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## Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Program Multicultural Grassroots Initiatives - Round 2

### Feedback for applicants

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Thank you for your interest in the Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Program Multicultural Grassroots Initiatives (MGI) - Round 2 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 10 November 2025 and closed 5 December 2025.

**Applications received:** 740

**Summary of the round:** The MGI grant opportunity provides funding to community-led grassroots organisations that embrace Australia's multicultural diversity and help multicultural communities to become an active part of Australia's economic and social development.

For this grant opportunity, up to \$5 million GST exclusive was available across the 2025–26 and 2026–27 financial years.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- enhance the capacity of multicultural community led grassroots organisations to foster a cohesive multicultural Australia
- increase understanding of racial, religious and cultural diversity
- foster integration through increased levels of social participation by culturally and linguistically diverse Australians
- foster a sense of community and belonging among culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- multicultural community-led grassroots organisations have increased capacity to engage in government grant funding processes and support a cohesive multicultural society
- increased tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity and reduced instances of discrimination and racism
- increased rates of social participation by multicultural community members
- increased rates of culturally diverse Australians expressing a sense of belonging.

## **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 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 Hub undertook a 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.

The Department then undertook additional eligibility checks to determine whether applicants met the definition of a multicultural grassroots organisation as outlined in section 4.2 of the guidelines.

Following the preliminary and additional assessments, the Department convened a Selection Advisory Panel. The Selection Advisory Panel was made up of subject matter experts whose role was to review the assessed applications, provide advice, and make final recommendations to the Decision Maker.

Before participating in the assessment process, all Selection Advisory Panel members were required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interests were declared.

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

- whether the application fully, partially or did not meet the selection criteria
- the extent to which the proposed grant activity would contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives of the MGI grant opportunity
- the level of need of the target community the grant activity sought to support
- reasonable distribution of the types of activities funded, delivery locations and recipient communities
- whether and how proposals would build understanding between communities and build intercultural links across communities in Australia
- the risks that the applicant or project posed for the Department of Home Affairs
- the relative value of the grant sought

- whether the application represented ‘value with relevant money’, which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations, both financial and non-financial, including but not limited to:
  - the quality of the project proposal and activities
  - whether the proposal is fit for purpose in contributing to government objectives
  - whether the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved
  - the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

## **Selection Results**

There was strong interest in this grant opportunity, and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicant(s) 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 period.

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.

## **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

### **Read the supporting information before applying:**

It is important to read all available information provided about MGI when applying for funding, especially the grant opportunity documentation published on the GrantConnect website when the round is open.

The grant opportunity documentation is specific to each MGI grant opportunity and contains important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, timeframes and how to apply.

The application form included supporting information about the mandatory information that was required by the department to complete the assessment process.

### **Eligibility, attachments and evidence:**

In addition to standard eligibility requirements, to be considered eligible for a grant, applicants had to meet the definition of a multicultural grassroots organisation, meaning the organisation must have:

- a core purpose to represent and promote the interests of, or provide support and deliver services and programs to, culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- be a not-for-profit organisation or charity, determined by:
  - registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC), or
  - a governing document with a relevant not-for-profit clause.
- revenue in either the 2023–24 or 2024–25 financial year of less than \$500,000
- a maximum of 3 paid, full-time employees in either the 2023–24 or 2024–25 financial year.

The application form and guidelines detailed the documentation required to demonstrate eligibility. Common issues which resulted in applicants being deemed ineligible included:

- documentation did not clearly articulate the organisation's core purpose, or did not demonstrate a core purpose related to supporting culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- organisations indicated they are registered with the ACNC when no such registration exists
- no clear unequivocal evidence of not for profit status provided
- financial information not being provided for the requested financial years, or only provided for part of the year when a full 12 months was required.

### **Criterion 1: Need – 75%**

- Described who their activity would support and identified their needs.
- Described how their activity would help the target community.
- Identified how their activity contributed to the grant program objectives, including if and how it would build understanding between communities and build intercultural links across communities in Australia.

#### **What strong applications did well:**

- Clearly identified the target groups by specifying exactly which multicultural communities and groups the activity would support.
- Clearly identified the target groups' needs, supported by local experience or consultation.
- Community needs were linked to practical outcomes, explaining how the activity would directly address their identified needs.
- Explained how the proposed activity aligned with program objectives and outcomes.

#### **Common gaps observed:**

- Limited clarity about the target community, such as vague descriptions or insufficient detail about who would benefit and what their specific needs were.
- Weak or general explanations of impact, with activities described but not clearly linked to how they would address the identified needs of the target community.
- Insufficient alignment with program objectives, where applicants did not clearly demonstrate how their activities supported the grant's stated goals.
- Minimal focus on intercultural outcomes, including little or no explanation of how the activity would build understanding between different communities or create meaningful intercultural connections beyond a single group.
- Lack of evidence or examples, making it difficult to assess how proposed activities would realistically contribute to social cohesion and program outcomes.

### **Criterion 2: Capability – 25%**

- Identified key skills their organisation has to effectively implement their proposed activity.
- Identified their connections to the target community.

- Identified strategies to ensure relevant community groups participated in their grant activity.
- Identified other organisations or stakeholders they would work with to deliver their activity.
- Described similar activities their organisation had delivered in the past.

## What strong applications did well:

- Demonstrated relevant organisational experience, expertise and resources to deliver the activity effectively, including the skills and capacity to engage with the target community.
- Showed a strong and direct connection to the target community through prior work, partnerships and ongoing engagement.
- Outlined clear and culturally appropriate engagement strategies, including outreach and partnership approaches designed to involve the target community.
- Identified relevant partners or stakeholders and explained how collaboration supported delivery of the activity.
- Highlighted previous successful activities similar in scope and target group, demonstrating experience and the ability to achieve outcomes.

## Common gaps observed:

- Broad statements provided about organisational skills without clearly demonstrating how these skills enable delivery of the proposed activity or linking them to specific tasks required.
- General descriptions of community links without clear evidence of ongoing engagement, depth of relationships, or demonstrated understanding of the target community's needs.
- Generic participation strategies lacking tailored approaches that reflect the cultural, linguistic or practical needs of the target community, making it difficult to determine how meaningful engagement would be supported.
- Listed potential partners without clearly outlining each partner's role, contribution or relevance, making it unclear how collaboration would support activity delivery.
- Descriptions of previous activities frequently lacked detail on outcomes, relevance to the proposed activity, or lessons learned, limiting the ability to determine organisational experience and capability.

## Tips for Future Applications

- Start early and read the **Grant Opportunity Guidelines** carefully.
- 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](#)<sup>1</sup> to receive email alerts with [GrantConnect](#) the Australian Government's grants information system.

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