



Celebrate Together Grants 2026-2027 Festivals and Events Funding Guidelines



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

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Foreword



As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I am committed to supporting activities that celebrate our state's cultural diversity and showcase who we are as South Australians.

Across the state, festivals and events play a vital role in bringing people of all ages together.

They are also a great way for multicultural communities to share their cultures, customs and traditions with all South Australians.

I am delighted to launch these **Celebrate Together Grants** to support South Australia's multicultural organisations to host festivals and events that celebrate multiculturalism.

If you are an eligible multicultural organisation, I encourage you to apply for Celebrate Together Grants funding to support your festival or event project in 2026-27.

The State Government looks forward to supporting you and working with you to celebrate our proud, multicultural state!

Hon Zoe Bettison MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

About Celebrate Together Grants

The **Celebrate Together Grants** are administered by Multicultural Affairs within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

The grants provide one-off funding annually to eligible multicultural organisations for festivals and events, which celebrate multiculturalism and diversity and support an inclusive and cohesive society.

There are two categories of grants under the **Celebrate Together Grants**:

- **Large Grants** from \$5001 (Five thousand and one dollars only) to \$30 000 (Thirty thousand dollars only) are available to eligible multicultural organisations for festivals and events to be delivered within 12 months, commencing in July 2026. There are matched funding requirements for applicants requesting *Large Grants*.
- **Small Grants** of up to \$5000 (Five thousand dollars only). The first round will be for events held between 1 July 2026 and 31 December 2026 and the second round will be for events held between 1 January 2027 and 30 June 2027.

Multicultural Affairs (DPC) will accept one application for each round of the **Celebrate Together Grants** per organisation per year. Organisations with regional offices can submit one application per regional office.

Key multicultural service providers, who have a direct responsibility working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, can apply up to two times per round, as a lead agency in partnership with one or more multicultural community organisations.

**Applications for Large Grants and Small Grants (Round 1)
open on 1 December 2025 and close 22 February 2026 at 11pm**

**Applications for Small Grants (Round 2) open on 1 July 2026
and close 31 August 2026 at 11pm**

Outcomes

The **Celebrate Together Grants** invests in multicultural organisations to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- increase understanding of the culturally diverse community in which we live
- celebrate and showcase the culture and customs of South Australia's diverse multicultural communities with the wider community
- build a visible profile to highlight the unique cultural brand of South Australia
- support new and emerging communities to increase their skills and experience through delivering events
- foster partnerships (financial or non-financial) between culturally diverse communities and other sectors through shared hosting of festivals and events.

Funding categories

There are two categories of grants available in 2026-27: **Large Grants** and **Small Grants**.

Funding category	Funding available	Rounds opening and closing dates	For events held between	Eligible festivals and events
Large Grants	\$5001 to \$30 000	1 December 2025 – 22 February 2026	1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027	A major festival or event that will attract significant attendance, celebrate and showcase the culture and customs of your organisation’s community, and encourage participation of the wider South Australian community. Applications must have matched funding
Small Grants (Round 1)	Up to \$5000	1 December 2025 – 22 February 2026	1 July 2026 – 31 December 2026	A smaller festival or event that will reach your organisation’s community. Events that encourage participation of the wider South Australian community will also be considered favourably.
Small Grants (Round 2)	Up to \$5000	1 July 2026 – 31 August 2026	1 January 2027 – 30 June 2027	

Large Grant matched funding requirements

Applicants requesting a *Large Grant*, of more than \$5000, must contribute at least one dollar for every dollar of South Australian Government funding, up to a maximum amount of \$30 000 for a major festival or event.

Evidence of available matched funding must be provided by applicants as part of their applications (e.g. a recent bank statement, grant approval, confirmation of partnership contribution such as a signed sponsorship agreement). In-kind support and discounts/donations are not eligible matched funding contributions.

Eligibility

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for funding, multicultural organisations must:

- be non-government, not-for-profit and
 - incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, or
 - an Australian Public Company Limited by Guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001*, or
 - a Statutory Authority established through an Act, or
 - registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission with a comparable legal status
- have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN)
- provide satisfactory evidence that their core purpose is to deliver initiatives, services or support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities in South Australia
- be South Australian based.

Multicultural Affairs (DPC) will accept one application per round of the **Celebrate Together Grants** per organisation. Organisations with regional offices can submit one application per regional office.

Key multicultural service providers, who have a direct responsibility working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, can apply up to two times per round, as a lead agency in partnership with one or more multicultural community organisations.

Who is not eligible?

