

Opening date:	27 August 2026
Closing date:	22 September 2026
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact grants@australiaday.org.au (Contact Officer).
Type of grant opportunity:	Mixed - open competitive & demand driven

1. INTRODUCTION

I. GRANT OVERVIEW

The National Australia Day Council (NADC) Community Events Grant Program supports communities across Australia to host inclusive Australia Day events promoting the theme: *'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.'*

This grant opportunity is made possible through the National Australia Day Council, with assistance from the Australian Government. Local, state and territory government entities and Australian not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.

With a total funding pool of **\$4.5 million (GST exclusive)**, the Program aims to deliver impactful, engaging, and memorable Australia Day events nationwide.

Funding streams

For Australia Day 2027, the Program makes three funding streams available:

- **Base Grant: \$10,000 (GST exclusive)** to assist eligible event organisers to ensure inclusive Australia Day 2027 events proceed.
- **Base + Additional Grant: \$10,000 + \$5,000 (GST exclusive)** for events that include *significant* Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements.
- **Alternate Grant: \$2,000 (GST exclusive)** to support community-focused Australia Day events. This stream is limited to eligible applications subject to the availability of funds within the Program's overall funding cap.

Assessment and payment

- *Base and Additional Grants* are **merit-based**. Applications are scored against the assessment criteria. Successful applicants receive 80 per cent on execution of the funding agreement and 20 per cent after the final acquittal report (due 30 April 2027).
- *Alternate Grant* applications are **not merit-based**. Eligible applications are allocated in timestamp order following round closure and confirmation of eligibility, subject to the availability of funds within the Program's overall funding cap. Successful applicants receive the full \$2,000 upfront.

Branding and collateral requirements

To maintain consistency across events and effectively promote the message of *'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.'*, each successful applicant will receive a complimentary package of Australia Day collateral materials. Successful applicants will be required to use NADC Australia Day branding and collateral materials. This may include new materials or existing items purchased from previous Australia Day projects. Recipients will also be able to purchase these items online through the [Australia Day Council Aussie Merchandise program](#).

Successful applicants will be required to display the Australian National Flag at funded events as an official identifier of Australia Day. Applicants are strongly encouraged to display the Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag alongside the Australian National Flag, where appropriate, in accordance with applicable flag protocols.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to support local economies and community resilience by engaging local businesses and service providers, including through the production of additional materials.

Community engagement focus

These grants aim to foster community connection by supporting Australia Day events that are welcoming, accessible and inclusive for all, with particular reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and

linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, young people, and others in the community, so that Australia Day is recognised as a day for all Australians.

Successful applicants are required to register their event(s) on the NADC Australia Day Event Register website using the approved event title and description, and ensure that promotions are consistent with the approved application.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to provide funding for Australia Day 2027 events that:

- enable Australia Day events to proceed
- encourage broad and diverse community participation
- demonstrate inclusiveness, with particular reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, young people, and others in the community, so that Australia Day is recognised as a day for all Australians
- support nationally consistent Australia Day messaging in ways that foster inclusion, respect and community connection
- promote the message of 'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.'
 - **Reflect** – An example of reflecting is to acknowledge our history, stories and shared journey as a nation.
 - **Respect** – An example of respecting is to honour the cultures, experiences and contributions of all Australians.
 - **Celebrate** – An example of celebrating is to come together to recognise what unites us and the diversity that strengthens us.

III. AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDING

The National Australia Day Council (NADC), supported by the Australian Government, offers three funding streams for Australia Day 2027 community events:

- **Base Grant: \$10,000 (GST exclusive)** to assist eligible event organisers to ensure inclusive Australia Day 2027 events proceed.
- **Base + Additional Grant: \$10,000 + \$5,000 (GST exclusive)** An *Additional Grant* may be added to the *Base Grant* for events that include significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements.
- **Alternate Grant: \$2,000 (GST exclusive)** to support community-focused Australia Day events. This stream is limited to eligible applications subject to the availability of funds within the Program's overall funding cap.

Applicants may submit **one** application only, choosing either:

- I. the Base Grant, **or**
- II. the Base Grant + Additional Grant, **or**
- III. the Alternate Grant.

Where an applicant is not approved for the level of funding sought, the NADC may, in its discretion, offer an alternative level of funding, subject to eligibility, funding availability and the objectives of the Program.

The Base and Additional Grants are merit-based; applications are assessed against the assessment criteria. Successful applicants receive 80 per cent on execution of the funding agreement and 20 per cent following approval of the final acquittal report, which is due 30 April 2027. The Alternate Grant is not merit-based and is paid in full once eligibility is confirmed, and following approval.

The total available funding for the Program is **\$4.5 million (GST exclusive)**. Eligibility requirements alone do not guarantee success in the merit-based streams, and previous recipients who have not properly acquitted grants provided under past NADC Community Events Grant Programs (or similar programs) may be deemed ineligible.

