Multifaith/Interfaith Grants Program

Purpose of the Multifaith/Interfaith Grants Program: What are we trying to achieve?

The Multifaith/Interfaith Grants Program (MIGP) is funded through the Victorian Government’s Promoting Community Harmony Program, administered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC).

The Promoting Community Harmony Program aims to engender greater social cohesion and cooperation amongst Victoria’s many diverse faith and cultural communities and the wider Victorian community. The Program supports activities that foster understanding, appreciation, acceptance and respect for cultural and faith diversity broadly across the Victorian community.

As a part of the Promoting Community Harmony Program, the MIGP seeks to broadly promote social cohesion, understanding and acceptance among Victoria’s diverse faith communities and within the wider Victorian community. The Program achieves this by funding projects that aim to:

- encourage faith groups to develop strong relationships and partnerships with diverse groups, faith communities and the broader Victorian community;
- support Victoria’s diverse communities to engage in multifaith activities;
- support faith communities and organisations to better engage people, organisations and communities that are currently not involved in multifaith activity;
- promote engagement with a broad range of faith and community members, including new and emerging communities;
- assist with the establishment of new interfaith networks or build the skill base and sustainability of existing interfaith networks;
- promote education and awareness of racial and religious tolerance in Victoria; and
- increase understanding of and respect for other faiths and cultures.

Priority is given to projects displaying strong collaborative links between partner organisations that include a faith-based organisation and which involve the broader Victorian community in activities.

The 2012 MIGP, which will support projects being delivered between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, is open for applications from Monday 17 October 2011 to Friday 16 December 2011.
What level of funding is available?

The MIGP can provide funding of up to:

- $10,000 (excluding GST) to a range of multifaith projects that bring different faith and community groups together to promote community harmony, celebrate our shared values and increase our understanding of, and respect for, our differences.
- $20,000 (excluding GST)* to projects that assist in the establishment of new interfaith networks or build the capacity and sustainability of existing interfaith networks.

*Note: Applications with a budget greater than $10,000 should contact the Promoting Community Harmony Manager on 03 9651 0684 to request a detailed budget template for completion with the application.

What are we looking for in a strong application?

The MIGP funds a wide range of different projects, including seminars and conferences, leadership training initiatives and places of worship tours. Regardless of the project, all funded initiatives must meet a high standard of multifaith engagement, by including many diverse communities and building strong collaborative partnerships. Strong applications must highlight how the following requirements will be met:

**Formal partnerships** – applicants are encouraged to establish formal partnerships with at least one other organisation (e.g. different faith community organisations) for the design, planning and/or delivery of a project. Written evidence of partnerships will be required.

**Reaching new segments of the community** – applicants must outline practical steps they will take to engage people, organisations and communities that have not previously been involved in similar initiatives, or have not been engaged in multifaith activity more generally.

**Meaningful participation** of other faith communities and organisations – priority will be given to proposed projects which include as participants three or more different faith communities/organisations. Written evidence of involvement may be required.

*Note: It is important to note that the participation of different faith communities/organisations in a project must be constituted by a tangible contribution (e.g. joint prayer, speech, participation on a panel, financial or in-kind support etc.). Attendance only does not represent sufficiently meaningful participation for the purpose of these grants.

**Consultation with OMAC** – funded organisations may be required to consult with OMAC and submit a more detailed project plan and/or budget prior to the implementation of a project.
What are some examples of projects funded through the MIGP?

The information below includes examples of projects and activities funded through the MIGP and examples of OMAC’s requirements for such activities:

- **Seminars/conferences** - for example, seminars with faith leaders that promote interfaith dialogue and awareness of faiths; and to the wider Victorian community.
  
  - Speakers/contributors from a number of different faith-based organisations or faith communities are required to contribute to such events; and events to be actively promoted to communities that do not regularly engage in multifaith activity.

- **Visiting places of worship** - for example, a half day tour open to faith leaders, students and members of the wider community which visits various places of worship such as a Temple, Mosque, Synagogue, Church and places of spiritual significance.
  
  - In addition to the host faith community, at least one different faith community is encouraged to participate in this activity (e.g. joint prayer, speech, etc.).

