



CCSP

Community & Cohesion
Support Program

Grant Program Guidelines

June 2024 – April 2025



About the grant program

On 19 October 2023, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs and other Ministers announced a package of measures to support [Australian communities affected by the ongoing Hamas-Israel conflict](#). The announcement included \$25 million to support Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities who have been affected by the conflict.

As part of the direct support package for Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities, \$4 million over one year is being provided to support community-led grassroots programs.

The grant program is administered by the Social Policy Group (SPG) and is called the *Community and Cohesion Support Program*.

Program objectives and aims

The program seeks to support Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab community grassroots organisations undertaking critical work to respond to the particular needs of their communities, including creating emotional and social safety.

Further, the program aims to promote a sense of belonging and connection, while building resilience and promoting social inclusion and cohesion. It aims to strengthen whole-of-community engagement and seeks to build capacity within communities to address community need. Acknowledging intersectionality principles, the program brings a strong focus on youth and women.

Desired outcomes and related activities

The desired outcomes of the Community and Cohesion Support Program include that:

- Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities experience less discrimination on the basis of race or religion;
- a sense of belonging within communities is supported, recognising diversity while responding to acute needs and promoting social inclusion and cohesion;
- the risk of isolation or marginalisation is reduced to support emotional and social safety; and
- children under the age of 18, young adults and women from Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities who are at risk of marginalisation and isolation, feel supported and have an increased sense of belonging.

Examples of activities related to the desired outcomes include:

- activities that respond to acute needs of the community, focussed on fostering inclusive environments that support community wellbeing and social inclusion and cohesion;



- activities aimed at bridging cultural divides and enhancing unity across different racial and religious groups;
- activities that are an emergency response measure and are short term in nature (e.g. less than one year) and are intended to address a particular emergency arising from the conflict;
- activities aimed at supporting women and youth in Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities who are particularly affected by the conflict;
- activities aimed at addressing temporary challenges experienced by Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities and fostering community resilience;
- activities designed to foster inclusivity and understanding between Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab communities within the wider Australian community; and
- activities aimed at reducing bias or prejudices towards Muslim, Palestinian and Arab communities.

Target Groups

The grants program will provide funding to Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab community grassroots organisations to promote emotional and social safety, connection and resilience. Activities are to be conducted primarily in locations where most of Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities are located.



The Grant Program and Funding

The grant round will be held in June 2024:

- Important dates: Open from 6th of June 2024 for activities commencing from July 2024 (projects must finish by 30th of April 2025)

An announcement will be published on the website that announces the opening of the grant round.

There is no minimum amount of funding available for grant projects. The maximum amount of funding available is \$50,000 per application.

At the commencement of the grant round, SPG will host a series of grant program information sessions via videoconference to provide interested applicants with the relevant information about the application process and to answer questions.

Throughout the duration of the grant program, SPG will maintain a telephone line and an online channel for enquiries, feedback and complaints.

More than one application can be submitted per applicant to cover the delivery of activities in different locations and/or address a different significant need within community. Separate applications should be submitted for each activity applied for.



Grant eligibility criteria

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Palestinian, Muslim and Arab community grassroots organisations undertaking critical work to support their respective communities.

Priority will be given to small not-for-profit organisations who directly represent, or are able to demonstrate close existing relationships with, the communities affected by the ongoing conflict. We welcome collaborations between different organisations. Smaller organisations may wish to partner with larger organisations for example, or faith organisations with grassroots community organisations.

Applications by for-profit organisations will not be considered.

Larger and well-established organisations are eligible to apply but should consider:

- Whether they have effective links within the target community to enable them to successfully deliver on the outcomes; and/or
- Partnering with a smaller, Palestinian, Muslim or Arab grassroots community organisation.

To be eligible to apply for a grant, you must be one of the following entity types:

- Incorporated Association
- Cooperative
- Trustee on behalf of a trust
- Statutory Entity
- Partnership
- Company (not-for-profit / charities)
- Indigenous corporation

You are not eligible to apply if you are a:

- Commonwealth company
- Corporate state and territory entity
- non-corporate state or territory statutory authority
- Local Government
- Corporate Commonwealth entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth statutory authority
- Non-corporate state or territory entity
- International entity
- Sole trader
- Person
- Unincorporated Association

Organisations must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) in place and have an account with an Australian financial institution before applying for a grant or be willing to register for both prior to signing the grant agreement.



