

Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program 2025-26 Guidelines

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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present Custodians of the Land upon which we meet and gather.

Definitions

What is cultural and linguistic diversity?

This Grants Program refers to cultural and linguistic diversity as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

“Groups and individuals who differ according to religion, language and ethnicity and whose ancestry is other than Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Anglo Saxon or Anglo Celtic.” (ABS 2016 Census).

Who are new and emerging communities?

New and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse communities are those who have recently settled or are in the process of establishing themselves in Tasmania.

New and emerging communities have distinct culturally and linguistically diverse identities, and they may be in the process of growing their presence and infrastructure in Tasmania.

Key dates

Applications must be received by 2pm on 11 March 2026.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Description	Date
Program opens	2pm, 12 December 2025
Program closes	2pm, 11 March 2026
Notification of Program Outcomes (subject to change)	April 2026
Funding provided	By mid-June 2026
When your event must be finished by	30 June 2027
When your final report and acquittal will be due	31 July 2027

About the Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program 2025-26

In 2025, the Tasmanian Government released Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-2029 (the Action Plan).

The Action Plan reflects the Tasmanian Government's commitment to a harmonious, inclusive and respectful multicultural island where all Tasmanians belong, and are enabled to contribute and achieve.

The Action Plan commits to delivering the Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program (the Grants Program) for two years, and the Grants Program was initially delivered in 2024-25.

The 2025-26 Grants Program provides total funding of \$40,000 to support new and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse communities to hold events in Tasmania that celebrate significant cultural traditions and bring people together to celebrate diversity.

Applicants under the 2025-26 Grants Program should demonstrate how their event will achieve the following outcomes:

- Bring Tasmanians together to celebrate the cultures of our diverse communities and share traditions.
- Increase understanding of the diverse cultures within the Tasmanian community.
- Promote social cohesion.

Eligible applicants can apply for funding of between \$500 to \$5,000.

If you have any questions about this Grants Program, please email grants@dpac.tas.gov.au or phone 1800 204 224.

Partnerships between communities and local councils

Community organisations and local councils are encouraged to discuss event details before applying.

Applicants are also encouraged to include a letter of support from the relevant local council or community organisation.

What can the Grant be used for?

The Grants Program is providing funding for festivals or events in Tasmania that celebrate significant cultural traditions with a focus on new and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Grant funding can be used for eligible direct costs of your project, event or activity.

The following are eligible costs. However, this list is not exhaustive:

- Venue hire.
- Equipment hire – catering/lighting/sound/audio visual equipment.
- Staging hire - marquee / stall / table / chair hire.
- Traditional costumes for performance.
- Welcome to Country ceremony fees.
- Festival advertising and marketing.
- Cleaning materials.
- Catering (up to 25 per cent of funding).

What else must my event consider?

By making an application under this Grants Program, you agree that your event will be:

- Alcohol and drug free;
- Safe for vulnerable people, including child and youth;
- Inclusive and accessible for anyone attending – including Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people with disabilities;
- Compliant with Work Health and Safety legislation and all other relevant legislation, regulations, licenses, permits, approvals.
- Delivered by staff or volunteers with appropriate skills and qualifications.
- Free to attend but can be ticketed to help with managing attendees and evaluation.

When must the event be held?

The project must be completed, and the grant money expended by 30 June 2027.

Further information required

If you require further information, please contact the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) before the Grant Program closes at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au or call 1800 240 224.

What can't the grant be used for?

Ineligible events

Applications for the following purposes are not eligible:

- Festivals or events that have commenced or already taken place (retrospective funding is not allowed).
- Events, activities or projects delivered outside of Tasmania.
- Festivals involving political activities and/or commemorations.
- Festivals entirely based on commercial or fundraising activities.
- Celebrations of national or independence days of countries other than Australia.
- Events already receiving funding from the Tasmanian Government.

