Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

2026
Community Events
Grant Program

Applicant Briefing | 7 Aug 2025

Applications open: 13 Aug 2025
Applications close: 08 Sep 2025

Disclaimer

This presentation is for general information only. For the definitive rules, eligibility criteria and conditions of the Australia Day 2026 Community Events Grant Program, refer to the official Guidelines at www.australiaday.org.au/grants . Applicants must read the Guidelines in full and ensure their submissions comply with all requirements.

Today's Objectives

Recap last year's impact
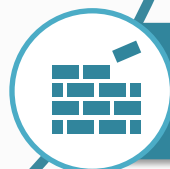
Understand what's new in the 2026 Program

Clarify dates, eligibility & funding

Share tools for a strong application

Build confidence to submit by 13 August 2025

Session Overview

- 2025 highlights

- 2026 program overview

- Key dates & eligibility

- Application tips

- Resources

- FAQs & next steps

- Questions and answers

2025 at a Glance

$4.68mil
Grant Funding Administered

714
Events Held

1 in 5
government entities that applied, were new or returning

397
Grantees

56%
of events included Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements

100%
All events included accessibility features

2026 Program Objectives

enable Australia Day events to proceed

encourage broad community participation

respectful engagement with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander histories & cultures

foster inclusion and accessibility for all Australians

support local jobs through collaboration with businesses & groups

promote the message: "Reflect. Respect. Celebrate."

Key Messages

Funding Streams

$4.5 mil Funding Pool

$10k
Base Grant

To enable inclusive Australia Day events to proceed

MERIT-BASED

Selection Process

$15k
$10k Base Grant
+ $5k **Additional Grant**

For events with significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements

MERIT-BASED

Selection Process

$2k
Alternate Grant

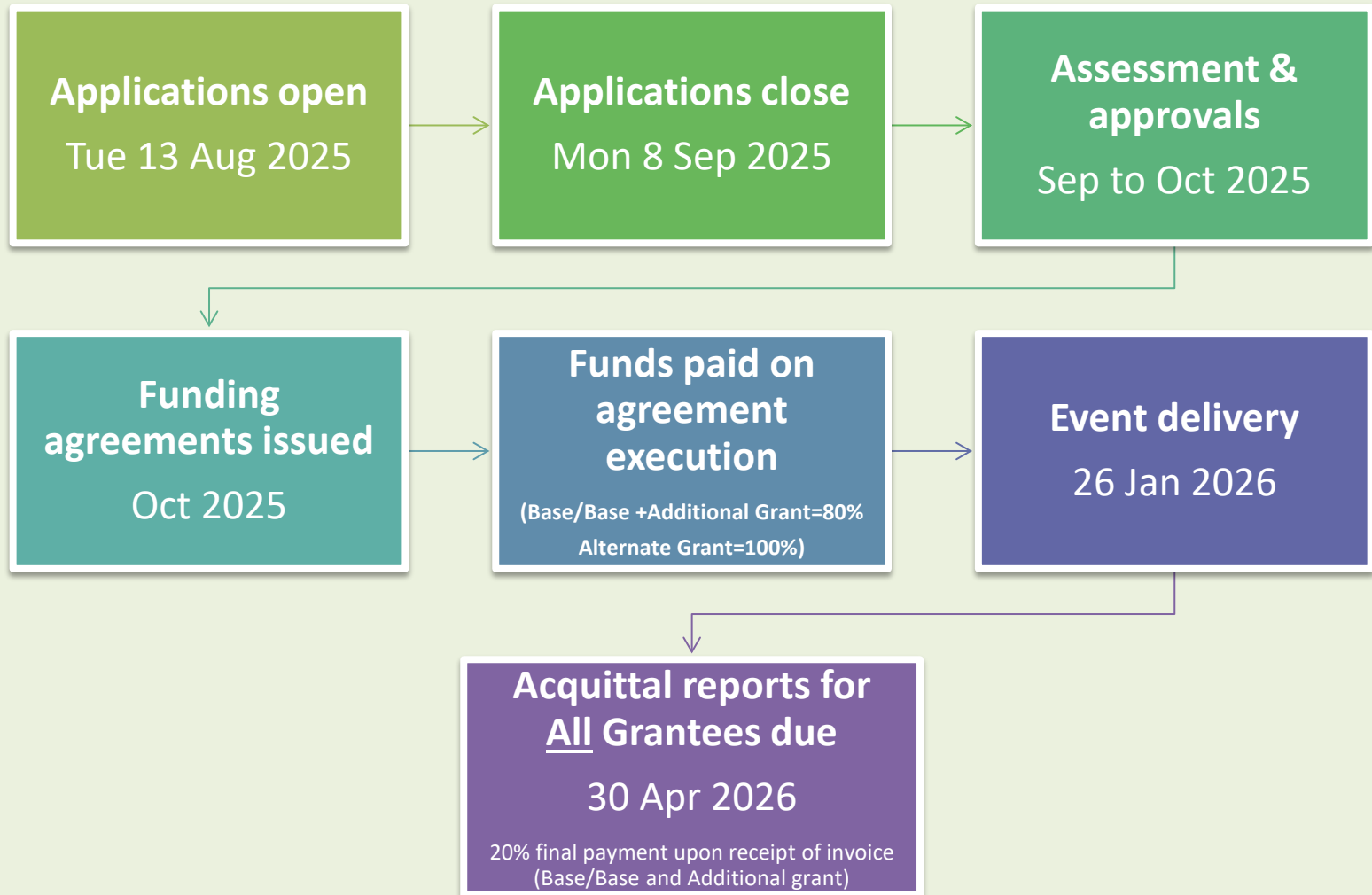If you're running a smaller event or just need a modest top-up