The following are ineligible for funding:

- non-multicultural organisations
- organisations that have outstanding obligations for previously awarded grants
- educational institutions or related representative bodies, e.g. schools and/or their parents' associations, colleges, universities and for-profit childcare centres
- individuals or organisations applying on behalf of an individual
- for-profit organisations or private companies
- Commonwealth, state or local government department and agencies
- organisations that are the responsibility of another government department
- organisations that have been incorporated for less than one year
- organisations in receipt of existing multi-year event funding for the same event
- unincorporated Associations.

What can be funded?

Funding can be used for eligible expenses that directly relate to the coordination, management and delivery of the festival or event within South Australia per application.

The following can be funded:

- venue hire (hall hire fees)
- equipment hire (lighting/ sound/audio visual equipment hire or catering equipment hire)
- staging hire
- marquee / stall / table / chair hire
- traditional costumes for performances
- security guards
- event advertising and marketing such as flyers, booklets and posters
- framed certificates and trophies for presentations
- cleaning materials
- printing of history books
- event public liability insurance (maximum of \$250)
- catering (food) (maximum amounts apply) *

*For small grants up to \$5,000, a maximum of \$1,000 or 20% of the eligible grant, whichever is lower; and for large grants between \$5,001 to \$30,000 a maximum of \$3,000, or 10% of the eligible grant, whichever is lower.

What applications will not be supported?

The following will not be supported:

- retrospective funding for festivals or events that are held before July 2026
- to supplement the recurrent or ongoing costs of an existing organisation
- activities that may be funded by or are the core responsibility of other state or Commonwealth government departments
- activities primarily aimed at meeting religious or political advocacy that do not advance the interests of an inclusive and cohesive Australian society
- engaging in, or promoting/demonstrating, activities that are deemed unlawful
- engaging in, or promoting/demonstrating, activities that may be a risk to public safety
- engaging in, or promoting/demonstrating, activities that have potential to cause damage to the Government Parties reputation
- funds or items to distribute to other bodies or individuals
- funding for alcohol, beverages and single use items
- funding for interstate or overseas artists, performers, facilitators or speakers
- funding for activities undertaken interstate or overseas
- funding for sporting competitions, digital campaigns and digital events
- prizes, competitions, donations, sponsorships or gift cards/vouchers
- volunteer honorariums, petrol expenses or other reimbursements
- marketing and promotion of organisation or existing services
- to purchase or lease buildings or land
- purchase of equipment (e.g. sound systems, lighting, catering equipment, stages, computers, photocopiers, vehicles)

- travel expenses (e.g. accommodation, flights, taxi vouchers and metro cards)
- expenses paid by cash

How to apply?

- Carefully read these guidelines before you apply.
- Check that your organisation is eligible to apply. If you are unsure, please contact the Multicultural Grants Team on 1300 239 468.
- Organisations not registered for GST must include GST in their grant request. Organisations registered for GST must NOT include GST in their grant request.
- Complete and submit your application online at www.multicultural.sa.gov.au, by the closing date and time. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Following receipt of your initial application, Multicultural Affairs may request you submit further documentation.

Supporting documentation required

- copy of your organisation's **Constitution** as stamped and approved by Consumer and Business Services
- minutes from the most recent **Annual General Meeting** including all attachments such as President's report, Treasurers report and election of members (must be within last eighteen months of round close date)
- most recent end of year **financial report** showing assets, annual income and expenditure (must be within last two years of round close date)
- **detailed quotes** from supplier for all items
- evidence of **public liability** insurance for event or annual (must include the name of the event) certificate of currency and schedule
- information about **grant funding** received by your organisation from other entities (most recent financial year)
- **support letters** from partnering South Australian incorporated not for profit agencies, if applicable
- **endorsement letters or award recognition testimonials** from a verifiable source.

In addition, applicants requesting a *Large Grant* (more than \$5,000), must provide

- **Project Plan** – providing an outline of how you plan to deliver your festival or event. For example, a list of activities and tasks involved in coordinating your festival or event and when each will be completed.
- **evidence of funding source(s)** to meet the matched funding requirement (e.g. a recent bank statement, grant approval, or confirmation of partnership contribution such as a signed sponsorship agreement).

How are applications assessed?

Stage one – application screening

Once the round has closed, the applications are screened to check that:

- the applicant organisation and project are eligible
- the application has been completed in full and all supporting documentation has been provided
- the applicant does not have any outstanding obligations for previously awarded grants.

Applications that do not meet stage one requirements will not progress to stage two.

