

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Friday, 28 February 2025

MORE SUPPORT TO GROW VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR

The Allan Labor Government is supporting multicultural communities to celebrate and share their traditions through a series of grants programs – recognising the importance of Victoria's diverse and vibrant population.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt today announced that more than 90 community organisations will share in \$750,000 to bring their festivals and events to life from April to June 2025 – thanks to the latest rounds of the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program and Regional Multicultural Festivals and Events Program.

Each program supports communities to celebrate and share their heritage and connect with other Victorians – helping to preserve traditions and encourage the broader Victorian community to take part in events that help with learning, understanding and respect for different cultures and traditions.

The successful community organisations to receive funding from the programs represent the diverse cultural landscape of Victoria, including over 27 ethnicities with events taking place across 10 regional and 22 metropolitan local government areas.

Funding in this round also supports new and emerging communities, like our Afghan community. A recipient of funding, the Victorian Afghan Associations Network (VAAN) will host their Nawroz Festival this year to celebrate the beginning of springtime, which is celebrated by the majority of the Afghan diaspora around the world.

The VAAN works to strengthen coordination among Afghan associations in Victoria, support community needs and creates opportunities to connect through events, publications and financial assistance.

Melbourne Somali Community Inc., which supports Victoria's Somali community through inclusion and development in Melbourne's inner-city suburbs, received funding for its Multicultural Eid Festival, a celebration of the end of Ramadan for local public housing residents.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has invested more than \$42 million to deliver close to 10,000 multicultural festivals and events across the state.

The full list of successful recipients can be found here, vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt

"The Multicultural Festival and Events Program is at the heart of what makes Victoria great –giving communities the chance to showcase their traditions, preserve their heritage and create a more connected state."

"Our strength lies in our diversity and these grants help foster inclusion, connection and a shared sense of belonging for Victorians of all backgrounds."