ELIGIBILITY-BASED

Capped Funding Pool

Key Dates and Timelines

2026 Community Events Grant Program
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Applications open
Tue 13 Aug 2025

→

Applications close
Mon 8 Sep 2025

→

Assessment & approvals
Sep to Oct 2025

Funding agreements issued
Oct 2025

→

Funds paid on agreement execution
(Base/Base +Additional Grant=80%
Alternate Grant=100%)

→

Event delivery
26 Jan 2026

Acquittal reports for All Grantees due

30 Apr 2026

20% final payment upon receipt of invoice
(Base/Base and Additional grant)

Who Can Apply?

✓ Australian local government entities

✓ Australian state or territory government entities

✓ Australian not-for-profit organisations

- **active ABN, bank account** and **public liability insurance** of not less than $10 million

- **no overdue acquittals** from previous rounds

- planned event should include an **inclusivity element** for people with disability

- **one application** per organisation

Successful applicants are required to use the Australia Day Designs and logo to promote the theme "Reflect. Respect. Celebrate"

Use of Grant Funds

What we will fund

- **promotions & communications**: invitations, ads, social media, branded items
- **artist & talent fees:** musicians, MCs, cultural performers
- **accessibility measures:** ramps, Auslan, live captioning, quiet zones
- **event operations**: venue hire, equipment rental, catering, security
- **photography/videography:** up to $1,000 for professional capture
- **virtual & digital content:** live-streaming, online components, pre-recorded

What we won't fund

- organisation's core operational expense costs
- purchase of assets or infrastructure (e.g., buildings, renovations, BBQs, facility upgrades)
- costs not clearly attributable to Australia Day 2026
- events by local, state or territory gov's with lower investment than 2025
- non-Australia Day focused events

Eligible Activities

2026
**Community Events
Grant Program**

Australia Day
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- 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

- Interactive youth workshops and youth-focused games

- Barbecue in the Park / Street

- Light/drone shows

- Australia Day Parade

- Aussie Beach Party

- Australia Day Breakfast / Lunch

- Cultural Ceremony

- Australia Day Race / Marathon

- Virtual event

- Digital content development for any of the above

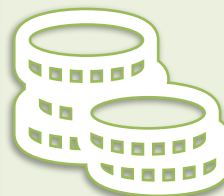- Australia Day event collateral (i.e. Australian symbols, banners, flags).

Submitting a Strong Application

2026
Community Events Grant Program

Australia Day
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1. Use the How-to-Apply guide

2. Link answers to the program objectives

3. Try to paint a clear picture (who, what, when, where, why)

4. Provide a balanced, itemised budget that matches your narrative

5. Build inclusion & accessibility into planning from the start

6. Upload all required docs early – ABN, insurance, bank statement

Resources and Support

2026 Community Events Grant Program

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www.australiaday.org.au/grants

Get Inspired

1

2025 Australia Day Report
Frequently Asked Questions

Get Grant Ready

2

How-to-Apply Guide
Social Media Toolkit
Translated Resources
Guidelines & Sample Agreement

Plan for Everyone

3

IncludeAbility Guide
First Nations Engagement

Spread the Word

4

Brand Guidelines
Free Artwork
Australia Day Merchandise
Australia Day 2026 Key Messages

Mythbusters & FAQs

Myth: Only councils can apply.

Myth: Events must be on 26 Jan only.

Myth: Grants can cover staff wages or new infrastructure.

Myth: Accessibility is optional if budget allows.

Myth: Late submissions may be considered.

Fact: NFPs and state / territory agencies are eligible too.

Fact: At least one activity must be on the day. Related events can run either side.

Fact: Funding is for event-specific costs only. No salaries, capital works or office gear.

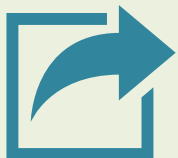Fact: Inclusion and accessibility are mandatory assessed criteria.

Fact: The portal locks at midnight AEST on 8 Sep. no exceptions.

Application Checklist

❏ Download the **2026 Guidelines and How-to-Apply Guide**

❏ Gather your **key docs**: ABN, $10 m insurance, bank statement

❏ Review the **program objectives**

❏ Submit your application between **13 Aug – 8 Sep 2025**

❏ Subscribe for **email reminders** via NADC grants page

❏ Need help? **grants@australiaday.org.au**

All information (application link, supporting documents, link to subscribe to email reminders) available via
https://www.australiaday.org.au/grants

Questions

grants@australiaday.org.au