



COMPACT – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What does COMPACT stand for?

COMPACT stands for Community, in Partnership, taking Action to safeguard Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life against extremist hate, violence, fear and division.

What is the underlying motivation and inspiration for COMPACT?

The COMPACT Program, like all programs administered by Multicultural NSW, is entirely motivated by our agency's core purpose of promoting social cohesion and community harmony.

Multicultural NSW has worked for decades, in partnership with communities, and across a wide range of different policy areas, to address and resolve issues that impact on social cohesion and community harmony.

Over the past five years, Multicultural NSW has made a concerted effort to address the threat posed to social cohesion and community harmony by rising levels of fear, hate and division linked to a heightened national and international security environment.

The COMPACT Program is especially concerned that the rise of ISIS-inspired extremism, linked to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq, has given fuel to the reactive hate-based rhetoric and activities of far right-wing extremist groups in Australia.

Both sides of this extremist divide share the same destructive "Us versus Them" mindset that undermines social cohesion and that we are determined to counter through the COMPACT Program.

The COMPACT Program aims to inspire and mobilise young Australians from all communities to stand up and stand united against these divisive, extreme fringe elements in the interests of social cohesion and community harmony.



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The COMPACT Program is inspired by the way the people of New South Wales demonstrated resilience following the Martin Place siege in December 2014. The people of NSW showed the world how we respond to violence and terror with human kindness, compassion and multicultural unity.

The COMPACT Program aims to build on this example of resilience to ensure that extremist hate, violence, fear and division do not threaten our peaceful and harmonious way of life.

How is the COMPACT program different from Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and “de-radicalisation” programs?

COMPACT is different. COMPACT is not a “de-radicalisation” program, and it is not motivated by a national security agenda. Like all programs administered by Multicultural NSW, the COMPACT Program is entirely motivated by our agency's core purpose of promoting social cohesion and community harmony.

Unlike “CVE” programs that are focussed on preventing the threat of extremist violence posed by a small number of individuals and their networks, COMPACT is focussed on the broader impacts that the current heightened security threat is having on social cohesion and community harmony.

We have seen how the rise of ISIS-inspired extremism, linked to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq, has given fuel to the reactive hate-based rhetoric and activities of far right-wing extremist groups in Australia.

Both sides of this extremist divide share the same destructive “Us versus Them” mindset that undermines social cohesion and that we are determined to counter through the COMPACT Program.

Addressing this issue from a social cohesion perspective, rather than a national security perspective, requires a different methodology from the individualised interventions often associated with “CVE” or “de-radicalisation” programs.

COMPACT is a unique, innovative program that provides an entirely new model for a whole-of-society, resilience-based response to current threats to social cohesion. Our model has been co-designed in close consultation with communities and academic experts.



In our program, “resilience” means proactively building and maintaining strong, cooperative, responsive networks that operate across communities and sectors, and that can be mobilised to respond to challenges and threats to community harmony, resolve conflict, and actively promote social cohesion.

Our resilience can be measured by the way we respond to extremist hate and division as a unified, inclusive and democratic society. COMPACT stands as a force for community harmony in this way.

Where does the funding for COMPACT come from?

The funding for COMPACT does not come out of a national security or law enforcement budget.

Multicultural NSW secured \$4m in funding for the COMPACT program in the 2015 NSW Budget. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from communities to the COMPACT program, the NSW Premier subsequently doubled our funding to \$8m, allowing us to expand the overall scope of the program and include more community partners.

How many projects have received COMPACT funding?

COMPACT will support 14 projects, to be delivered over 2-4 years by 14 not-for-profit community organisations, working with a further 23 partner organisations.

These are local solutions-based projects that bring young Australians together to promote positive behaviours and engage critically, creatively and constructively on local and global issues impacting on social cohesion and community harmony.

Our funded partners include a diverse range of communities and sectors including youth and sporting associations, civil society organisations, faith based groups, arts organisations, and volunteering and humanitarian groups.

Projects and partners are listed on the COMPACT program page on the Multicultural NSW website.



Is the NSW Government funding programs to address other priority community issues, such as domestic violence, mental health and drug and alcohol problems?

The NSW Government has invested significantly in health and family and community services.

For example, the NSW 2015 Budget committed \$148.5 million over four years to services addressing domestic and family violence.

The NSW 2015 Budget committed a further \$1.7 billion over four years for mental health, drug and alcohol services.

By comparison, COMPACT has a relatively modest budget of \$8 million over four years.

For more information about NSW Government investment in community services, visit www.nsw.gov.au

What is the COMPACT Alliance?

COMPACT supports an alliance of community partners who are committed to addressing and resolving community issues and tensions.

Membership of the COMPACT Alliance consists of our 14 funded host organisations and a further 23 partner organisations. That is a total membership of 37 partner organisations working together for community harmony through the COMPACT Alliance.

Our membership consists of a diverse range of communities and sectors including youth and sporting associations, civil society organisations, faith based groups, arts organisations, and volunteering and humanitarian groups.

The COMPACT Alliance provides ongoing support, information and advice on issues relating to COMPACT and its partners. It is a forum for sharing experiences and benefitting from shared learning from like-minded individuals and partners who are all committed to the Multicultural NSW COMPACT.



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The COMPACT Alliance is a key component of the COMPACT “resilience” model. In our program, “resilience” means proactively building and maintaining strong, cooperative, responsive networks that operate across communities and sectors and that can be mobilised to respond to challenges and threats to community harmony, resolve conflict, and actively promote social cohesion.

How will the COMPACT program be monitored and evaluated?

Independent experts will be engaged to develop an evaluation framework from the outset of the program in consultation with project partners.

Funded partners will demonstrate evidence for their approach and will develop a comprehensive work plan, including plans for stakeholder engagement and evaluation. Funded partners will receive funding based on key milestones, with opportunities for interim evaluation, consultation and review. This allows for projects to be adaptive to evolving needs and issues.

Our “resilience” can be measured by how effectively we respond to extremist hate and violence as a unified, inclusive and democratic society. The effectiveness of the COMPACT Alliance as a responsive network in this regard will be tested on a regular basis.

Funded partners have the opportunity to participate in an annual Multicultural NSW COMPACT Summit, a forum for showcasing plans and outcomes for grant initiatives, learning and adapting from shared experience, and forging new collaborations for future projects. The Summit will also be an opportunity to refine evaluation plans that will apply across the life of the projects.