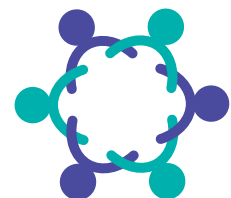




Multicultural NSW

# COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants 2026-28



**COMPACT**  
CommunityPartnershipAction



## Multicultural NSW

# COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants | 2026-2028



**COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants** range from **\$50,000 to \$100,000** per year for up to **two years**.



Funding is open for application for projects delivered from **2026-27** to **2027-28** financial years.



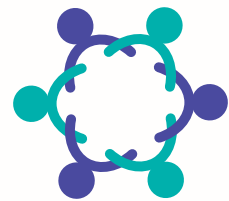
Applications close at **4pm** on **Friday 29 May 2026**. There are no extensions available for this deadline.



Read our Grant Guidelines [here](#).



Apply via Multicultural NSW SmartyGrants [here](#).



**COMPACT**  
CommunityPartnershipAction



## Message from the Minister

The antisemitic terrorist attack in Bondi on 14 December 2025 has shocked our State, this country and the world. The effects have been profound, most of all for our Jewish Australian community.

The Jewish Australian community is resilient but shaken. The road to recovery is one we will all navigate together. The NSW Government will continue to support the community through this most difficult time. We will always place victims at the centre of our response.

This needs to be a whole-of-society response. Everyone has a role to play. The people of New South Wales have wrapped their arms around the Jewish Australian community. We have embraced our fellow Australians in their time of need. Let us not let go. Let us embrace this spirit of solidarity now and into the future.

Acts of hate and extremism have wide-ranging consequences for our society. Fear, anger, division and discord: this is what extremists seek to achieve through their hate and violence.

Our response to this threat must be a united one: we – all of us together – will not let extremists divide us. The outpouring of care and compassion that we have seen expressed towards victims and survivors of the Bondi attack – from right across the multicultural spectrum of our society – should be the measure of our resilience as a society going forward. We are stronger together.

As Minister for Multiculturalism, I am proud to support this special round of COMPACT grant funding. COMPACT is proven to build social cohesion and community resilience. At a time when we need it the most, the COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants support community-led initiatives to strengthen cross-cultural connections and nurture empathy for victims of hate.

Now, more than ever, we need partners and allies who are committed to building a more peaceful and harmonious society. I invite likeminded allies to apply to join this program for change.

**The Hon Steve Kamper MP**  
Minister for Multiculturalism

# About the COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants

The COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants are a special round of grant funding under the flagship Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) Program led by Multicultural NSW.

This special COMPACT grants round responds to the Bondi terrorist attack of 14 December 2025 and supports whole-of-community recovery over the next two years.

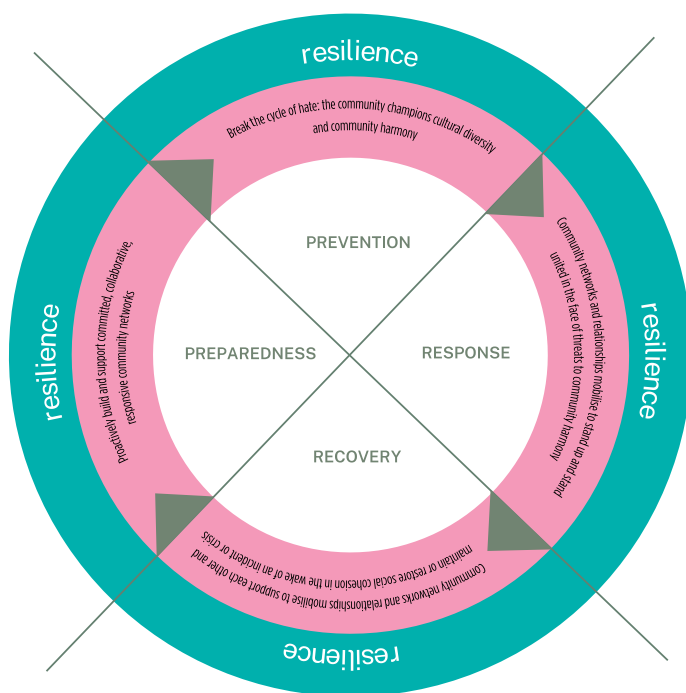
Grants support cross-cultural partnerships delivering projects to empower communities and young people to build social cohesion and community resilience as a collective response to hate and extremism.

