Social Cohesion Grants Program 2025-26

Guidelines

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Tasmanian Government

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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 social cohesion?

Whilst there is no agreed definition in Australia, this Grants Program refers to social cohesion as referred to by the Scanlon Institute:

> *"The willingness of members to cooperate with each other to survive and prosper."*
>
> *"Social cohesion requires anti-racism and preventing the negative racialisation and 'othering' of communities."* (Mapping Social Cohesion 2024, Scanlon Institute).

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)

Key dates

Applications must be received by 2pm on 26 March 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Description	Date
Program opens	2pm, 6 February 2026
Program closes	2pm, 26 March 2026
Notification of Program Outcomes (subject to change)	May 2026
Funding provided	By mid-June 2026
When your project must be completed by	30 June 2027
When your final report and acquittal will be due	31 July 2027

About the Social Cohesion 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 addressing racism and fostering social cohesion through community-led local initiatives. In line with this commitment, the Social Cohesion Small Grants Program (the Grants Program) was initially delivered in 2024-25.

The 2025-26 Grants Program provides total funding of $265,000 to support innovative projects that address racism and foster social cohesion across Tasmanian communities.

Applicants under the 2025-26 Grants Program should demonstrate how their project will promote social cohesion and achieve at least one of the following outcomes:

- Enhance inter-cultural understanding and social cohesion across communities within social, recreational, education, employment and other settings.
- Increase the feeling of safety and belonging for culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians.
- Strengthen connection and trust between all Tasmanians.
- Address racism and/or anti-social behaviour such as racially motivated abuse, harassment and violence towards Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Please note, you are not required to demonstrate that your project achieves all outcomes.

Eligible applicants can apply for funding of up to $45,000.

If you have any questions about this Grants Program, please contact the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) via email at multicultural@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phone on 6165 9939.

What can the Grant be used for?

The Grants Program is providing funding to support innovative projects that address racism and foster social cohesion across Tasmanian communities.

All funded activities must contribute to the achievement of the Grants Program outcomes and benefit the community, not an individual.

Grant funding can be used for eligible direct costs of your project.

When must the project be delivered?

The project must be completed, and all grant funding expended, by 30 June 2027.

What can't the Grant be used for?

Funding is not available for:

- Projects that are not related to social cohesion.
- Projects delivered outside of Tasmania.
- Ongoing or recurrent funding for programs.
- Projects that have already commenced or have been completed (retrospective funding is not permitted).
- Projects that are the same as other projects or programs already available in the same locality.
- Core operational costs of an organisation such as energy, water, rates or insurance.
- Capital expenses, including but not limited to building works (including maintenance) and equipment purchase.
- Payment of existing debts or budget deficits of an organisation.
- Projects involving political activities.
- Projects already receiving funding from the Tasmanian Government.
- Purchase of alcohol, tobacco or smoking related products.
- Donations, gifts, fundraising and/or prizes.
- Personal or private expenses.

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 be applied for?

Eligible applicants can apply for funding of between $5,000 and $45,000. The total funding pool available under the Grants Program is $265,000.

Applicants must indicate in the application whether partial funding will be accepted.

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.

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).

Can an organisation apply more than once?

If your organisation received funding in the 2024-25 Social Cohesion Small Grants Program and meets the criteria under the 2025-26 Grants Program, you are eligible to apply for funding.

If your organisation is eligible and has multiple eligible projects, a separate application can be submitted for each project.

Who can’t apply?

Ineligible Applicants

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding under the Grants 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 project.

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

You can contact DPAC before the Grants Program closes by email at multicultural@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phone on 6165 9939.

How to apply?

Visit DPAC'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 if have any questions regarding the application process, please contact DPAC prior to the Grants Program closing by email at multicultural@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phone on 6165 9939.

Taxation and financial impacts

Organisations must indicate whether they are registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the grant application.

To help with understanding GST, you can visit the Community Grants website.

If you do not have an Australian Business Number (ABN) you may be required to complete a 'Statement by a supplier' form. You can read about who is eligible to use and access the form through the ATO website.

Applicants should contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on 13 28 66 or www.ato.gov.au for any advice or clarification on GST.

How will the application be assessed?

Assessment criteria

What we're looking for:	What that means:	Weighting:
Your project aligns with the intended outcomes of the Grants Program	Your application demonstrates how it will achieve at least one outcome of the Grants Program, as detailed below: • Enhance inter-cultural understanding and social cohesion across communities within social, recreational, education, employment and other settings. • Increase the feeling of safety and belonging for culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians. • Strengthen connection and trust between all Tasmanians. • Reduce racism and/or anti-social behaviour such as racially motivated abuse, harassment and violence towards Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	40 per cent
You demonstrate the need of your project	You clearly explain, with evidence: • Why this project is needed. • Who it is needed for. • Why it is needed in this location or community.	20 per cent
Your project plan is clear and achievable	Your application demonstrates: • A strong and realistic plan for delivering your project on time and budget. • Your organisation has the experience, resources, and planning capability to successfully deliver the project. • You've carefully considered the health, safety and inclusivity of everyone participating, including cultural safety.	15 per cent
Your budget is clear, achievable and delivers value for money	Your application demonstrates: • A clear budget that makes use of Tasmanian suppliers where possible, is environmentally friendly and delivers value for money.	15 per cent
You demonstrate the innovative approach	You clearly explain, with evidence: • What is new, different or improved about your approach. • Why this approach is more likely to work in this community or setting.	10 per cent

During the assessment process DPAC 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:

- The overall mix of projects to ensure a balanced range of outcomes, approaches and communities are reached.
- 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 from 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.

Please note that your organisation will not be eligible for the Grants Program if the project 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*.

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 the application is not successful?

Organisations will receive an email advising of the Grants Program's assessment 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 grant 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 to contact about this grants program?

The Social Cohesion Grants Program 2025-26 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 multicultural@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phoning 6165 9939 (during 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.



Department of Premier and Cabinet

Phone: 6165 9939
Email: multicultural@dpac.tas.gov.au
www.dpac.tas.gov.au