

An update from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Chris Steel MLA



October 2019

Welcome to my update as Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

I started this initiative in July this year and received positive feedback from the community. I intend to provide these updates bi-monthly from now on.

I will be getting in touch regularly to provide you with a snapshot of what's happening across the ACT Government relevant to Canberra families and the multicultural community.

Please feel free to share any of these messages with your networks and community members.

A new crematorium to meet the needs of our multicultural community

The ACT Government will build a publicly operated crematorium at the Gungahlin Cemetery

During recent consultations with the community, the ACT Government heard that some religious communities in Canberra do not have their needs met when it comes to burial and cremation, particularly our Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist communities.

This **new crematorium** will help to fulfil one of the significant requirements of these communities, allowing family members to perform the last rites as per their religious belief.

Work will soon commence in progressing design and construction of the facility, to be operated by ACT Cemeteries Authority.

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority will consult further with multicultural communities as they

progress this work.

For more information please

visit https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/chris-steel-mla-media-releases/2019/a-new-public-crematorium-for-canberra

More large scale events space for our multicultural community

Exploring the feasibility of a large scale multicultural events space at EPIC

On 21 August 2019, Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta and Ms Suzanne Orr MLA moved a motion in the Legislative Assembly calling on the ACT Government to explore the feasibility of a **large-scale venue suitable for hosting multicultural and other community events** at EPIC.

Their motion noted that there is a growing need in Canberra for a venue capable of hosting more than 350 people and that existing facilities like the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre are booked to capacity for most of the year. During debate on the motion, the Government also acknowledged that such a venue would need to include kitchen facilities and performance space and be accessible and affordable for the community to use.

The Government is currently undertaking a review of EPIC to inform its future requirements as a venue and this piece of work will form part of this review. The Government committed to report back to the Assembly within 12 months and I look forward to keeping you updated in that time.

Grants now open

2019-20 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program

Applications are now open for the **2019-20 Multicultural Participation Grants Program**. The aim of these grants is to celebrate diversity and enhance social cohesion in the ACT. There will be a total of \$179,000 available for organisations wishing to undertake community participation and inclusion initiatives, and to community radio stations and multicultural community broadcasters.

Applications close 5pm Monday 14 October 2019.

For more information or to apply now visit <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/grants>

2020 ACT Youth Week Grants

ACT Youth Week is a week-long celebration of young people aged 12 - 25 years. The 2020 ACT

Youth Week will be held from Friday 27 March 2020 to Sunday 5 April 2020.

ACT Youth Week provides young people with the opportunity to express their ideas and views, and act on issues that impact on them and their peers. It is also a time to celebrate, to have fun and highlight the positive contributions young people make to their community.

The **ACT Youth Week Grants** are based on youth participation and encouraging young people to develop, implement and facilitate youth focused projects in the ACT community.

The total of \$20,000 is available in the 2020 ACT Youth Week funding round, with a grant of up to \$2,000 per project available to eligible applicants/organisations. The grant is a one-off funding opportunity for eligible projects to be delivered during 2020 ACT Youth Week.

Applications close 12pm Monday 28 October 2019.

For more information or to apply now visit <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/grants>

Youth InterACT Scholarship Guidelines

The **Youth InterACT Scholarships** provide funding of up to \$500 for individuals, or \$1500 for groups of young people to participate in an activity, event or program. This may include sporting events, conferences, courses and training that enhance personal or career development.

Scholarships will be awarded to young people who have a genuine ability and determination, but without financial assistance would struggle to attend their event or activity.

The scholarship committee assessed the applications on the last Friday of every month.

Applications be submitted at least four weeks prior to the event / activity commencement date.

For more information or to apply now visit <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/grants>

Return to Work Grants Program

The **ACT Women's Return to Work Program** is an ACT Government initiative that assists women to achieve increased financial independence by helping them prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. The program is targeted towards women who have been away from paid work for an extended time due to caring responsibilities, and who may experience significant barriers when they try to re-enter the workforce.

Individual grants of up to \$1,000 are available for women who meet the eligibility criteria. The program is designed to provide funding for training and education, to develop job search skills and to access related resources to support women to return to work.

Women who receive a \$1000 Return to Work Grant will also receive one-on-one mentorship to

better link them to vocational education/training opportunities and employment pathways. This component will be delivered through a Relationship Manager at Uniting Care Kippax, who will provide mentoring support and help women in developing their workplan to inform how they spend their grant.

For more information or to apply now visit

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/women/return-to-work-grants-program>

Commonwealth Government Fostering Integration Grants

The Australian Government is inviting applications through an open competitive process to apply to deliver services under the Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Program: Fostering Integration Grants in 2019-20.

The objective of the grant opportunity is to facilitate the participation, integration and social cohesion of both newly arrived migrants and culturally diverse communities in Australia.

Applications close 11pm Tuesday 5 November 2019.

For more information or to apply now visit <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/fostering-integration-grants-0>

Measuring Canberrans' Wellbeing

Recognising what makes our multicultural city great in the ACT Wellbeing Indicators

We are an inclusive and progressive city and see cultural vibrancy as an asset.

The Chief Minister's Directorate have been engaging with the community over the last couple of months to hear Canberrans' views on what is most important when it comes to their quality of life. This has included roundtable discussions and meetings with various stakeholder and community groups.

This information will be used to develop a set of **Wellbeing Indicators** that will frame how the Government makes budget and policy decisions.

Following this initial consultation, the ACT Government has developed a listed of potential 'domains' and 'indicators' by which progress in each of the domains will be measured, including cultural identity and belonging.

We want to hear from you, about what wellbeing means to the multicultural community and if these

indicators are an appropriate way of measuring it. We are an inclusive and progressive city and see cultural diversity as an invaluable asset that we should look after and promote.

I encourage everyone to have their say by visiting <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/wellbeing> and completing the survey.

Improving access to Canberra's public maternity system

Introducing Canberra Maternity Options

Canberra Maternity Options will provide women with easier access to information and improved support through a single-entry-point.

The service has been shaped by extensive feedback received through consultation with mothers, mothers-to-be, health practitioners, GP's and the broader community.

When you find out you're pregnant, call 5124 9977 to arrange to meet with a midwife close to your home. At the appointment, the midwife will talk to you about public pregnancy and birthing options, your health care needs and personal preferences and find the best maternity care for you.

You're also welcome to attend a free early pregnancy information session or learn about public care options online.

Helping community organisations access grant funding

Free grant workshop to help you write a stronger application

The ACT Multicultural Advisory Council and the Community Services Directorate are hosting a **workshop to help you write a better grant application**.

The workshop will provide advice on what to include in your application, advice on how to present your budget, and tips to ensure your application aligns with the grant round's priorities.

While the workshop will focus on the Participation (Multicultural) Grant program, the information would be useful for any ACT Government grant round. The information would also be useful to organisation's that help their clients or member organisations apply for grant funding.

There will be two workshops available to attend at the below times:

Tuesday 8 October 2019, 12:30 pm – 13:30 pm, Harmony Room
Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Level 2, 180 London Circuit Civic

Wednesday 9 October 2019, 6:00pm – 7:00pm, West Wing
Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Level 2, 180 London Circuit Civic

Please **RSVP** to: communityparticipation@act.gov.au or phone: 6207 0555.

Budget Overview

On 4 June 2019 the ACT Government brought down the **2019-2020 Budget**. The Social Inclusion Statement is available at <https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2019-20/budget-papers/social-inclusion-statement2/inclusive,-progressive,-connected>

Read more about what the ACT Budget means for you at
<https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2019-20>

Get in touch with Minister Steel

Email: steel@act.gov.au