Applications are invited for grants valued from \$50,000 to \$100,000 (excl. GST) per year for up to two years. Successful projects will commence from 1 July 2026 and be completed by 30 June 2028 or sooner.

## A whole-of-society resilience-based approach

COMPACT recognises that socially cohesive communities are more resilient communities in the face of adversity and crisis. Whether we are dealing with bushfires, floods, pandemics, overseas conflicts or terrorism, we know that more connected communities are more resilient to, and recover more quickly from, adversity.

In a multicultural society, that means we need to proactively build and maintain strong, collaborative, cross-cultural networks that are ready to come together and support each other in times of need.



### ◀ COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

*Expanding robust relationships that inspire people to foster social cohesion, stand united against divisive forces and come together in times of need.*

COMPACT applies this whole-of-society resilience-based approach to countering hate and extremism. COMPACT recognises that extremism threatens social cohesion and community harmony by promoting fear, hate and division. Our resilience to this threat can be measured by the way we respond as a unified, inclusive and democratic society.

This resilience was demonstrated in the many powerful expressions of sympathy and solidarity with victims and the Jewish Australian community that we saw from across the multicultural and multifaith spectrum of our society in response to the Bondi terrorist attack.

This special COMPACT grants round aims to build on this goodwill to make us a stronger, more cohesive multicultural society into the future.

This grant funding complements existing NSW Government measures supporting victims, families and the Jewish Australian community – as the community most directly impacted by the Bondi terrorist attack – by addressing the wider impacts of hate and extremism on our society. It aims to inspire and empower communities and young people to stand up and stand united with victims of hate as a united voice and force for community harmony.

# Project objectives

Successful projects funded under this round of COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants will build on the strengths of our diverse society to address one or more of the following objectives:

- To inspire and empower communities and young people to stand up and stand united against hate and division as champions for community harmony.
- To foster cross-cultural empathy and solidarity with victims of hate and extremism.
- To support communities and build resilience to threats to community harmony in NSW arising from local or global issues and events.
- To build reciprocal relationships of trust and collaboration across cultural, religious and geographic communities, and between communities and government.

# Youth-led solutions for social cohesion



**COMPACT** looks to young people as part of the solution, not part of the problem, for social cohesion.



**COMPACT** aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united against fear, hate and division as champions for Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life.



**COMPACT** supports local solutions-based projects that bring young people together to promote positive behaviours and engage critically, creatively and constructively on local and global issues impacting on social cohesion.



**COMPACT** is forming new social connections for young people across different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. It is creating new, lasting relationships and friendships founded in empathy and respect for others.



**COMPACT** instils agency and confidence in young people by providing leadership and advocacy skills. It brings out the best in young people who want to make a positive change in their communities.



**COMPACT** has engaged more than 80,000 young people since 2016, inspiring and empowering a new generation of community leaders, changemakers and champions for community harmony.

# Youth engagement methods

COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants support projects that engage, inspire and empower young people to address program objectives through one or more of the following youth engagement methods:



**Digital citizens:** includes methods to engage and empower young people to build safer, more harmonious online communities and to protect each other from online hate and other digital harms.



**Peacebuilders & humanitarians:** includes effective peacebuilding and conflict resolution methods and volunteering, community service, charity and local and/or international humanitarian work with a clear benefit to local communities.



**Creative communicators:** includes creative methods to amplify the voices of young people and tackle tough issues like hate and polarisation through art, music, writing, traditional and digital/social media, public speaking or performance.



**Networkers & influencers:** includes methods to create and sustain active, effective networks of youth leaders, allies and influencers, in both online and offline contexts, that can activate against divisive forces and promote community harmony.



**Community connectors:** includes methods of cross-cultural, cross-regional and interfaith engagement that bring communities together and foster trust, collaboration and cohesion.



**Thought leaders & changemakers:** includes methods to facilitate constructive dialogue and respectful debate, enhance critical thinking and ethical social action, and inspire young people to defend democracy, diversity and human rights.