Organisations must have policies aligned with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, which ensure:

- All staff who may be working with children undergo appropriate screening and recruitment practices; and
- The organisation takes appropriate child safety measures (e.g., through the implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations).

Eligible grant activities

The funding can be used to pay for:

- Salaries and on-costs that can be directly attributed to the delivery of the grant activity;
- Grant activities expenditure consistent with the grant agreement; and
- Operating and administrative expenses related to the delivery of the grant activities.

What grant money cannot be used for:

- Purchase of land;
- Major capital expenditure;
- Overseas travel; and
- Overseas activities.



The grant selection process

The SPG will announce the call for applications for the grant round on their website. Applications will be accepted via an online submission form or through submission of the pdf application form via email at grants@ccsp.org.au.

First, SPG will assess all applications against the eligibility criteria and proposed grant activities eligibility. Eligible applications will progress to the next stage and will be considered on the basis of priority areas they address through an open competitive grant process.

The priority groups for this grant program include women and youth from affected communities. The priority area for this grant program includes activities that address acute need related to emotional and social safety, support community wellbeing and the creation of a sense of belonging. Activities not directly focussing on the priority areas will not automatically be excluded from consideration, however, priority consideration will be given to activities with a focus on these areas.

An independent assessment panel will be convened to consider the applications.

After eligibility has been established, each eligible application will be considered on its merits based on:

- how well it meets the grant assessment criteria;
- how it compares to other applications;
- whether it provides value for money; and
- how will it address one or more of the priority areas and target communities.

Consideration will be given to:

- how well it meets one or more of the objectives of the grant program;
- how the activity will be delivered;
- location of proposed activities; and
- avoidance of duplication with existing programs.

Meeting the eligibility and assessment criteria and submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

The assessment criteria

You will need to address the following three assessment criteria in your application. Your application will be assessed on the weighting given to each criterion detailed below:

- Criterion 1: 35%
- Criterion 2: 45%
- Criterion 3: 20%

Criteria 1 and 2 have a word limit of 500 words. Criterion 3 has a limit of 300 words.



Criterion 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for support within the Australian Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities affected by the ongoing conflict.

Your response should:

- Outline the characteristics and needs of your target group/community, including numbers of people in need of support;
- Address gaps in supports within the target group/community; and
- Demonstrate how delivery of the proposed activities will respond to the particular need and will benefit the target group/community.

Criterion 2: Describe your proposed activity and how it will achieve positive outcomes for the target group/community.

Your response should:

- Detail the activities you propose to deliver and how they correspond with the objectives of the grant;
- How you will integrate considerations of safety and wellbeing into your activity delivery;
- What outcomes you expect to achieve for the target group/community; and
- Identify any risks related to the delivery of your activities and how you will respond to them.

Criterion 3: Describe why you or your organisation(s) is best placed to deliver the proposed activities.

Your response should:

- Outline your or your organisations relationship with the target group/community; and
- Your experience in delivering activities with the target group/community and how it is relevant to the delivery of the proposed activity.

In addition to addressing these assessment criteria, applicants must also submit an estimated budget proposal outlining a high-level breakdown of the costs associated with the proposed activity.



Successful applications

If you are successful and choose to accept a grant offer, you will enter into a legally binding agreement with the SPG.

You will be required to provide an Activity Workplan (on the template provided) reflecting agreed activities, a half-way activity workplan report, and a Final Financial Declaration. You will also be required to participate in a progress check-in meeting before the submission of your half-way activity workplan report.

Grant Funding will be paid on the basis of a tax invoice for the amount of the payment from your organisation.

If your application is successful, it will be expected that you have public liability insurance cover in place.



Evaluation

The SPG will evaluate the grant program to scope the impact and outcomes. In this regard, funded organisations and individuals will be required to participate in SPG facilitated information sharing forums through the duration of their respective activities to share learnings and experiences from their projects, identify challenges and emerging issues, workshop solutions and exchange knowledge and expertise.

The purpose of the knowledge sharing forums is to encourage greater collaboration among the organisations nationally and build collective capacity.

Organisations will be required to include in their half-way activity work plan report information on program outcomes, including number of people serviced, types of services provided and include case study examples. Further, a final report will need to be submitted providing a final overview of the performance of the activity against agreed upon deliverables.