Ineligible festival costs

- Personal or private expenses.
- Purchasing prizes.
- Purchasing alcohol, tobacco, smoking related products, including vapes or drugs.
- Purchasing gift cards or vouchers.
- Business as usual costs or normal staff wages.
- Fundraising activities.
- Capital works, significant equipment purchases or fixed assets.
- Cost overruns, loan repayments or existing debts.
- Contingency funding.
- Political, advocacy or religious activities.
- Expenditure funded under other grant programs.
- Activities already undertaken prior to a grant being approved under this Grants Program.

Please note:

- Equipment purchases may be allowed, if an organisation can demonstrate that:
 - The equipment purchase is more sustainable than hiring equipment; and
 - Any ongoing costs can be met by the organisation.
- All expenses must benefit the community, not an individual.
- There may be special cases for costs that aren't usually covered. Your organisation will need to demonstrate why these items are being requested, and DPAC may request more information to support your request.

Applicants may be asked to supply documentation to support eligibility claims as part of the application process, or as part of an audit process to confirm claims were true and correct.

How much can I apply for?

Eligible applicants can apply for funding of between \$500 to \$5,000. The total funding pool available under the Grants Program is \$40,000.

Applicants must indicate on their application whether they will accept partial funding.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants

The 2025-26 Grants Program is open to applications from local government entities and community organisations with a focus on Tasmania.

Eligible organisations include:

- A local government authority (council).
- An incorporated not-for-profit organisation.
- A not-for-profit company registered under company law.
- Unincorporated organisations may be considered, however an Auspicing arrangement is preferred (see below for further information).

Applicants must:

- Have public liability insurance (a copy of your current public liability insurance cover must be included with the application).
- Hold a currently active Australian Business Number (ABN) or, if eligible, provide a Statement by Supplier Form from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Auspicing

Unincorporated community organisations or groups may be considered for funding if they are auspiced by an organisation that meets the above eligibility criteria.

Auspicing is often used to help unincorporated community organisations to access funding for activities. An auspice agreement is a legally binding contract.

The 'auspicee' will be carrying out the project, event or activity 'under the auspices of' the incorporated organisation – the 'auspicator'.

The 'auspicator' enters into the Grant Agreement and receives the project funding for the auspicee. The auspicator can do this for multiple organisations under this Grants Program, as well as being an applicant in their own right if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Can I apply more than once?

If your organisation received funding in the 2024-25 Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program and meets the criteria under this Grants Program round, you are eligible to apply for funding.

If your organisation is eligible and has multiple eligible events, you can submit a separate application for each project.

You will be asked to rank your applications in order of preference for consideration under the Grants Program.

Who can't apply?

Ineligible Applicants

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding under the Program:

- Australian Government agencies.
- Tasmanian Government agencies.
- Schools or colleges (government or private).
- Political parties.
- Individuals and/or sole traders.
- For profit organisations and businesses.
- Organisations already receiving funding from the Tasmanian Government for the event or festival.

I'm still not sure I can apply – what should I do?

You can contact DPAC before the Grants Programs closes by email at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au or call 1800 240 224.

How do I apply?

Visit the Grant Program's [Community Grants Page](#) and follow the link through to the online application form via our grants portal [SmartyGrants](#).

If you are having difficulty accessing the application form, or have any questions regarding the application process, please contact DPAC by email at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au or call 1800 204 224 prior to the Grant Program closing.

How will my application be assessed?