**Team players:** includes sports, games and play to engage young people, break down barriers, combat racism, reinforce positive messages, and create support networks, mentoring opportunities and positive role models.

Other innovative youth engagement methods will also be considered. Successful applications in any of these youth engagement methods will clearly demonstrate experience, expertise and capacity to engage and affect real positive change in young people (aged between 12-30), families and communities. They will demonstrate capacity and competency to engage young people of all cultures, religions, language backgrounds, gender identities and sexualities.



Applications seeking to engage project participants over the age of 30 will be considered, however, they must demonstrate how young people will also benefit from the project.

# Supporting cross-cultural and cross-sector partnerships

COMPACT supports partnerships and collaboration between community, non-government, youth, sports, arts/ media, industry, educational and other organisations by providing grant funding for innovative, evidence-based community projects.

Successful applications will ideally bring together partners or consortia with the demonstrated experience, expertise and capacity to engage and effect real positive change in young people (aged between 12-30), families and communities within a community resilience and conflict resolution frame.

COMPACT preferences projects and partnerships that foster trust and collaboration between different cultural

and religious groups. We support partnerships that bring together grassroots organisations with larger well-established organisations to facilitate capacity building and cross-sector collaboration. We also welcome partnerships that bring local and global partners together to build the capacity of local communities. We especially encourage applications that can secure in-kind resources, expertise and/or matched funding from private sector partners.

Successful applications will demonstrate a track record of collaboration and will ideally bring together two or more partner organisations with different skill sets to support COMPACT objectives.

## Grant funding

The NSW Government through Multicultural NSW is inviting proposals for COMPACT Partnership Projects valued from \$50,000 to \$100,000 (excl. GST) per year for projects up to two years. Projects will be delivered over the 2026-27 to 2027-28 financial years. There is \$1.2 million total available funding in this grants round.

Successful applications will be of a very high standard, will clearly demonstrate capacity to manage significant projects and deliver outcomes for young people, and will demonstrate a genuine commitment to contributing to the collective efforts of the COMPACT Alliance in building community resilience and social cohesion in New South Wales.



***Communities  
standing united  
for Australia's  
peaceful and  
harmonious way  
of life.***

# A proven resilience-building program

Now in its tenth year, COMPACT is a proven, first-of-its-kind program to build social cohesion and community resilience.

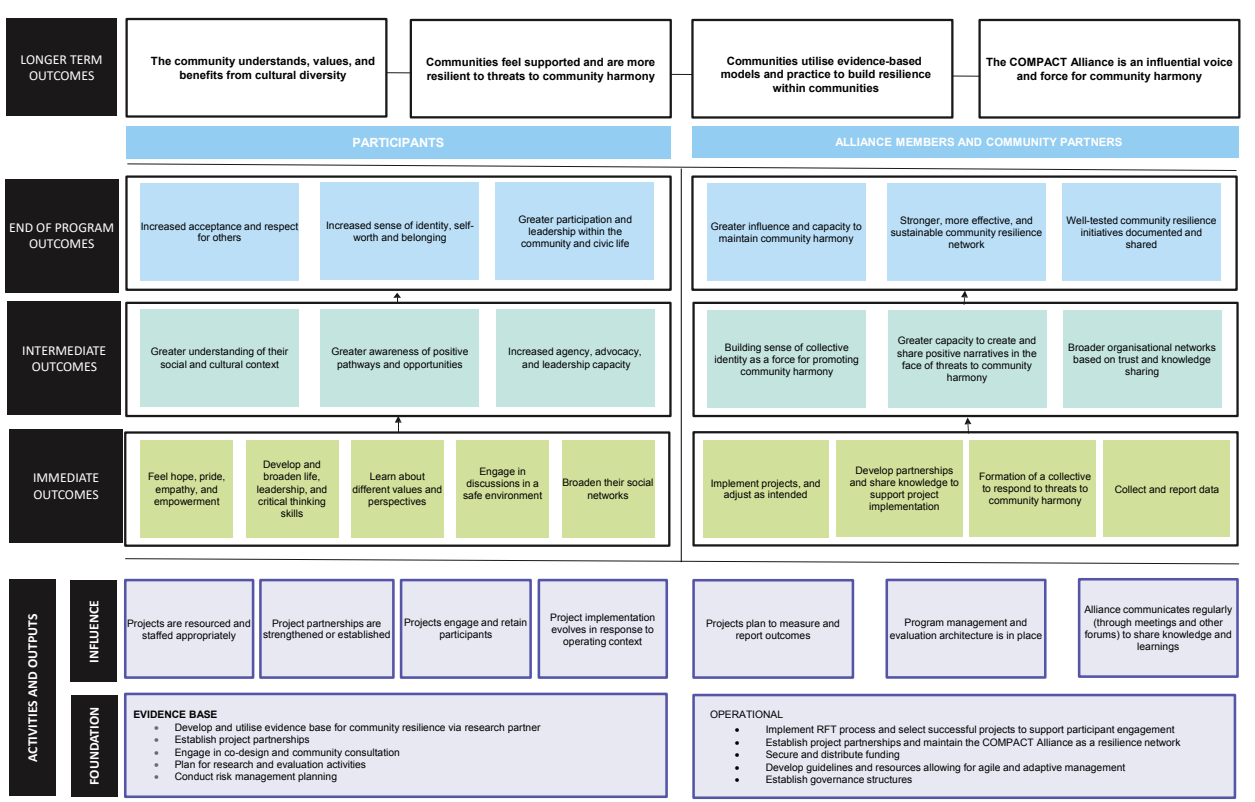
Designed in 2015 after extensive community consultation, COMPACT was inspired by the way the people of New South Wales came together in the wake of the Martin Place siege in Sydney in December 2014. The message from our community was clear: *We stand united. We – all of us together – will not let extremists divide us.*

