- rural and regional communities

New & emerging communities

Communities who have arrived as refugees or through a humanitarian visa may face unique challenges when resettling in Australia.

Eligible communities can be found on the prioritised new and emerging communities list. List can be found at:

vic.gov.au/multicultural-capacity-building-program

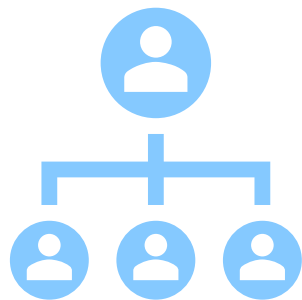
Rural and regional communities

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.

See page 19 – 21 for definitions in the program guidelines ¹¹

What activities can be funded?

All project activities must help achieve the program objectives by:



Developing your organisation's internal capacity

For example, building skills, systems, leadership and strategies to improve long-term effectiveness and impact



Supporting your organisation's daily operations to make things easier and more effective.

Your organisation is expected to identify your key strengths and areas that need improvement, and explain how the project will build on these strengths to address the greatest needs.

See page 7 of the program guidelines

Eligible activities to build your organisations' capacity



Leadership, Governance & Strategy

- Leadership training for leaders
- Building inclusive leadership and supporting people to grow as leaders
- Improving how boards work or reviewing rules and structures
- Planning for a sustainable future
- Developing risk management and emergency response plans



Partnerships and collaboration

- Building partnerships
- Sharing knowledge through networks
- Setting up communities of practice
- Working with others to use resources more effectively



Workforce development

- Training and mentoring
- Providing professional development tools
- Building skills to respond effectively in unexpected or emergency situations



Digital capability and communications

- Developing websites
- Communication planning
- Strengthening cyber security



Performance and impact

- Measuring results and conducting research
- Developing better ways to deliver services

Eligible activities to support your organisation



Operational costs

- Support for day-to-day expenses that keep the organisation running (e.g. rent, utilities, staffing, project management and administration costs)
- Costs related to implementing safety or wellbeing measures



Professional services

- Access to expert advice and support to strengthen operations
- Plan for growth, including legal, financial, consultancy and business planning services

Note: These are **examples only** to help you think about what might be possible. If your project and activities align with the program objectives, we encourage you to apply, even if it is not listed here.



Equipment

- Purchasing tools and equipment to deliver services effectively, including IT systems, office equipment, and other items that enhance core functions

Note: Equipment must be essential to service delivery or organisational operations, with a maximum funding of \$5,000 per item. These items should be fit-for-purpose and reasonably priced.



Volunteer management

- Activities that support and sustain volunteer engagement, including recruiting, training and keeping volunteers
- Recognising volunteer contributions
- Providing resources and wellbeing support for volunteers during unexpected or emergency situations

What could your project look like?

You can apply for one or several activities – whichever suits your organisation best.

Your project must either help build your organisation's capacity or support its day-to-day operations.

SMALL STREAM

\$5,000 application example

Great for focused, low-cost improvements.

- Run a leadership workshop for staff or volunteers
- Receive advice on improving your cybersecurity
- Develop a communications plan to improve how you share information
- Buy essential equipment (e.g., laptops, printer).

MEDIUM STREAM

\$25,000 application example

Ideal for strengthening systems or scaling up support.

- Review your governance and create a strategic plan
- Provide training and mentoring for your team
- Upgrade your digital tools
- Cover rent and utilities to support your operations.
- Implement community-benefit programs (e.g., initiatives that increase referrals to mainstream services).

LARGE STREAM

\$150,000 application example

Best for big-picture projects that build long-term capacity in partnership with smaller organisation/s.

- Transform your organisation's structure and leadership
- Build partnerships or networks to share knowledge
- Develop a workforce capability framework
- Create a system to measure your impact and improve services.

See page 8 of the program guidelines 15

What cannot be funded?



