



## COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants 2026-28

### Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>1 How do we apply for this grant and where can we get support in completing our grant application?</p>	<p>Eligible not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for a portion of the total available funding.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for grant applications is noted on page 12 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i>.</p> <p>You are required to log in via SmartyGrants to access the online application form. If your organisation has previously used SmartyGrants to apply for a grant, then you are already registered, and you can use existing usernames and log in details.</p> <p>For any technical issues please contact SmartyGrants through details below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Email: <a href="mailto:service@smartygrants.com.au">service@smartygrants.com.au</a></li><li>· Telephone: 03 9320 6888</li><li>· Support Desk Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm AEDST, Monday - Friday</li></ul>
<p>2 What are the COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>They are COMPACT grants designed to support partnerships and collaboration between community, non-government, youth, sports, arts/media, educational and other organisations by providing funding for innovative, evidence-based community projects.</p>

		<p>Successful applications will 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.</p> <p>Please see page 5 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i> to view the grant objectives.</p>
3	<b>How much is available?</b>	<p>Eligible not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for \$50,000 to \$100,000 (excl. GST) per year for projects between one to two years. Projects will be delivered from the 2026-27 to 2027-28 financial years.</p>
4	<b>What kind of projects will be supported?</b>	<p>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants supports youth-led projects that 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.</p> <p>Please see Pages 5 and 10 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i> for information about the kinds of youth engagement projects supported by these grants.</p>
5	<b>I’m running an ongoing program which focuses on these strategic priority areas. Can I get funding towards it under this program?</b>	<p>See Page 8 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i>: Successful COMPACT proposals will demonstrate evidence for their approach. 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.</p>
6	<b>I recently held an event or activity that meets the grant’s strategic priorities. Can I get funding towards this event or activity that has already taken place?</b>	<p>No. Grants are only available for future events or activities, not those that have already taken place.</p>
7	<b>What will not be funded?</b>	<p>Please see pages 13 and 14 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i> for excluded activities and organisations.</p>

<p><b>8 Is this a countering violent extremism program?</b></p>	<p>Led by Multicultural NSW, COMPACT is a first-of-its-kind community resilience-building initiative to counter hate and extremism. COMPACT recognises that, beyond the threat of violence, extremism threatens social cohesion and community harmony by promoting fear, hate and division in society.</p> <p>In responding to this threat to community harmony, COMPACT takes a whole-of-society approach to community resilience, where “resilience” means proactively building and maintaining strong, responsive and collaborative networks that operate across communities and sectors, and that can mobilise to respond to challenges and threats, resolve conflict and actively promote social cohesion.</p> <p>This approach applies to a range of threats to community harmony, including extremism, hate, racism, polarisation, disinformation and malign foreign influences. It recognises that threats to community harmony can be heightened during times of crisis and disaster, and that both local and global crises can impact community harmony locally.</p> <p>COMPACT is funded under the NSW Countering Violent Extremism Program and aligns with Multicultural NSW’s whole-of-society model of Community Resilience: <i>Expanding robust relationships that inspire people to foster social cohesion, stand united against divisive forces and come together in times of need.</i></p> <p>Please see page 8 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i> to read about the COMPACT Program-level outcomes.</p>
<p><b>9 The funds cannot be spent on capital expenses, does this include equipment such as a camera for filming?</b></p>	<p>Funding is not available for capital works, or the purchase of equipment including cameras. This must be specifically discussed and agreed with Multicultural NSW. Proposals might consider leasing equipment for the term of the funding period.</p>
<p><b>10 Can the funds be given to our partner organisation?</b></p>	<p>If you have a partner organisation for this grant, you are responsible for your own partner arrangement.</p> <p>If successful, you as the lead organisation, are responsible for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· signing the funding agreement with Multicultural NSW</li> <li>· all legal and financial responsibilities</li> <li>· ensuring all project activities are completed</li> <li>· submitting progress and completion reports as well as all financial statements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11 Can an applicant/host organisation propose a project with a local council or a Local Health District (LHD) as a partner?</b></p>	<p>Yes, a local council or a Local Health District (LHD) can be a project partner. However, as government agencies, local councils and LHDs are not eligible to apply directly as host organisations for COMPACT grants.</p>
<p><b>12 Can schools be project partners?</b></p>	<p>Yes. However, if a proposal aims to deliver project activities in schools, the application must demonstrate a record of collaboration and engagement with the nominated schools.</p>
<p><b>13 Can places of worship be project partners?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>14 Can for-profit organisations apply for a grant?</b></p>	<p>No, for-profit organisations cannot apply for a grant as host organisations. However, for-profit organisations can be partners of a proposed project. We encourage applications that can secure in-kind resources, expertise and/or matched funding from private sector partners.</p>

