



LGBTI MULTICULTURAL GRANTS

The Victorian Government values and celebrates diversity. Gender and sexual diversity is found in all societies and amongst people of all faiths, and just as we respect and celebrate cultural and religious diversity, we respect the diversity of gender and sexuality that exists in our community. We affirm the right to equality, fairness and decency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and gender diverse and Intersex (LGBTI) Victorians and we are committed to removing discrimination from Victorian laws, services and society.

LGBTI people often face violence and discrimination because of prejudice and a lack of understanding. Cultural values and religious beliefs are major factors that confront culturally diverse LGBTI people. In addition racism within LGBTI communities, can make it harder for culturally diverse LGBTI people to feel accepted and access the support and services they need.

LGBTI people experience higher levels of anxiety, depression and significantly higher rates of suicide compared to heterosexual counterparts. It is important to recognise that marginalisation and discrimination are the predominant contributing factors, rather than gender and sexual diversity.

The LGBTI Multicultural Grants announced by the Victorian Government will support capacity building and inclusive services and programs for culturally diverse LGBTI people.

Priorities for LGBTI Multicultural Grants

- » Working with LGBTI communities and organisations to support them to be more inclusive of people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- » Working with faith based and culturally diverse communities, particularly recently arrived and emerging communities, to increase acceptance of LGBTI community members.
- » Increasing opportunities for peer support for LGBTI people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Building the capacity of LGBTI culturally diverse community groups.
- » Working with CALD services to make them more LGBTI inclusive, and with LGBTI services to make them more inclusive of cultural diversity.

The Victorian Government has committed a minimum grant pool of \$500,000 over four years for LGBTI Multicultural Grants. The grants will be administered through two of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship's grants programs:

- » the Community Harmony Grant program; and
- » the Capacity Building and Participation Program.

Both programs will open on 15 March 2016.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- » increase community awareness about the issues and needs of the LGBTI culturally diverse Victorians;
- » reduce or prevent discrimination, vilification and harassment of LGBTI culturally diverse Victorians;
- » develop resilience, capacity and confidence of LGBTI culturally diverse Victorians;
- » address gaps in the current service system that prevent LGBTI culturally diverse Victorians from being able to access the support they need; and
- » celebrate diversity and promote inclusion of LGBTI culturally diverse Victorians within the wider community, particularly in rural and regional communities.

Partnerships with either LGBTI or culturally diverse organisations are encouraged. However projects led by or in partnership with LGBTI culturally diverse organisations or groups are preferred.

Further information is available at the multicultural.vic.gov.au website

