



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
and Citizenship**

**Diverse Australia Program
(incorporating the National Action Plan to Build on
Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security)**

Guidelines for Small Grants

2009

**Addressing
Cultural, Racial and Religious Intolerance**

For further information on the Diverse Australia Program, contact:

Website: www.harmony.gov.au
Email: diverseaustraliagrants@immi.gov.au
Freecall: 1800 782 002

1 Introduction

The Australian Government believes that communities are in the best position to recognise and address issues of racism and intolerance. The Diverse Australia Program (DAP) and National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security (NAP) Small Grants provide funds for community organisations to run activities and projects aimed at building stronger community relations locally.

2 Program Objectives

The objectives of the DAP and NAP are to promote:

- the importance of all Australians respecting one another regardless of cultural, racial or religious differences;
- the fair treatment of all Australians, encouraging people to recognise that our interactions should be accepting of, and responsive to, each others' backgrounds, circumstances, needs and preferences;
- opportunities for people to participate equitably in Australian society and to understand the rights and responsibilities that we share as part of that society;
- a sense of belonging for everyone by helping communities work towards a spirit of inclusiveness and a shared identity as Australians; and
- the benefits of living in a culturally diverse society.

and seek to:

- increase community understanding and acceptance of diversity, particularly in areas where these attitudes are not strong;
- help people who have settled in Australia understand social behaviours and aspects of Australian life that are important to the established community; and
- increase the broader communities' understanding of Australia's changing demographics.

The NAP seeks to do this in particular for Muslim communities.

The small grants have the additional objective of developing the capacity of smaller, less experienced, but often innovative organisations (and who are often directly relevant to the community) to manage government funds and address community relations and thereby extend the reach of the program.

3 Small Grants Program funding limits

Grants of up to \$5000 (before GST) are available for community organisations to undertake small scale activities and projects (eg events, community days, information sessions) that will directly assist the local community move towards the DAP and NAP program objectives. Small equipment purchases which go towards achieving project outcomes will also be considered. In relation to the NAP, in addition to the above mentioned program objectives, the funding will need to be attributed to projects focussing on Muslim Australians.

Note: Funding of between \$5 000 and \$50 000 is available for more substantial projects (see *Guidelines for Community Grants 2009*).

4 Eligible Organisation - Who can apply?

Eligible organisations

Funds will only be provided to small incorporated not for profit community organisations with an operating budget of less than \$200,000 per year. Proof of incorporation may be required.

5 Eligible Project and Priority Areas - What we fund?

All projects must address issues of racial, cultural or religious intolerance by involving a cross-section of the population in activities to promote respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging. Projects must be completed by June 2010.

Priorities.

Note: Applications seeking NAP funding should have a significant Muslim component.

In 2009, the department is particularly interested in projects that address any of the following priority areas:

Children and families

Activities could include:

- life skills and leadership development for young people, including through mentoring by other young people, adults of different backgrounds or successful migrants;
- projects and partnerships involving the police and/or Police Citizen Youth Clubs; and
- engaging refugee youth in civic participation with the broader community.

Youth

Activities could include:

- projects designed to encourage participation in the broad community; and
- mentoring activities that prepare participants for the workforce and involvement in society.

New and emerging communities

Activities could include:

- projects that increase understanding and acceptance by the broader community of changing demographics in the local community; and
- established organisations helping emerging communities set up representative incorporated bodies and training for new leaders.

Muslim Australians

Activities could include:

- encouraging more active participation by members of Muslim communities in mainstream sporting, social, arts-based and other activities to lessen feelings of isolation and marginalisation in some communities;
- promoting the positive contributions of Muslim Australians to Australia;
- encouraging current and emerging Muslim community leaders, particularly women and young people, to participate more widely in community activities, including holding positions of responsibility within organisations and representing their community at various fora;
- providing mentoring and volunteering opportunities to young people, in order to build their leadership and representational skills; and
- outreach projects and activities that encourage interaction among Muslim and non-Muslim community groups.

Indigenous Australians

Activities could include:

- encouraging Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to work together on community relations projects; and
- supporting story-telling activities in schools with limited exposure to Indigenous people.

Integration and community based activities

Activities could include:

- projects that bring people together to cooperate on promoting common community interests such as bush fire control, the provision of emergency services and involvement with volunteer agencies; and
- sport, art, music, multimedia or other activities geared toward youth encounters and exploration of diversity issues;
- interfaith education and community/cultural bridge-building activities that draw in people of all ages from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds; and
- projects that build the capacity of migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants to participate in education and employment.

Other Issues:

Activities could include:

- projects that address other community relations issues or adopt other approaches.

6 How to apply

Applicants must submit a completed Small Grants application form (available at www.harmony.gov.au) to diverseaustraliagrants@immi.gov.au by the closing date.

7 What happens next?

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will undertake an assessment of all Small Grant applications received. Copies of the organisation's certificate of incorporation and most recent audited financial statement may be required by DIAC during the assessment of applications.

Recommendations will be put to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, who will decide on the successful applicants to be funded for 2009.

We expect to be able to announce the results of the funding round in July 2009.

8 Where can you find help?

If you have questions or require assistance in completing your application, please contact:

- the application hotline, 1800 782 002 or
- by e-mail: diverseaustraliagrants@immi.gov.au

9 Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report at the end of the project detailing what took place, who was involved and how the funds were used, consistent with the program objectives.

Any research material generated as a consequence of funded projects will require departmental approval prior to release.