<p>15 Can police or government agencies be project partners?</p>	<p>Yes, if they have formally agreed to be partners on the project.</p>
<p>16 Are previously funded COMPACT partners eligible to apply in this new funding round?</p> <p>Does the proposal need to be new, or can it be a proposal to further develop a previous COMPACT project?</p>	<p>Yes, previously funded COMPACT partners eligible to apply.</p> <p>See Page 8 and 9 of the <i>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants Guide 2026-2028</i>: Successful COMPACT proposals 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>17 What are in-kind contributions and are they required to be successful to receive a grant?</p>	<p>An in-kind contribution is a good or service other than money. It is any contribution the organisation brings to the project regarding human resources, volunteer work, donated goods etc.</p> <p>In-kind contributions are not required to be eligible or successful, however, they may strengthen an application in relation to the grants assessment criteria relating to Value for Money, Capacity &amp; Capability, and Collaboration.</p>
<p>18 Are cultural/ethnic specific organisations eligible to apply for a grant?</p>	<p>Yes, if they are eligible not-for-profit organisations. However, COMPACT takes a whole-of-society approach to community resilience-building, and successful applicants will clearly demonstrate capacity and competency to engage young people from a diverse range of cultural and religious backgrounds. This capacity might be demonstrated by partnering with organisations from different cultural communities, or through a track record of working with a range of communities.</p>
<p>19 Is there a required template for the risk mitigation plan?</p>	<p>No, applicant organisations are able to use their own organisational templates for risk mitigation.</p>
<p>20 If an organisation receives many grants, which ones should be listed in the application?</p>	<p>Please list the most recent grants (up to two years) that may be relevant to the COMPACT Program or similar programs.</p>
<p>21 Must a proposal specifically target young people aged 12 to 30? Can it target young adults aged 18 years or over?</p>	<p>Successful applications 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.</p> <p>Proposals should broadly identify the age range they will target, e.g. high school aged, young adults, etc. Proposals can target young adults above 18 years of age.</p> <p>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.</p>

22	Can a proposal focus on children or intergenerational relationships?	<p>Yes, a proposal can target children aged 12 to 17 years.</p> <p>A proposal can also use youth-led methods to support intergenerational communication and understanding, address issues of intergenerational trauma and conflict, build resilience at the family level, and promote the value of diversity across generations.</p>
23	Can a project proposal be about a building community relationships between two or more different cultural or religious groups?	<p>Yes, COMPACT a strong focus on building cross-cultural and interfaith relationships. COMPACT takes a whole-of-society approach to community resilience-building, and successful applicants will clearly demonstrate capacity and competency to engage young people from a diverse range of cultural and religious backgrounds. This capacity might be demonstrated by partnering with organisations from different cultural or religious communities, or through a track record of working with different communities.</p>
24	The application form only has space to include information for three partner organisations. If a proposal includes more than three project partners, where can the additional partner information be included?	<p>Any additional partner information or supporting documentation can be uploaded at the end of the application in Part F: Checklist and Supporting Documents. Please also make reference to the additional partners and additional attached information in the body of your application.</p>
25	Can a music festival apply for a grant?	<p>Yes, if the proposal clearly addresses the COMPACT Program objectives and meets the eligibility and assessment criteria. However, please note that Multicultural NSW has other grants programs for festivals and events. Try to ensure you are applying for the most appropriate grants program.</p> <p>For more information, please visit <a href="https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/multicultural-nsw-grants/">https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/multicultural-nsw-grants/</a></p>
26	If successful, how is grant funded allocated to project partners?	<p>The proposal should provide a well formulated, well justified and well-proportioned budget that explains if, how, and how much grant funding will be allocated to project partners.</p> <p>Multicultural NSW awards grant funding to the applicant/host organisation. This funding relationship is between Multicultural NSW and the applicant/host organisation. Any working arrangements (including financial) with project partners are the responsibility of the applicant/host organisation (e.g. through MOUs) and are not a matter for Multicultural NSW.</p> <p>If successful, the applicant/host organisation is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signing the funding agreement with Multicultural NSW</li> <li>• all legal and financial responsibilities</li> <li>• ensuring all project activities are completed</li> <li>• submitting progress and completion reports as well as all financial statements.</li> </ul>
27	Can the grant cover multiple or multifaceted project activities that aim to achieve the same objective?	<p>Yes, a proposal may contain multiple activities or components as long as they all address COMPACT Program objectives, align with the COMPACT Program Logic, and can be reported in the same project activity report and captured in the same project-level evaluation.</p>

28	<p><b>If successful under this funding round, do I need to reapply for funding annually?</b></p>	<p>COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants support projects from one to two years. Projects must submit six-monthly progress reports, including annual milestone reporting of activities and expenditure demonstrating the project is delivering agreed milestones within budget. Grant funding is paid in annual milestone payments subject to receipt and approval of annual milestone reports and acquittal of the previous milestone payment.</p>
29	<p><b>When will decisions be made on applications and funding paid to successful applicants?</b></p>	<p>It is expected that successful applications will be announced by 30 June 2026. Successful applicants will be paid their first annual milestones and will be ready to commence their projects from July 2026.</p>
30	<p><b>Will two-year programs have a higher chance of being funded?</b></p>	<p>No. COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants support projects from one to two years. COMPACT Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Grants are awarded on merit following a rigorous assessment process, regardless of the length of the project with the one to two year project timeframe.</p>