



# Multicultural Arts and Festivals 2016-17

## Feedback summary

### Overview

Multicultural Arts and Festivals (MAF) grants aim to build cohesive Australian communities by providing opportunities for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions.

MAF grants are funded under the Strengthening Communities Activity within the Families and Communities Program. More detailed information about the Families and Communities Program and the Strengthening Communities Activity can be found on the Department of Social Services' (the Department's) website.

MAF projects aim to promote respect, fairness and a sense of belonging for Australians of different cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds, focusing on the promotion of inter-community harmony and understanding.

A MAF project is a structured multicultural festival or multicultural arts activity or set of activities, designed and delivered by the funding recipient. Projects are consistent with the objectives of the grants, which are to:

- encourage social cohesion and mutual understanding through the sharing of different cultural experiences;
- seek to educate groups about other cultures through information sharing; and/or
- address a social cohesion issue, such as tensions between groups in a community.

Funding is provided to projects that are consistent with the objectives of the Strengthening Communities Guidelines Overview, such as projects that:

- promote the importance of mutual respect, understanding and fair treatment of all, regardless of people's cultural, racial or religious beliefs;
- promote harmony between groups of people from different cultural, racial and religious backgrounds;
- raise awareness of all Australians in order to build a greater respect and understanding of diversity;
- promote the benefits of living in a culturally diverse society; and
- provide opportunities for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions.

## Selection process

The Department received 190 applications for grants to deliver MAF projects.

The Department considered each proposal against two equally weighted selection criteria. The criteria are set out below.

**Criterion 1 Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding**

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- a. how many participants/attendees you expect at your proposed project and the total cost of the project; and
- b. the different cultural, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds of the targeted groups; and
- c. the identified social cohesion issue/s you hope to address with this project.

**Criterion 2 Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Activity objectives in the specified community and/or the specified target group**

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- d. the experience and skills of the members of your organisation relevant to delivering projects or events; and
- e. how many staff (excluding volunteers) your organisation employs.

The preferred applicants met the selection criteria and demonstrated that they could deliver the grant requirements published in the Funding Round Summary. Project proposals needed to focus on actively engaging the target group/s, involving the wider community in the activities and connecting people across cultures, racial backgrounds and religions. Though all compliant applications were considered, preference was given to:

- applications that strongly demonstrated how the MAF project will address social cohesion issues;
- smaller organisations. For the purpose of this activity, smaller organisations were defined as those with less than 20 full time equivalent employees; and
- organisations depending on MAF funding to make up a significant percentage of the total cost of the project.

Consideration was given to getting an even geographical distribution of projects across Australia, as well as supporting areas where there is high cultural diversity and low levels of social cohesion.

## Selection results

The Department selected 33 organisations to deliver MAF projects for 2016-17.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the grant objectives. Further details are set out below.

**Criterion 1: Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding**

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- how many participants/attendees you expect at your proposed project and the total cost of the project; and
- the different cultural, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds of the targeted groups; and
- the identified social cohesion issue/s you hope to address with this project.

Strength	Example
The response clearly stated the number of attendees/participants expected at the event.	The Applicant provided detailed information about the number of attendees expected at the event. This included the number of people who had attended previous events held by the organisation and a description of how the event will be promoted to targeted groups and the wider community via social media, local and regional papers, radio and community notice boards.
The response provided clear information on the total cost of the project.	The Applicant’s response included the total cost of the project.
The response provided a detailed description of the different cultural, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds of the targeted groups.	The Applicant provided detailed information on the number of cultural, religious and linguistically diverse communities that will be involved in planning the event and/or invited to participate. The response also included information about existing links with these target groups.
The response identified the social cohesion issue/s the applicant hopes to address with the project.	The Applicant provided detailed information about the social cohesion issues in the community, including statistical information from surveys, accounts from local community members and evidence that the organisation has strong links with the targeted groups and understands the issues they experience.
The response addressed how the event will achieve the Activity objectives.	The Applicant provided a detailed description of how the event will encourage social cohesion and mutual understanding by sharing different cultural experiences and educating groups about other cultures.

### **Areas for improvement**

Applicants may have strengthened their response to Criterion 1 by:

- addressing all minimum mandatory requirements, including the estimated attendance, the cost of the event/project, the targeted cultural groups of the event/project and the social cohesion issue/s within the community;
- providing additional supporting evidence to demonstrate that there are social cohesion issues within the community; and
- providing more detailed information to demonstrate how the proposal will achieve the activity objectives.

**Criterion 2: Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Activity objectives in the specified community and/or the specified target group**

In providing a response to this criterion you **must** include, but are not limited to:

- the experience and skills of the members of your organisation relevant to delivering projects or events; and
- how many staff (excluding volunteers) your organisation employs.

Strength	Example
The response stated how many staff the organisation employs.	The Applicant provided clear information about how many staff the organisation employs.
The response demonstrated that the staff have the experience and skills relevant to delivering projects or events.	The Applicant clearly outlined the experience and skills of the members of the organisation that would support the successful delivery of the proposed activity or event. Supporting evidence included information showing the staff’s relevant tertiary qualifications, their current links to the community and their experience successfully delivering and managing similar events.
The response demonstrated that the organisation has the capacity and capability to deliver the Activity objectives.	The Applicant provided detailed information about the organisation’s capacity and relevant experience in hosting similar events. The response outlined the organisation’s administrative capacity, including human resources, financial resources and information technology systems. Supporting evidence included details of previous experience managing government grants, outcomes of past events and how the applicant will facilitate successful delivery of the proposed event.

**Areas for improvement**

Applicants may have strengthened their responses to Criterion 2 by:

- providing detailed information about staff qualifications, skills and experience;
- including evidence of organising similar activities and experience managing grants;
- describing outcomes of past or similar events and activities; and
- demonstrating links with, and support from, the wider community.