



OFFICIAL

Critical Support for Multicultural Communities – Independent Multicultural Media – Transformation and Sustainability grant opportunity

Feedback for applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Critical Support for Multicultural Communities – Independent Multicultural Media – Transformation and Sustainability grant opportunity. We appreciate the time and effort you put into your application.

The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) is providing the following general feedback for grant applicants to support future grant applications.

Summary of the grant opportunity

Application period: opened 7 November 2025 and closed 11 December 2025.

Applications received: 126

Summary of the round: The Independent Multicultural Media - Transformation and Sustainability grant opportunity provided up to \$10.0 million in 2025–26 through a one-off open-competitive process to eligible Australian small-to-medium independent multicultural media outlets. Funding was provided to Australia’s independent multicultural media sector to support the implementation of innovative business practices, build capacity, and strengthen sustainability and resilience.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- Build capacity to strengthen resilience of Australia’s independent multicultural media outlets.
- Support activities and projects that increase the sustainability of Australia’s independent multicultural media outlets.
- Assist with the delivery of media content that facilitates constructive collaboration, builds trust and strengthens social cohesion, while increasing tolerance and understanding between individuals and groups in Australia.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are for Australian independent multicultural media outlets to:

- Increase capacity to operate and deliver multicultural media to their communities.
- Transition to sustainable new media and business practices to enhance survival and longevity.
- Create new and improved independent multicultural media offerings across Australia, including digital and online.

Conflict of interest management for assessment staff

All Community Grants Hub and Departmental staff were required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest before participating in the assessment process. Where a conflict was identified, appropriate steps were taken to manage it, which could include:

- Excluding the team member from undertaking assessment related to the affected application(s).
- Assigning the application(s) to an alternate assessor.
- Documenting the conflict and the management action in accordance with the Department's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Selection process

The Community Grants Hub and the Department reviewed all applications to confirm they met the eligibility and compliance requirements for the grant opportunity. This information was provided to the Department's Grant Opportunity Delegate, who made the final decision on whether each identified grant application met those requirements. Grant applicants whose applications were identified as ineligible or non-compliant were notified of the outcome in writing by the Community Grants Hub.

Following completion of these checks, the Department undertook the preliminary assessment of all eligible and compliant applications through an open-competitive grant process. This involved assessing applications against the published selection criteria and any additional requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Following the preliminary assessment, the Department convened a Selection Advisory Panel comprising subject matter experts whose role was to review the assessed applications, provide advice, and make final funding recommendations to decision maker.

In undertaking their role on the Selection Advisory Panel, panel members were required to consider:

- Whether applications met all eligibility and compliance requirements listed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- How well responses addressed the published assessment criteria.
- The overall quality of applications compared to others received.
- The completeness and relevance of supporting attachments.
- Whether the proposed project demonstrated value for money.
- How the proposed activities aligned with the objectives of the grant opportunity.
- Any risks identified and the strategies proposed to manage those risks.

Selection results

There was strong interest in this grant opportunity, and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the published assessment criteria. Applicants were notified of the outcome of their application in writing at the end of the selection process.

The following feedback is provided to assist grant applicants in understanding what comprised a strong application and what quality responses looked like against the requirements of the grant opportunity.

Criterion 1: Alignment with Grant Opportunity Objectives and Outcomes

Applicants were required to describe their proposed project and how it aligned with the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- detailed the business need they sought to address through their project
- outlined the nature and size of the business improvements that were expected to be achieved by the project
- explained how the proposed project/activity contributed to the transition and/or sustainability of their business operations.

Strong applicants:

- addressed all sub-criteria and provided clear and convincing arguments supported by clearly explaining the business need, outlining the nature and size of the business improvements and how the proposed project would directly benefit their business
- explained how the funding would contribute to the transition and/or sustainability of their business operations.

Criterion 2: Efficient, Effective, Economical and Ethical Use of Relevant Money

Applicants were required to describe how they ensured the efficient and economical use of grant funds when completing their project.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- provided a budget, using the mandatory template, that outlined how they planned to spend the grant funding to deliver the proposed activity
- demonstrated how the proposal achieved high-quality outcomes in a cost-effective way to meet the identified business need
- explained how their proposal was feasible and viable given the timeframes, budget and resourcing constraints.

Strong applicants:

- addressed all sub-criteria and provided a clear and detailed budget using the mandatory template. The budget clearly explained the items funding was being sought for and how the cost is appropriate to the scale and nature of the activity
- clearly explained the projects viability considering timeframes, budget and resourcing constraints.

Criterion 3: Project Governance and Capability to Deliver the Activity

Applicants were required to describe their organisational experience, governance and capability to deliver the project.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- provided an assessment of project risks and mitigations, such as risks to delivering on time and within budget
- outlined project governance arrangements to manage the grant funds, including ensuring the funds were spent appropriately
- detailed how the projects performance would be measured, and what outcomes of success looked like (for example, circulation data, audience surveys, or other research used to assess performance).

Strong applicants:

- addressed all sub-criteria and provided a clear assessment of project risks and mitigations, providing a clear picture of the project governance structure in place to manage the project
- clearly articulated how the projects performance would be measured and what success looks like.

Tips for future applications

- Start early and read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines carefully.
- Before starting an application, ensure that your organisation is eligible to apply for the grant opportunity.
- Ensure that you do not seek funding for ineligible items or expenditure listed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- Check eligibility and gather required evidence before drafting your application.
- Provide complete, relevant attachments and references.
- Address each assessment criterion directly and clearly.
- Explain how your proposed activities deliver outcomes and demonstrate value for money.
- Identify risks and outline strategies for managing them.

Next Steps

- Individual feedback will **not** be provided for this grant opportunity.
- If you would like to know about upcoming grants opportunities for funding, you can [register](https://www.grants.gov.au/RegisteredUser/Register)¹ to receive email alerts with [GrantConnect](#) the Australian Government's grants information system.

¹ <https://www.grants.gov.au/RegisteredUser/Register>