

Frequently Asked Questions



2026
**Community Events
Grant Program**

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply for a 2026 Australia Day Community Events Grant?

- Eligible applicants include Australian local, state or territory government entities (such as councils, government departments and government-run organisations), as well as Australian not-for-profit organisations. All applicants must hold current public liability insurance.

What level of Public Liability Insurance is required for 2026?

- A current policy of **at least \$10 million cover** that remains valid beyond 26 January 2026. Upload a certificate of currency or agree to supply an updated certificate when the policy is renewed.

Does my event need to take place on 26 January 2026?

- Successful applicants must stage their Australia Day 2026 event on 26 January but may also run related events around Australia Day, as long as at least one event takes place on Australia Day.

Can individuals or unincorporated organisations apply for this grant?

- No. Individuals and unincorporated bodies are ineligible.

What if my organisation has not properly acquitted a grant from a previous Australia Day Community Events Grant Program?

- Organisations that have not properly acquitted previous NADC grants are ineligible until the outstanding acquittal is finalised.

Do we still need an ABN to apply?

- Yes. A valid Australian Business Number that matches your organisation's legal name is mandatory for every application.

For councils or state/territory government entities, is there a minimum co-investment?

- Yes. You must commit **at least the same dollar amount** you invested in your most recent NADC-grant supported Australia Day event.

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

What documents should I have ready before starting the online form?

- ABN details, Public Liability Insurance policy (certificate of currency) and banking details (e.g., a recent bank statement no older than 6 months or an official letter from the bank).

What types of events are eligible for funding?

- Public events held on or around Australia Day that promote the NADC message of 'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.' such as community/multicultural fairs, concerts, picnics, flag-raising. See the guidelines for additional suggestions.

What grant opportunities are available for 2026?

There are three options available for the 2026 round. Applicants may submit only one application, choosing from one of the below streams:

- **Base Grant:** \$10,000 to support inclusive public community events held on or around Australia Day.
- **Base Grant + Additional Grant:** \$10,000 combined with an additional \$5,000 for events that include significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements.
- **Alternate Grant:** A standalone \$2,000 grant to support community-focused events that do not require the larger grant amounts.

What are some examples of costs that the grant funding can be used for?

- Promotions and communications, artist and talent fees, accessibility costs, equipment hire, professional photography, catering, venue hire and more (see guidelines for an expanded eligible/ineligible list).

Do I have to display Australia Day branding at my event?

- Yes. It is a funding requirement that you use the NADC Approved Australia Day designs at your event and in public spaces, in the lead-up to and on Australia Day and in equal proportion to any other branding used.

Where do I get Australia Day branded collateral?

- Successful applicants will receive a starter-kit-style package of Australia Day collateral. Successful applicants are also encouraged to source additional items using the free artwork at <https://www.australiaday.org.au/free-artwork>. Printing locally is encouraged to support your community. Items can also be purchased through the [Australia Day Council's Aussie Merchandise program](#).

Can I include cost for new Australia Day banners or posters in my budget?

- Yes. Production of NADC approved collateral is eligible expenditure.

Can the grant funds be used to cover the operational expenses of my organisation?

- No. Funds cannot be used for ongoing salaries, asset purchases or infrastructure.

Do I have to address accessibility and inclusion in my application?

- Yes. You will be able to do this by ticking the relevant accessibility measures you are proposing in the application form.

Our event is strongly youth-focused. Should we highlight that?

- Yes. If your event substantially targets or involves young people, select **“Yes”** for the related Youth Participation question and outline (up to 100 words) how young people are involved in event planning or delivery.

What qualifies as a significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander element for the additional \$ 5,000 grant?

- Elements that go beyond a simple Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country such as smoking ceremonies, cultural workshops, art displays, cultural performances, storytelling, film, music etc.

For the \$5,000 Additional Grant, if the additional elements do not cost the full \$5,000, can I spend the remaining funds on other eligible costs associated with the event?

- Yes, while the additional \$5,000 is to enable significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements to be included in your event/s, the funding can also be utilised to enable the success of the overall event if it includes significant First Nations elements. Any unspent amount must be returned to NADC.

How do I consult with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities?

- Work with local Elders, cultural centres or an Indigenous liaison officer in your council to undertake culturally appropriate engagement and planning. Additional resources are also available on the Australia Day website [here](#).

3. COMPLETE & SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

How do I apply for the grant?

- Submit an online form via the application portal. Create an account, complete all sections and press **Submit** before the closing deadline.

What information is required in the application form?

- Organisation details, event summary, public liability evidence, budget and information on inclusivity elements.

We plan to host a series of events. Can I add more than one event to my application?

- In the 'Event Planning and Details' section of the application, click "**Add More**" and complete a separate set of fields (dates, location, brief summary) for each additional event covered by the grant.

When do applications open and close for the 2026 round?

- Applications open **13 August 2025** and close **8 September 2025** at 5:00 pm (AEDT).

Can I submit a late application?

- No. Late applications will not be accepted.

4. AFTER SUBMISSION & ASSESSMENT

Will my event details be published online?

- Yes. If funded, your event description, timing, location and public contact details will appear on the Australia Day Events webpage. This information is marked on the application form under a section entitled 'Online Listing Information'. Check accuracy and grammar before submitting. By applying, you also agree that the National Australia Day Council (NADC) may share your event details with its network partners for the purpose of promoting Australia Day events.

Can I update my application after submission?

- Yes. Email grants@australiaday.org.au to request a Variation Form for major changes such as venue, timing and budget.

5. FUNDING AGREEMENT & PAYMENTS

What happens if I don't use all the grant funds?

- Any unspent balance must be returned to NADC. Funds may not be spent on items unrelated to the approved event.

What if our organisation's bank details change after we apply?

- Send a new bank statement/letter (organisation-named) to grants@australiaday.org.au as soon as possible.

6. EVENT DELIVERY & VARIATIONS

What do I need to do if my plans change after my application has been approved?

- Submit a Variation Request Form (via grants@australiaday.org.au) for any change to dates, location or major activities.

Can I use the grant funds to hire a professional photographer for my event?

- Yes. Up to **\$1,000** of the grant may be used to hire a photographer/videographer if you lack in-house capability.

What should I do if my event gets cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances?

- Notify NADC immediately, consider switching to a virtual format and acquit any spent funds. Unspent funds must be returned.

What are the consequences of not meeting the program requirements?

- Non-compliance with the program guidelines (e.g. incurring ineligible costs, not displaying Australia Day designs, failure to be able to justify expenditure) may lead to cancelled future payments or recovery of funds.

7. REPORTING & ACQUITTAL

What are the reporting requirements after the event?

- Submit an online acquittal by 30 April 2026, confirming expenditure and providing high-quality images of the event and Australia Day designs in use.

By when must the acquittal report be lodged?

- No later than 30 April 2026.

What supporting documents must I submit with my acquittal report?

- High quality photos of event elements and Australia Day branding as well as pictures depicting the scope of the event. Applicants should also be able to produce financial documentation in support of acquitted cost items, which may be requested to finalise acquittals.