Assessment criteria

What we're looking for:	What that means:	Weighting:
Your event aligns with the intended outcomes of the Grants Program	<p>Your application demonstrates how it will achieve the outcomes of the Grants Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring Tasmanians together to celebrate the cultures of our diverse communities and share traditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, sharing traditional dance, food and stories with broader communities. Increases understanding of the diverse cultures within the Tasmanian community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, encouraging opportunities to learn about new and emerging cultures. Promotes social cohesion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, encouraging participation in the event from broader communities. 	40 per cent
Your event supports new and emerging cultural and linguistically diverse communities	<p>Your application demonstrates how the event is meeting the needs of new and emerging communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local councils are encouraged to liaise with new and emerging local communities and ensure the event is meeting their needs. Community organisations are encouraged to liaise with relevant community members to ensure the event is meeting their needs. 	20 per cent
Your event plan is clear and achievable	<p>Your application demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong and realistic plan for delivering your project, event or activity. A clear budget that makes use of Tasmanian suppliers where possible, is environmentally friendly, and includes in-kind support to help make it a success. Your organisation has the experience or community support, resources, and planning capability to successfully deliver the event. You've carefully considered the health, safety and inclusivity of everyone attending or participating, including cultural safety and that local council requirements have been met. <p>Applicants are encouraged to include a letter of support from the relevant local council or community organisation.</p>	40 per cent

During the assessment process DPAC, at its discretion, may require further information to support or clarify an application.

- The requested information should be provided within 3 business days, otherwise it may result in the application being unsuccessful.

If the Grant Program is oversubscribed, the assessment panel may apply moderation to ensure equitable distribution of funds. In making final recommendations, the panel may consider:

- Distribution of events across Tasmania.
- Previous DPAC grant funding history, to promote broad and fair access to funding.

What happens if the application is successful?

If successful, you will receive a notification of the decision, so please ensure organisational contact details in SmartyGrants are current.

Please note that your organisation name, the title of your project and the amount of funding received will be available on the DPAC website.

What happens if our organisation is offered less than what was requested?

Successful applicants may be offered partial funding.

- Please consider this when completing the application form and clearly identify how all funding being applied for will be used.

What happens if our organisation already has a grant with DPAC?

You can have more than one grant with DPAC. However, if you have one or more overdue reports or acquittals, then the organisation must complete these before the invoice for this Grants Program can be approved for payment.

However, please note that your organisation will not be eligible for the Grants Program if the event you are applying for already receives Tasmanian Government funding.

How will the information provided by our organisation be used?

Your report can be used, reproduced, modified and adapted by DPAC.

Make sure anything you provide complies with the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth) and the Personal Information Protection Act 2004.

What if our event changes, or needs to be cancelled?

Things don't always go to plan, so it's best to contact DPAC as early as possible to discuss options to vary your Grant Agreement.

Reporting and Evaluation

Organisations receiving funding through the Grants Program must complete a Final Report. This report must include a full statement of expenditure and activities against the grant funds provided and the approved purpose of the grant.

What if our application is not successful?

Organisations will receive an email advising of the decision, and who to contact if you would like to seek feedback on your application.

How to make an appeal

You can ask for a review if you have reason to believe that:

- The persons making the decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the application; and/or
- The preparation of the application was affected adversely by incorrect advice provided by DPAC; and/or
- The persons making the recommendations discriminated against the applicant on irrelevant grounds, such as cultural, religious or linguistic background, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

To seek a review, organisations must write to the Manager, Community Grants and Programs by email to grants@dpac.tas.gov.au. A request must be received within 28 days from the date that DPAC provides notification of the decision of the application.

How will my information be kept safe?

Any information provided to DPAC or received from DPAC is managed under the conditions of the following Acts:

- Archives Act 1983 (Tas)
- Personal Information Protection Act 2004
- Right to Information Act 2009

Any worker in the Tasmanian State Service must also follow the rules of the State Service Principles, and the State Service Act 2000.

Who do I contact about this grants program?

The Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program is administered by DPAC on behalf of the Crown in the Right of Tasmania.

Contact with DPAC for any of the following reasons can be directed via email to grants@dpac.tas.gov.au or by calling 1800 204 224 (normal business hours):

- Further information or advice on the Grants Program.
- Assistance in making an application.
- Further feedback on the decision of the application.
- Request a review of the decision.

Questions or support on using SmartyGrants or SmartyFile can be directed to service@smartygrants.com.au or +613 9320 6888 (8am – 6pm Monday – Friday).



Department of Premier and Cabinet

Phone: 1800 204 224

Email: grants@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.dpac.tas.gov.au