



**Natalie Ward**

Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

**Shelley Hancock**

Minister for Local Government

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **RECORD SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

A record emergency relief package of \$18.8 million will be delivered by the NSW Government in the latest boost to support vulnerable members of our community during the latest COVID outbreak.

Minister for Multiculturalism Natalie Ward said the package will focus on the 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of concern to give urgent help to those experiencing hardship.

“The NSW Government knows this support is needed right now. This is the largest package of funding delivered during this current outbreak which supports local organisations to help those who need it most,” Mrs Ward said.

“We know these are incredibly tough times for vulnerable members of our community including recent migrants, young people and seniors.

“This package responds to feedback from our daily discussions with community and religious leaders who have told us more support is urgently needed.”

The \$18.8 million package will help grassroots organisations deliver emergency food relief, promote vaccination and testing services, and provide culturally appropriate support and care to diverse communities.

This will include support services by organisations that are already well connected to community needs, including culturally specific case workers.

The package includes a \$13 million grants program delivering emergency relief through not-for-profit and multicultural community organisations, as well as local councils.

Local community groups are now eligible to apply for grants of up to \$30,000 to deliver grassroots projects supporting vulnerable communities.

It also includes \$4 million for ongoing multicultural communications, including interpreting and translation services, to deliver critical health messages.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said it was vital the NSW Government partnered with local councils in response to the current outbreak.

“Local councils know where their communities are hurting and how best they can be supported during this very difficult time,” Mrs Hancock said.

“Grants of up to \$250,000 for the 12 local councils of concern will enable them to deliver tailored programs and services to help build resilience in their communities including translators and case workers.”

This package is in addition to existing NSW Government support during the current outbreak, including \$6.25 million to help support temporary visa holders, particularly asylum seekers, \$4 million for multicultural communications and \$750,000 for grassroots COVID-support grants for multicultural projects.

Grants of up to \$30,000 for local organisations are now open. Other grant streams as part of the \$13 million package will open soon. For more information, see <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/>

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