



**The Hon Craig Laundry MP**  
Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Applications open for Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants**

Applications for 2016-17 Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants funding have opened, Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Craig Laundry MP, announced today.

This annual Commonwealth Government programme aims to encourage respect and a sense of belonging for Australians of all backgrounds.

With \$125,000 total funding available this year, Mr Laundry said that organisations hosting events offering Australians the opportunity to come together and experience different cultural heritages and traditions are encouraged to apply.

“The Government, through this initiative, supports projects that foster social cohesion and greater understanding of the diverse cultures in our communities,” Mr Laundry said.

“The funding can be used to support events as varied as dance workshops and art displays, to community concerts and cooking classes.”

“The grants programme contributes to Australia’s position as one of the most culturally diverse and cohesive nations on earth.

“Our cultural diversity, supported through Government programmes like this, contributes to Australia’s ability to innovate and enhances our economic prosperity,” Assistant Minister Laundry said.

To learn more about the Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants programme visit [www.dss.gov.au/grants](http://www.dss.gov.au/grants)

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