2. KEY DATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

I. IMPORTANT DATES

The expected timing for this grant opportunity is below, however, the NADC may vary the timeframes to meet operational requirements:

- applications will open **27 August 2026**
- applications will close **22 September 2026**
- the NADC will use its best endeavours to notify applicants of the outcome of their application within 20 business days of the Closing Date
- successful applicants *must* stage their Australia Day 2027 event on 26 January 2027, but may also run related events around Australia Day as long as at least one event takes place on Australia Day
- acquittal reporting, including photographs of the successful applicant's activities, must be submitted to the NADC by 30 April 2027.

II. ENQUIRIES

For any questions or further information, please contact grants@australiaday.org.au (Contact Officer).

3. ELIGIBILITY

I. WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be considered for this grant opportunity, the applicant must be either:

- an Australian local government entity
- an Australian state or territory government entity, or
- an Australian not-for-profit organisation

Applicants must also hold public liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$10 million, and must demonstrate how their event will be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, including how accessibility for people with disability has been considered.

Additionally, *local government and state or territory government applicants* will need to demonstrate that they will financially invest in their Australia Day 2027 event at least the same amount as they invested in any previously held event supported by the NADC. This grant is designed to supplement existing event budgets and not replace or reduce prior financial commitments. This financial commitment does not include contra or sponsorship arrangements.

II. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE

An applicant is not eligible for a grant under this grant opportunity if they:

- are an individual
- are an unincorporated organisation
- are an organisation whose aims and objectives do not align with the purpose and objectives of the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program
- are an entity that is part of the state and territory Australia Day National Network
- are an entity that is not either
 - an Australian local government or state or territory government, or
 - an Australian not-for-profit organisation
- do not hold public liability insurance with coverage of at least \$10 million
- have not properly acquitted a grant provided by NADC under previous Australia Day Community Events Grant Programs (or similar)

4. WHAT WE WILL FUND

I. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Grant funding may only be used for costs directly related to planning, delivering, and promoting an Australia Day 2027 event. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, the following categories:

- *promotions and communications* - expenses for invitations, publicity, and communications that incorporate the NADC Australia Day logo and accessible formats where required
- *artists and talent fees* - payments for services provided by celebrity hosts, musical or theatrical performers, and other artistic contributors
- *accessibility costs*¹ - costs for accessibility equipment or services (e.g. ramps, Auslan interpretation, live captioning) to ensure the event is inclusive for all participants.
- *event operations* – face to face event costs, including venue hire, equipment rental, catering, and other logistical expenses
- *photography and videography*² - the hiring of a professional (**maximum of \$1,000**) to produce high-quality promotional images or videos
- *virtual and digital components* - costs associated with online content, pre-recording awards or entertainment, and other digital collateral
- *Australia Day messaging* - production or purchase of promotional items, event collateral, banners, flags and other event presentation materials that support Australia Day celebrations and feature the approved NADC Australia Day Designs

II. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities include any public event that will take place on Australia Day 2027. The event can be existing or new. Events should be designed to welcome participation from the breadth of the local community:

- Australia Day community fair
- Australia Day multicultural festival
- Australia Day concert
- Australia Day picnic
- Smoking Ceremony/Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement
- Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony
- Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony
- Barbecue in the park/street
- Light/ drone shows
- Australia Day parade
- Beach party
- Australia Day breakfast/lunch
- Cultural ceremony

¹ Applicants are encouraged to consult the Australian Human Rights Commission guidelines on how to hold an accessible and inclusive event: https://includeability.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/includeability_-_guide_-_hosting_accessible_and_inclusive_in-person_meetings_and_events.pdf

² Successful applicants will be required to provide good quality promotional images of their events. Successful applicants that do not have the appropriate skills or equipment to take quality photos or videos themselves may spend up to \$1,000 of their grant funding on a professional photographer or videographer. The NADC encourages applicants to support local service providers where possible.

- Australia Day Race/marathon
- Virtual event
- Digital content development for any of the above
- Interactive youth workshops (e.g. cultural, creative arts, STEM activities)
- Youth-focused games

All funded events must have a clear Australia Day focus and actively promote the message of ‘*Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.*’ by incorporating the NADC Australia Day Designs into their communications and event materials.

III. EVENTS THAT INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ELEMENTS

As an *addition* to the Base Grant (\$10,000 GST exclusive), applicants can also apply for an Additional Grant of \$5,000 (GST exclusive) to enable significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements in Australia Day events.