COMPACT has since grown to support a state-wide network of community partners and allies who are standing united against hate and safeguarding social cohesion against divisive forces. COMPACT has engaged more than 80,000 young people, inspiring and empowering a new generation of community harmony champions.

COMPACT has been independently evaluated twice. The evidence shows that COMPACT is a highly credible and sought-after grants program that is empowering young people and forming new cross-cultural connections across metropolitan and regional NSW. The program has demonstrated resilience to changes in the community harmony landscape and has withstood challenges to social cohesion brought on by adverse events.

Projects funded under the COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants will contribute to the third COMPACT program-level evaluation.

The COMPACT Program Evaluation Framework was co-designed with COMPACT Alliance partners to capture the collective outcomes of COMPACT at the whole-of-program level. The COMPACT Program Logic (below) captures the parallel streams of activity occurring with the delivery of COMPACT projects for young people, and the joint activities of the COMPACT Alliance



COMPACT Program Logic – co-designed by COMPACT Alliance partners

Successful applications will demonstrate evidence for their approach, drawing on relevant research, evaluation and data. Evidence may draw on previous projects that have proven to be successful, but to be successful in this funding round, proposals must demonstrate how prior learning and experience can be applied to new solutions that are responsive to emerging threats to community harmony.

COMPACT does not provide ongoing or recurrent funding beyond the multi-year funding period. Successful proposals will demonstrate how project outcomes will be sustained beyond the project completion date.

Projects will develop a comprehensive work plan, including plans for stakeholder engagement, partnership management, project-level evaluation, risk mitigation and sustainability.

Funded partners will receive funding based on key milestones, with opportunities for interim evaluation and review. This allows for projects to be adaptive to evolving needs and issues.

## Join the COMPACT Alliance!

The COMPACT Alliance is a robust network of community partners who all share a commitment

to Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life. In addition to implementing partnership projects, COMPACT partners all participate as full members of the COMPACT Alliance.

The COMPACT Alliance is a key component of the COMPACT model of community resilience. Since 2016, the COMPACT Alliance has been implementing a program of joint activities designed to strengthen the Alliance as a resilience network and to support the development of a COMPACT Community of Practice.

The COMPACT Alliance meets regularly to progress a range of practical work items on program evaluation, practitioner training, capacity building, research showcases, safety and wellbeing, communications, and other areas to support good practice.

Membership in the COMPACT Alliance provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with other COMPACT partners and connect with key NSW Government agency personnel.

