

## Frequently Asked Questions the Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity

### Q. Why has the Strengthening Communities Activity changed?

A: The [Strengthening Communities Activity](#) has been redesigned to better align and target funding to Australian Government priorities such as building social cohesion and addressing emerging community need. It is now known as the Strong and Resilient Communities grants Activity (SARC).

### Q. Which Strengthening Communities Activity grant programs formed part of the redesign?

A: The following grant programs formed part of the redesign:

- [Community Capacity Building](#)
- [Diversity and Social Cohesion](#)
- [Multicultural Arts and Festivals](#).

### Q: What's different about the SARC grants?

A: Strong and Resilient Communities grants will provide a whole-of-community approach to emerging challenges through three distinct grant programs:

- Community Resilience grants
- Inclusive Communities grants
- National Research grants.

Local communities know their local challenges better than anyone else that's why, under SARC, grants will provide a more flexible program structure that enables communities to determine how funding can best address their needs.

Local communities can identify needs and a single or multiple organisations can come together to provide local solutions to create a more integrated, cohesive society.

### Q: How much funding is available for these grant programs?

A: \$45.25 million in funding has been allocated for the three SARC grants programs —Community Resilience grants, Inclusive Communities grants and National Research grants – from 1 April 2018 until 30 June 2021. There is no specific funding level allocated to each of the three grants programs.

A further \$19.95 million in funding has been allocated to continue supporting volunteer support service organisations through the Volunteer Management Activity from 1 January 2018 until 30 June 2021.

### Q: Were community organisations consulted on grants redesign?

A: The Department of Social Services contacted all organisations currently funded under the Strengthening Communities Activity to inform them of these changes in February and March 2017.

### Q: How was stakeholder feedback used by the Department?

A: Stakeholder feedback was used to inform the SARC grant opportunity guidelines.

**Q: Will the Government continue to support multicultural arts and festivals?**

**A:** Yes. Organisations can deliver multicultural arts and festivals events as a sub-component of projects under SARC. Community Resilience Grants must include a Harmony Day event.

Funding will be allocated flexibly and will be based on merit and level of need in the community.

**Q: How can community organisations find out more about SARC grants?**

**A:** Community organisations can find more information about the SARC funding on the [DSS website](#).

Opportunities for Community Resilience and Inclusive Communities grants are now available, with applications open until 2pm AEST on 23 August 2017. National Research grants will be announced later in 2017.

For more information or to apply for a grant, go to the GrantConnect website at [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au) or the Community Grants Hub website at [www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au).

**Q: What is the focus of the grant programs?**

**A:** Inclusive Communities grants aim to increase social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and families and to improve their life time wellbeing and sense of community belonging.

Community Resilience grants aim to build strong, resilient and cohesive communities to help make Australia more secure and harmonious. These grants will be for projects designed to address issues in communities that show early signs of low social cohesion and/or racial, religious or cultural intolerance.

National Research grants will provide funding for research and advisory projects to increase the Government's understanding of existing and emerging issues of national significance that impact on community resilience and social cohesion in Australia.

**Q: What are the key differences between the Inclusive Communities grants program and the Community Resilience grants program?**

**A:** Community Resilience grants are targeted at whole-of-community approaches to address identified issues relating to community resilience and social cohesion.

Inclusive Communities grants are targeted more specifically at disadvantaged individuals and families within a community to improve their social and economic participation.

**Q: Can organisations apply for multiple grants?**

**A:** Yes. Eligible organisations can apply for grants between \$20,000 and \$150,000 a year, for up to three and a quarter years, for each community project they deliver. There is no limit to how many projects an eligible organisation may apply to deliver.

**Q: Is the funding ongoing?**

**A:** No. Funding will be available for one-off time-limited projects of up to three and a quarter years.

**Q: Can organisations apply together for a grant where the project is delivered by a group of organisations?**

**A:** Yes. Local communities can identify needs and a single or multiple organisations can come together to apply for grants to provide local solutions to create a more integrated, cohesive society.

**Q: Do I need to deliver a Harmony Day event to be considered for SARC grants?**

**A:** All Community Resilience projects must include a Harmony Day event. Applications that do not indicate their project will include a Harmony Day event will be deemed non-compliant and will not proceed to assessment.

Inclusive Communities projects may include a Harmony Day event. This will help increase exposure within the community of issues being addressed by the project.