Applicants seeking this additional funding must demonstrate that the event includes significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements and how they will collaborate with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and their representatives to plan and deliver these elements. For the purposes of the Additional Grant, a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country, on its own, will not be sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

The activities and elements that may be appropriate in each community will vary and should be developed in consultation and collaboration with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community representatives.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Smoking ceremonies
- Cultural walks
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander foods and plant displays/demonstrations
- Local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander speakers, musicians and artists
- Art or crafts displays, murals and art projects
- Celebration of culture through inclusion of language, music, storytelling, dance
- Readings of historical documents

5. WHAT WE WON'T FUND

I. INELIGIBLE COSTS AND ACTIVITIES

Grant funds *cannot* be used for costs that are not directly attributable to hosting an Australia Day 2027 event. In particular, funding will not cover:

- *core operating expenses* - costs related to the ongoing operating expenses of the organisation
- *assets and infrastructure* - purchase or upgrades of assets or infrastructure, including but not limited to:
 - buildings or renovations/upgrades to buildings
 - barbecues or upgrades to parks or local facilities
 - sound equipment, tables and chairs and other durable equipment intended for ongoing organisational use
- *unrelated costs* - any expenses not clearly attributable to the planning and execution of an Australia Day 2027 event
- *insufficiently funded events* - events previously held by local, state or territory governments where the applicant intends to invest less financially in the planned 2027 event than it invested in the 2026 event. The grant is intended to supplement existing event budgets and must not be used to replace or reduce existing government investment. Note that this requirement does not include contra and sponsorship arrangements.
- *non-Australia Day focus* - Events that do not have a clear Australia Day focus and do not promote the message ‘*Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.*’

6. AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGING REQUIREMENTS

I. BRANDING AND USAGE GUIDELINES

It is a condition of receiving a grant under the Program that the message of ‘*Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.*’ is promoted through NADC available collateral. Successful applicants must:

- clearly use the Australia Day Designs **in equal proportion** to other branding and marketing used on the day
- display the Australia Day Designs at an event or in a public space
- use the Australia Day Designs in the lead up to, and on, Australia Day 2027
- display the Australian National Flag at funded events as an official identifier of Australia Day. Applicants are encouraged to display the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag alongside the Australian National Flag, where appropriate, in accordance with applicable flag protocols.

To maintain consistency across events and effectively promote the message of ‘*Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.*’, each successful applicant will receive a complimentary starter package of NADC Australia Day collateral materials. Assets will also be able to be purchased online from the [Australia Day Council Aussie Merchandise program](#).

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to support local businesses in the manufacturing and printing of any supplementary promotional items displaying the Australia Day Designs.

Event organisers are encouraged to invite the participation of an Australian Government representative of the local area, including options to speak during the event’s proceedings where appropriate.

For further guidance on artwork and use of logos, please refer to the NADC Branding Guidelines, which are available as an additional resource on our website.

II. EVENT REGISTRATION

All successful applicants must register their event(s) on the NADC Australia Day Event Register website using the approved event name and description provided in their application. The approved event name should be used consistently across event registrations, promotional materials, marketing, media releases and other public communications unless otherwise agreed by the NADC.

During the online application process, applicants will be required to provide a summary description of their event(s) for the online listing. If any minor details about the event change as the date approaches, applicants may contact the grants team (grants@australiaday.org.au) to update their information and ensure the register remains accurate and up to date.

Please note: In addition to the national event register, your state or territory's Australia Day Network partner may also share details of your event(s) on its own websites or promotional platforms to help showcase local celebrations. Applicants will be given the option to opt out of third-party event listings via the application form if desired. However, listing on the NADC Australia Day Event Register is a mandatory requirement for successful grant recipients.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

I. APPLICATION PREPARATION

Before applying, applicants must read and understand the guidelines and the sample grant agreement. Please note that the NADC reserves the right to update the grant process or documentation at any time, with any changes published on the online application portal. To apply, the applicant must register on the NADC's online application portal and complete the application form before the Closing Date. Late applications will not be accepted.

II. REQUIRED INFORMATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The application form requires information about:

- the applicant, including their ABN and their address
- the planned event, including reference to the assessment criteria
- accessibility and inclusivity elements of their events
- a declaration of which funding stream is being sought: (i) Base Grant, (ii) Base + Additional Grant, or (iii) Alternate Grant
- where the applicant is also applying for the Additional Grant of \$5,000 (GST exclusive), a clear outline of the plan to include significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements and how the Additional Grant funds are proposed to be used
- a commitment to providing high-quality photographs or video of their event

In addition, the NADC requires the following with an application:

- a copy of the applicant's public liability insurance policy (certificate of currency)
- banking details, including evidence that the account is the applicant organisation's account (e.g. a recent bank statement no older than six months or an official letter from the bank)
- for local, state or territory government organisations applying for the Base and/or Additional Grant, written commitment that they will financially invest no less than the level of investment they made in the previously held event.