The annual COMPACT Alliance Summit, hosted by the Minister for Multiculturalism, is a forum for showcasing initiatives, learning and adapting from shared experience, and forging new collaborations for future projects.

▼ ***It's Our Turn: Fostering Community Harmony and Connection Through Creative Writing***: led by Story Factory with The Hive, and United Way Australia.



***The COMPACT Alliance is a voice and a force for community harmony***

## Key moments in the **COMPACT** story:

- 2014** The people of New South Wales stand together in solidarity following the Martin Place siege.
- 2015** The COMPACT Program begins with extensive community consultation and a review of international best practice. The first COMPACT grants open one month after the shooting of Curtis Cheng outside the NSW Police Force headquarters.
- 2016** The first COMPACT Partnership Projects commence. The COMPACT Alliance comes together for the first time.
- 2018** COMPACT has engaged 20,000 young people and is independently evaluated as a 'first-of-its-kind' program that has made significant progress towards its objectives of building social cohesion and community resilience.
- 2019** The COMPACT Alliance mobilises to support local communities and young people impacted by the devastating terror attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- 2020-2021** Bushfires, floods and a one-in-100-year pandemic test our resilience as a community. Racism, online conspiracy theories and anti-government sentiment are on the rise. COMPACT has engaged 50,000 young people to deliver solutions. The COMPACT Alliance expands as a state-wide network supporting communities and young people through challenging times.
- 2022-2023** Global events and overseas conflicts leave their mark. Communities rally to combat racism and religious intolerance. Foreign interference has surpassed terrorism as the primary national security threat and threatens social cohesion. The COMPACT Alliance expands to include more than 80 partner organisations committed to safeguarding social cohesion against hate and division.
- 2024** Continuing violence overseas is felt deeply by local communities. Religious leaders call for interfaith unity after a stabbing in a church leads to rioting. The COMPACT Alliance convenes to tackle the increasing spread of online hate and disinformation. COMPACT has engaged more than 80,000 young people. An independent evaluation finds 'COMPACT has demonstrated resilience to changes in the community harmony landscape and has withstood challenges to social cohesion brought on by adverse events.'
- 2025** The deadliest terrorist attack on Australian soil targets the Jewish Australian community while it was celebrating the first night of Chanukah, killing fifteen innocent people and injuring many more. The people of New South Wales stand in solidarity with the Jewish Australian community.
- 2026+** COMPACT has more work to do. The Bondi terror attack has shocked everyone and its impacts will be felt for some time. War and conflict overseas are felt deeply by local communities. Global issues and events are compounding risks to community harmony locally. Young people are concerned about hate and polarisation and want to do something about it. In an increasingly uncertain world, COMPACT will continue to be a voice and a force for community harmony in New South Wales.

# Defending human rights and multicultural principles

The *Multicultural NSW Act 2000* promotes the equal rights and responsibilities of all the people of New South Wales within a cohesive and multicultural society.

The legislation enshrines the Multicultural Principles as the policy of the State in New South Wales. The Multicultural Principles are based on fundamental human rights and the shared responsibilities of citizenship – that is, a shared commitment to each other as fellow Australians.

In short, the Multicultural Principles call upon all individuals and institutions in New South Wales to:

- share democratic values, governed by the rule of law, and promote a unified commitment to Australia, its interests and future.
- accept and value the fact that New South Wales is a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society.
- respect our democratic freedoms to practice our cultural and religious traditions and speak our languages.

As a flagship Multicultural NSW program, COMPACT is founded on the Multicultural Principles. More than that, COMPACT actively defends the Multicultural Principles against hateful and divisive influences who seek to threaten our democracy, our diversity, and our shared commitment to a cohesive multicultural society.

COMPACT Alliance partners must demonstrate a commitment to the Multicultural Principles in the conduct of their affairs.

Read more about the COMPACT Program at [multicultural.nsw.gov.au/compact](https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/compact)



▲ *In My Shoes*: led by The Skill Engineer with Central Coast Community Council, and Central Coast Council.

# Grant assessment: what we are looking for

COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants are awarded on merit following a rigorous assessment process. Applications are assessed by a multi-agency panel that includes an independent expert.

All applications for grants are reviewed to ensure mandatory compliance with eligibility criteria and required documentation.