- **Educational programs** - for example, developing interfaith dialogue in schools to encourage dialogue, trust and understanding between students and teachers of different faiths and cultures.
  
  - Different faith communities are encouraged to contribute to such projects with the aim of also involving the broader school community including parents and school councils.

- **Leadership training** - for example, a leadership development course for young faith leaders which also facilitates ongoing linkages between Victoria’s faith groups into the future.
  
  - Participants from at least three different faith communities and communities that do not regularly engage in multifaith activity must be involved.

- **Cultural events/festivals** - for example, a multifaith festival, workshops, religious displays, explanations by faith leaders of prayers and religious rituals.
  
  - Projects are required to include contributions or participation by representatives from a number of different faith communities with the aim of engaging the broader Victorian community.

- **Interfaith Network activities** – In the context of the MIGP, an ‘Interfaith Network’ is an organisation that facilitates regular interaction between people of different religions/faiths at either an individual or organisational level with the aim of obtaining common ground by concentrating on similarities between faiths. Interfaith Networks meet regularly throughout the year and in many cases, but not all, are Local Government Area or geographically based and auspiced by, or linked to a local council. Activities of Interfaith Networks may include: holding interfaith conferences, developing resources and educational programs, providing leadership training to faith leaders and hosting cultural events which engage the wider community.
  
  - At the close of the funding period, interfaith networks will be required to submit a summary of their efforts to engage a broader range of people and communities.
Who can apply?

Community organisations and non-profit organisations can apply for funding. Organisations must be incorporated under the Australian Corporations Act or as an Association under the Associations Incorporation Act and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

If you wish to apply for funding and are not a formal organisation (i.e. you do not meet the above criteria), you are able to apply in partnership with another organisation that will act as an auspice for your project. Auspice organisations must meet the above criteria, and can include local councils for this category.

Organisations may submit multiple applications, although priority will be given to only one application. If you are applying for more than one project, please fill out one application form for each project.

What will not be funded?

Funding is not available for organisations that:

- are primarily commercial organisations or bodies established for profit-making purposes;
- are seeking retrospective funding for projects or programs that have started or been completed before July 2012;
- have a municipal council as the primary applicant*;
- are seeking funding for competitions, commercial, political or fund-raising activities;
- are seeking funding for events or programs help outside of Victoria;
- are seeking funding for transport to interstate conferences or events;
- have failed to abide by the terms and conditions of previously provided OMAC grants; or
- receive income from electronic gaming machines.

OMAC will not fund applications from individuals.

*Note: Local councils may only apply as the primary applicant for proposals relating to the initial establishment of an interfaith network. For all other proposals, community organisations auspiced by or supported by local councils will be considered.

How/when will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by OMAC between January and May 2012. Funding outcomes will be announced and cheques issued to successful recipients in June/July 2012.

Successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement with OMAC that sets out the conditions and reporting requirements of the grant. Conditions relate to:

- completion of the project within the specified 2012-13 financial year period;
- appropriate financial management (including reporting requirements); and
- compliance with OMAC evaluation processes.
In addition, most funding agreements will include stipulations specific to individual projects to ensure that they adhere to the requirements of the MIGP. Stipulations relate to the information detailed in the sections above (see: ‘What are we looking for in a strong application?’, ‘What are some examples of projects funded through the MIGP?’).

**What are the funding conditions?**

The following conditions will apply to projects that receive a grant:

- the grant recipient must enter into a funding agreement with OMAC that sets out the conditions and reporting requirements;
- the funded project must be delivered between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Any unspent funds must be returned to OMAC;
- funds must be spent on the project/activities as described in the application;
- any variation to the approved project must be submitted to OMAC for written approval prior to implementation; and
- the funded organisation must have public liability or other insurance to cover loss or injury occurring to any person involved in the project.

**What is the application process?**

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 16 December 2011. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications can be completed online through the website – [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)

Applications can also be submitted in hardcopy or electronic format:

- **By mail** - Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship  
  GPO Box 4698  
  Melbourne VIC 3001
- **By e-mail** - omac@dpc.vic.gov.au  
  (note: e-mail applications do not require a signature)