III. APPLICATION UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application is complete and accurate. Any major changes to the initial application will need to be executed through a formal variation request via the grants team (grants@australiaday.org.au). If unsure, applicants should contact the grants team for clarification.

8. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

I. INITIAL SCREENING

All applications will first be reviewed to confirm eligibility and completeness. Only eligible applications will proceed to assessment.

II. ASSESSMENT

If an application passes the eligibility review, the assessment process will depend on the funding stream selected.

- **Base Grant** and **Base + Additional Grant** applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria outlined below.
- **Alternate Grant** applications are not merit-based and will be allocated to eligible applicants in timestamp order, subject to the availability of funds within the Program.

III. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applicants that meet the eligibility criteria and have applied for a Base Grant or Base + Additional Grant will be assessed against the criteria below. Alternate Grant applications are not merit-based and are allocated to eligible applicants in timestamp order, subject to the availability of funds.

1. Benefits and Beneficiaries

The applicant must demonstrate how the provision of the grant funds would benefit the relevant community, region or industry sector, including:

- the value and importance of the event from a community perspective
- the likely level of attendance and participation
- how the event will encourage broad and diverse community participation
- how the event will be inclusive of, and accessible to, people with disability
- how the event will recognise and include Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- how the event will engage young people
- the broader social, cultural and community benefits expected from the event

2. Ability to Deliver

The applicant must demonstrate the capability to successfully deliver the planned Australia Day event as demonstrated by:

- the nature and scale of the planned event
- how the event will be delivered
- the applicant's experience and capability, including the delivery of similar events
- the applicant's ability to deliver a safe, inclusive and successful event

3. Project Quality and Risk

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed event represents an appropriate use of grant funding and can be delivered successfully, including:

- whether the proposed activities are well planned and appropriate to the objectives of the Program
- whether event budget is realistic and reasonable
- whether the project represents efficient, effective, economic and ethical use of funds
- the expected impact and public benefit of the event
- the applicant's approach to managing risks associated with the event
- the level of public liability insurance held by the applicant (minimum \$10 million)

Applicants seeking a Base + Additional Grant will also be assessed on the significance of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements proposed and the extent of collaboration with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and representatives.

4. Australia Day Messaging

The applicant must demonstrate the extent to which the event will acknowledge Australia Day, including with reference to:

- how the message '*Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.*' will be incorporated into the planned event
- how Australia Day branding, collateral and promotional materials will be used to support the event
- how the event will have a clear Australia Day focus

IV. DECISION AND NOTIFICATION

The NADC Board will decide which applications to approve, taking into account the assessment outcomes and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the Program. The NADC Board's decision is final and there is no appeal process.

Where an applicant is not approved for the level of funding sought, the NADC may, in its discretion, offer an alternative level of funding, subject to eligibility, funding availability and the objectives of the Program.

The NADC will use its best endeavours to notify the applicant whether or not the application is successful within 20 business days of the Closing Date.

The NADC will advise applicants of the outcome of applications in writing.

V. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The NADC Board may, in exceptional circumstances, approve a grant outside the terms of these Guidelines where it considers doing so would support the objectives of the Program.

9. THE GRANT AGREEMENT

I. AGREEMENT EXECUTION

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a short-form grant agreement with the NADC. The agreement will be provided electronically following notification of a successful application.

No binding agreement exists between the NADC and an applicant unless and until the grant agreement has been executed by both parties.

II. AVAILABILITY OF SAMPLE GRANT AGREEMENT

A sample [grant agreement](#) is available at Annexure A to this document.

10. PAYMENTS

Base Grant and Base + Additional Grant recipients will receive 80 per cent of the approved grant amount upon execution of the funding agreement, with the remaining 20 per cent paid following approval of the final acquittal report.

Alternate Grant recipients will receive 100 per cent of the approved grant amount upon execution of the funding agreement and must submit a final acquittal report by 30 April 2027.

11. PRIVACY

The information an applicant provides in their application form will be handled in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). For more information see the [NADC Privacy Policy](#).

In submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the NADC collecting personal information, including names, contact details and roles in order to assess the application and for the purpose of grants administration.

Applicants acknowledge that information relating to funded events may be shared with NADC Network partners for the purposes of promoting Australia Day activities and events.

The NADC's online portal is powered by SmartyGrants, an enterprise of Our Community Pty Ltd. To use the portal, applicants will be required to register and agree to Our Community's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#).

12. COMPLAINTS

Applicants should address any complaints regarding this grant opportunity in writing to the NADC through the Contact Officer.

13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Applicants will be required to declare, as part of their application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest, or that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the NADC's personnel, any member of a committee or advisor, and/or the applicant, or any of their personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicant from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they may receive a personal benefit because the organisation receives a grant under the Program.

If an applicant later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, or there is any material change to a previously disclosed conflict of interest, they must inform the NADC in writing immediately.