The Assessment Panel will make recommendations for grant funding to the Minister for Multiculturalism who is the Delegated Approver of successful applications.

Not all grant applications will be successful. Both successful and unsuccessful grant applications will be notified in writing. Multicultural NSW does not provide feedback regarding unsuccessful/successful applications.

***The COMPACT Grants Assessment Panel applies the following criteria in assessing grant applications, with each given equal weighting:***

## Appropriateness

***Assessment considerations may include:***

- Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding and appreciation of the objectives, rationale and context of the COMPACT Program.
- Proposal addresses one or more of the grant objectives.
- Proposal adopts one or more of the COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants youth engagement methods.
- Applicant organisation demonstrates a commitment to multicultural principles.

## Capacity & Capability

***Assessment considerations may include:***

- Ability of the proposed project to deliver results and achieve objectives.
- Demonstrated capacity and cultural competency to engage young people and diverse groups.
- Proposal has a plan for effective evaluation, including ethical data collection and reporting practices.
- Proposal demonstrates an understanding of risk and has a plan for risk management.
- Applicant organisation demonstrates a commitment to multicultural principles.

## Value for Money

***Assessment considerations may include:***

- Proposal provides a well formulated, well justified and well-proportioned budget.
- Project leverages or builds upon existing community resources and assets.
- Project outcomes, including outcomes for young people, are sustainable beyond the COMPACT funding period.

## Strategic Value

***Assessment considerations may include:***

- Project complements other successful COMPACT projects to the benefit of the overall COMPACT program.
- The project is uniquely positioned to effectively engage demographic or geographic groups.
- The organisation adds strategic value, knowledge and experience to the COMPACT Alliance.



◀ **Game Changer for Western Sydney:**  
led by Creating Chances with  
Western Sydney University.

**In My Shoes:** ▶  
led by The Skill Engineer with  
Central Coast Community Council,  
and Central Coast Council.



▲ **Warrawong: Tides – A Four-Year Film Project:**  
led by Barnardos Australia with Gawura Aboriginal  
Corporation (Gawura), Warrawong High School, and CoEqual.

**The COMPACT  
Alliance – inspiring  
and empowering  
young people.**

## Collaboration

### *Assessment considerations may include:*

- Applicant organisation has a track record of working collaboratively with other organisations including through cross-cultural partnerships.
- Proposal demonstrates a willingness to learn from other practitioners, and a willingness to share knowledge, insights and good practice for the benefit of other practitioners and the community.
- Proposal demonstrates a commitment to the collective objectives of the COMPACT Program.

## Available funding

Eligible not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply with applications between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (excl. GST) for projects up to two years. There is \$1.2 million total available funding in this grants round.

## Who can apply?

### *Eligible not-for-profit organisations are:*

- Currently located in and or servicing NSW communities.
- Incorporated non-government organisations (not-for-profit).
- Registered Associations under an Act of Parliament.
- Registered Cooperatives under an Act of Parliament.
- Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Company Limited by Shares (non-profit distributing).
- Other community-based organisations registered or established under an Act that are not-for-profit.
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth) or a Local Aboriginal Land Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW).
- To be eligible for funding all organisations must have a valid ABN.

## What will not be funded?

### *Funding is not available for:*

- Applications seeking ongoing or recurrent funding for programs.
- Applications directly from individuals seeking individual personal payments.
- Applications from for-profit organisations and/or commercial enterprises.
- Applications that are seeking funding for the same stage of a project, or the same project resulting in duplicate funding.
- Supplementing, increasing, or continuing ongoing service delivery that is the core business of the organisation.
- An organisation's operating costs including office rent and administration costs.
- Broader work that the organisation already delivers such as services, programs and activities that are not aligned with the priorities and objectives outlined in these guidelines.
- Reimbursement of expenses already incurred.
- Covering existing debts or budget deficits of the organisation.
- Party political activities.
- Purchase of TV's, alcohol, tobacco products, gaming services, computer software, entertainment streaming.
- Capital works and equipment purchases (for example, purchase of phones, computer hardware, laptops, tablets, routers, modems, webcams, entertainment systems, TVs, etc. will not be funded).
- Commercial or fundraising activities.