Funds cannot be used for:

- Public Liability Insurance and other required insurances
- retrospective costs for activities that were started before funding approval
- activities and programs extending beyond the MCBP period
- capital works including permanent structures or anything that increases the value of your facility
- activities that are solely for fundraising activities
- activities taking place outside of Victoria
- international or interstate travel
- gift cards
- purchase of land
- political activities.

Mandatory documentation required

SMALL STREAM

Up to \$10,000

- ☐ Confirmation of your reach up to 250 people (i.e. letter or attendance list)
- ☐ Recent financial statements
- ☐ Constitution or foundation documents (only required for social enterprise or companies)

MEDIUM STREAM

\$10,001 to \$100,000

- ☐ Confirmation of your reach more than 250 people (i.e. letter or attendance list)
- ☐ Signed financial statements for 2022-23 and 2023-24*
- ☐ Constitution or foundation documents (only required for social enterprise or companies)
- ☐ Project plan on MCBP template
- ☐ Quotes for any budgeted items that cost \$10,000 or more.

LARGE STREAM

\$100,001 to \$400,000

- ☐ Confirmation of your reach more than 500 people (i.e. letter or attendance list)
- ☐ Signed financial statements for 2022-23 and 2023-24*
- ☐ Constitution or foundation documents (only required for social enterprise or companies)
- ☐ Project plan on MCBP template
- ☐ Quotes for any budgeted items that cost \$10,000 or more.
- ☐ Total budget on MCBP template
- ☐ Partnership letter

For more information see page 4 and 10-13 of the program guidelines

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*Audited financial statements required if your annual revenue is more than \$500,000

Assessment Criteria for medium and large stream

Assessment criterion	Weighting
Alignment with the program objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What current issues or challenges has your organisation identified? Why is the project needed? • What activities will your project include and how will you deliver them? Describe the proposed activities and what existing resources or skills will you use or develop? • What changes or improvements do you expect this project will bring to your organisation? How will this help your organisation in the longer term? • Who will be involved in the project? 	30%
Demonstrated need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What evidence or data shows this project is needed? (For example, community input, research, or local data) • How will you reach and engage with the community you want to support? • Project Plan documentation (<u>must use MCBP template</u>) 	25%
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What expected benefits will this project create for your organisation and the communities you serve at the end of this grant period? • How will your project help you work better with other multicultural organisation/(s), governments, and/or communities? • How will you measure success and track progress? • Partnership letter (<u>for large stream only</u>) 	25%
Value for public money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget application form and quotations • Total budget document (<u>must use MCBP template</u>) (<u>for large stream only</u>) 	20%

Submitting your application

To make sure your application is accepted:

- **Log on** and access application questions through the Grants Gateway portal.
- **Start early** and save your application as you go.
- **Be aware** of application closing time and date, **19 February 2026 at 3.00pm** – no extensions permitted.
- **Read the program guidelines** to understand the eligibility of your organisation and event.
- **Allow enough time** to answer all the questions and upload the correct documents.
- **Complete all questions and attach all mandatory documents.** If anything is missing, your application will be ineligible and will not be assessed.
- Not all organisations that apply will receive funding.
- Some organisations may receive less than the amount requested.
- **Use templates** found on the website: vic.gov.au/multicultural-capacity-building-program
- **Submit your online application form by 3:00pm 19 February 2026.**



Important:

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

If you submit more than one application, only the first application will be considered.

Resources

Available on the MCBP website <vic.gov.au/multicultural-capacity-building-program> to help you develop your application :

- [Program Guidelines](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Templates for medium and large stream (project plan and total project budget document)
- Information sessions (register for upcoming sessions)
- To check if your organisation is up to date on reporting requirements, view your current grants in the Grants Gateway at: <https://grantsgateway.dffh.vic.gov.au/s/login/>
- For more information, you can contact the Multicultural Affairs Partnerships team by email at MA.capacitybuilding@dpc.vic.gov.au or call on 1300 112 755.



Thank you

MA.capacitybuilding@dpc.vic.gov.au

1300 112 755

vic.gov.au/multicultural-capacity-building-program

dpc.vic.gov.au