Stage two – assessment against criteria

Applications will be assessed on merit using the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Community need and outcomes	<p>Does the application describe clearly the population and membership of the cultural group/s that will participate in the festival or event?</p> <p>Does the cultural group/s have a specific need for this festival or event? (e.g. Anniversary)</p> <p>Does the application demonstrate the extent to which the festival or event will celebrate and showcase the culture and customs of one or more of South Australia's diverse multicultural communities with the wider community?</p> <p>How will this event benefit the community?</p>
Connection to the wider community	<p>Is there evidence that the event will be promoted to other multicultural organisations and communities to be involved?</p> <p>Is there evidence that two or more multicultural organisations will partner to deliver the festival/event?</p> <p>Is there evidence of existing partnerships between the organisations applying?</p>
New and emerging communities	<p>Does the organisation cater for a community that has recently arrived in Australia? Refer to Glossary for further information.</p>
Organisational capacity	<p>Does the organisation have capacity to carry out the proposed project?</p> <p>Engagement with a quality improvement program will be considered favourably (e.g. Australian Service Excellence Standards).</p> <p>Does the application include all the required documents?</p>

Criteria	Description
	<p>For applicants requesting <i>Large Grants</i>, does the application demonstrate the festival or event is supported by a comprehensive Project Plan?</p> <p>Does the organisation have an inclusive culture and respectful relationship between office bearers?</p> <p>How well has the organisation performed in the past, in relation to meeting its aims and objectives and completing previous grants?</p>
Public interest and safety	<p>Does the organisation demonstrate community and cultural harmony?</p> <p>Does the organisation or event impose a threat to public safety?</p> <p>Does the organisations constitution refer to political alignment?</p> <p>Has the organisation recently participated in any political activities that do not advance the interest of an inclusive and cohesive Australian society?</p>
Financial need	<p>Does the organisation require the funding to carry out the proposed event?</p> <p>Does the organisation have the capacity to gain revenue from the event?</p>
Value for money	<p>Is there evidence that the project has been costed realistically and there are valid quotes?</p> <p>Is the cost proportionate to the number of people that will benefit?</p> <p>Is there any in kind assistance or complementary funding?</p>
Whole program funding distribution	<p>The extent to which funding the festival or event contributes to an equitable allocation/balance of funding across our diverse multicultural communities of South Australia</p>

Notification

All decisions are final and there is no appeal process.

Please note that many applications are received, and the process of selection is competitive. Each application is considered on its merits, and it is not always possible to fund all applications. Funding is not automatic and should not be anticipated.

All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications.

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact the Multicultural Grants Team on 1300 239 468 to receive feedback on their application.

Funding agreement

Successful applicants will receive an agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the funding provided.

All applicants will be required to sign the agreement and comply with its conditions, which will include requirements to:

- expend the grant funds within the grant term and only on the approved budget items
- report on how you have spent the money provided, and total project costs for *Large Grants*
- measure and report on the outcomes from the funded project
- retain receipts for all purchased items
- provide receipts for all approved budget expenditure (payments must not be made in cash)
- evidence of matched funding expenditure for *Large Grants*
- provide a copy of public liability insurance – a minimum of \$1 million or as required in your agreement
- refrain from the sale, use or display of toy or replica weapons, including at the event/festival
- seek prior approval for all printed materials, including without limit, banners, flags, signage, branded marketing collateral and menus, that will be used and/or displayed at the event, prior to the event date
- appropriately acknowledge Multicultural Affairs, Department of the Premier and Cabinet as a funding source for the project
- have a bank account within South Australia in the name of the organisation.

Payment will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Conflict of Interest	A conflict of interest situation arises when a Committee member's duty to their organisation clashes with their duties elsewhere, such as business, workplace, family or friends, or even to the business or personal interests of their family or friends.
Culturally and linguistically diverse communities	Culturally and linguistically diverse refers to people from migrant and refugee backgrounds within the South Australian community. The term acknowledges that groups and individuals differ according to language, religion and spirituality, racial backgrounds and ethnicity.
Key multicultural service providers	Organisations with paid staff, quality assurance accreditation, and demonstrated experience in delivering training and/or capacity building, that provide support and deliver services and programs to other multicultural organisations.

Term	Definition
Multicultural organisation	For an organisation to be defined 'multicultural', the Department of the Premier and Cabinet must be satisfied that the organisation's core purpose is to deliver initiatives, services or support for one or more culturally and linguistically diverse communities in South Australia.
New and emerging communities	<p>People from new and emerging communities are sometimes identified as higher-need or at-risk due to the length of time they have spent in refugee camps and the additional resources and support they may need to address the settlement challenges they face. New and emerging communities are those:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a small population • where most members are recent arrivals to Australia • where most members entered through Australia's humanitarian program • lacking established family networks, support systems, community structures and resources compared with established communities.
Partnerships	Financial or non-financial collaborations between two or more organisations to deliver the project.
South Australian Based	A registered South Australian business address, and if registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission the organisation is listed as operating in South Australia.

Disclaimer

At the time of production, details contained within these pages were accurate. Applicants are encouraged to check with Multicultural Affairs on any materials which need clarification.

For more information:

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