- Celebration of national or independence days, with the exception of key Australian days including ANZAC DAY, Australia Day, Clean Up Australia Day and NAIDOC day.
- Cash prizes or gifts.
- Religious festivals, rituals, religious events, or religious promotion, except multi-faith events which involve people from more than one religion.
- Media productions that have not been endorsed by Multicultural NSW prior to publication or broadcast.
- Prizes, trophies, awards, donations, gifts or souvenirs.
- Accommodation costs.
- Software and licenses.
- Items with unclear descriptions like 'miscellaneous' or 'contingency' in the application and budget.

***Grant funding will not be awarded to any organisation that:***

- has National Redress Scheme sanctions <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/> The National Redress Scheme has been created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme includes sanctions against those Organisations who have been named and failed to join the National Redress Scheme. If your Organisation has redress sanctions, then you CANNOT apply for Grant funds.
- is subject to a winding up order or has an appointed administrator.
- has a pending/ongoing legal case.
- is bankrupt.
- has no sound financial management and governance.
- does not demonstrate a commitment to multicultural principles.

Multicultural NSW may seek confirmation or clarification regarding a project's activities and funds sought as part of this program before funds are released.

## **Funding agreements**

***All successful applicants (organisations) will be required to:***

- be represented at COMPACT Alliance meetings and participate in COMPACT Alliance events and activities. The COMPACT Alliance provides ongoing support, information, and advice on issues relating to COMPACT and its partners.
- participate in meetings with Multicultural NSW as required to share updates, insights, and learnings.
- submit project progress reports, project evaluations, and financial acquittals as required.

If funding is awarded, the Multicultural NSW Grants Program Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant funding agreement.

***Applicants will be required to:***

- review the Terms and Conditions and declare that they have read and understood them.
- acknowledge that an agreement based on those Terms and Conditions will apply to the grant.
- if awarded a grant, agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions in acquitting the grant.

Successful applications for funding must be delivered on time and on budget.

## **Reporting**

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability.

The provision of progress and completion reports are a condition of funding. All successful applicants will be required to provide project reports on outcomes that align with the COMPACT Program evaluation framework.

At the end of the grant term, successful applicants will be required to provide a letter of acquittal, signed by the CEO and Chair (or equivalent suitable position holders), stating that funds have been expended for the purposes intended, detailing expenditure and any surplus funds.

## How to apply

Eligible not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for a portion of the total available funding.

Applications open on Friday 8 May 2026 and close at 4pm (AEST) on Friday 29 May 2026. The closing date and time is a strict deadline.

Multicultural NSW uses the online program SmartyGrants for all grant submissions, accessible through a portal on the Grants page on the Multicultural NSW website and via this link: <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/multicultural-nsw-grants/>

Through the Multicultural NSW portal, applicants are required to log in via SmartyGrants to access the online application form. If the applicant organisation has previously used SmartyGrants to apply for a grant, they will already be registered and can use existing usernames and log in details, and do not need to set up a new registration/account.

All required attachments MUST be uploaded through the online application form in SmartyGrants. Do not upload documents that have not been requested. Letters of support are NOT required. The online application form includes an application checklist to help ensure all the required information is provided. All required fields marked with an \* must be completed. Multicultural NSW will not accept applications unless they are submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal. Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will not be eligible.

All queries during the application period must be submitted in writing before 29 May 2026, via email to: [compact@multicultural.nsw.gov.au](mailto:compact@multicultural.nsw.gov.au)

## Completing the application

The purpose of your application is to provide Multicultural NSW with sufficient information to gain a clear understanding of your project, its purpose and the projected outcomes and benefits. Ensure you fill in every section and supply all the requested information.

### *Application checklist*

Read the application carefully. If you have any questions phone our **COMPACT Grants Contact Officer** on **02 8255 6779** during business hours.

- Check that your project falls within the timeframe of the program.
- Ensure that your project falls within at least one priority area of the program.
- Ensure that you have undertaken the necessary research to formulate your project and can provide evidence that it will fulfil its objectives.
- Ensure all requested information is supplied.
- Provide simple clear answers to all questions.
- Only complete applications will be accepted - partially completed applications cannot be submitted through the online application system and will not be considered.