

Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants



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Artist Acknowledgement

Artwork by Dixon Patten, Yorta Yorta and Gunnai, Bayila Creative.

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The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing would like to acknowledge and pay respects to Traditional Aboriginal Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to their Elders, Ancestors and community, their living culture on both sea and land and thank them for allowing us to live and work here.



Message from the Minister

Supporting the wellbeing and achievements of young Aboriginal Victorians is a priority for our state and is vital to ensuring a successful recovery from coronavirus (COVID-19).

In partnership with Aboriginal community organisations, the Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal young people are supported to achieve the same social, economic, health and wellbeing outcomes as their peers.

We know that the pandemic has created significant challenges for young people right across Victoria, including Aboriginal young people. It's never been more important to work with communities to overcome social isolation, build community connection and provide positive pathways into employment, training and skill building opportunities.

I am proud that this government established the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program to deliver youth driven, culturally safe mentoring programs that respond to the specific, local needs of Aboriginal young people. I would like to particularly acknowledge the important role played by the Koorie Youth Council and Youth Affairs Council Victoria in supporting this initiative.

Mentoring programs provide critical opportunities for Aboriginal young people to connect with each other and with mentors who provide support and encouragement to develop connection to culture and community, enhance their life skills and improve access to opportunities.

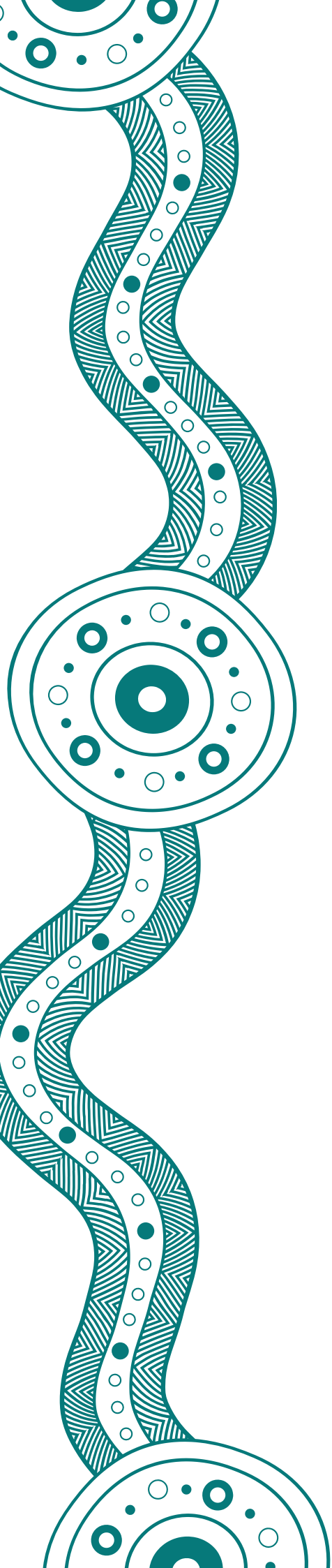
In 2021, new Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants will boost this work. These grants will support the immediate needs of Aboriginal young people as part of COVID-19 recovery. Projects will be youth-driven and respond to the needs and ideas of Aboriginal young people.

I encourage Aboriginal organisations and young people across the state to take up this exciting new opportunity. I look forward to seeing your creative ideas.



The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Youth





The Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants are a one-off opportunity for communities and organisations to apply for funding of up to \$50,000 to engage Aboriginal young people in community projects. Projects will strengthen social and emotional wellbeing, foster individual talents and leadership, strengthen identity, culture and faith and link participants in with education, training and employment.

Across Victoria, COVID-19 has impacted the way we live our lives and connect with each other. Aboriginal young people have faced challenges in connecting with community and extended family, practicing culture, attending school and fulfilling their leadership journeys. Like many Victorian young people, Aboriginal young people's mental and emotional wellbeing and employment opportunities have taken a significant hit.

The Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants will provide a kick start to activities that support Aboriginal young people's recovery from the pandemic. The grants are a short-term spin-off from the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program¹.

While projects funded will have a shortened timeline – eight months for delivery – activities delivered will aim for similar outcomes to Marram Nganyin. Successful projects will be delivered in local communities across Victoria by Aboriginal-led organisations. While they do not need to deliver mentoring activities specifically, this would be an advantage.

All applications must be built on a youth participation model and be formed from ideas generated by, and inclusive of, Aboriginal young people.

Applications are sought from Aboriginal organisations that have an ability to deliver independently and without the need for large delivery support from the Victorian Government, the Koorie Youth Council or the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria. Available support as outlined below.

Successful activities must be delivered between April and 31 December 2021, with funding available up to \$50,000 per project. Applications close on Monday 15 March 2021.

¹ The name Marram Nganyin was provided by the Wurundjeri Tribe and Lands Compensation Heritage Council. The language is provided by the Wurundjeri People. Marram Nganyin means 'we are strong'.

What are the program objectives?

The program will work with participants to develop connection with culture and community, strengthen life skills and relationships and build engagement with education, training and employment. Individual projects will be developed to respond to the needs of young people involved in the program and will need to focus on one or more of the following objectives:

1. enhance social and emotional wellbeing
2. foster individual talents and leadership
3. strengthen identity, culture and faith
4. enable community participation
5. build relationships
6. link into education, training and employment.

Funded projects should engage a minimum of 15 Aboriginal young people within the project design and delivery between April and 31 December 2021.





Who is eligible for funding?

To be eligible for funding your organisation must be one of:

- an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
- an Aboriginal organisation
- an Aboriginal-led community, not-for-profit or peak community body based in Victoria.

And:

- be incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2001 (Vic) or a similar type of organisation
- be based in Victoria
- have a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have sufficient Public Liability Insurance to cover all aspects of the program
- not have any overdue deliverables from other grants with the Victorian Government
- not be funded through the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program.

What funding is available?

Total funding of **\$250,000** is available to be provided as grants. Organisations can apply for individual grants of up to **\$50,000** to deliver tailored projects from April to 31 December 2021.

Projects that include an Aboriginal youth mentoring element will be viewed favourably.

Please note that this is a competitive grant round and that not all applicants will be successful in obtaining funding.





Support for funded organisations

The Koorie Youth Council and the Youth Affairs Council Victoria will provide some support to funded organisations to deliver activities.

Koorie Youth Council (KYC)

KYC (www.koorieyouthcouncil.org.au) is the representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Victoria. Guided by an executive of 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and our state-wide members, KYC values the diversity and strength of young people as decision-makers. KYC advocates to government and community to advance the rights and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. By hosting events like the annual Koorie Youth Summit, KYC brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people together to amplify their voices for change.

KYC is auspiced by the Youth Affairs Council Victoria and is supported by Aboriginal Victoria. KYC is committed to supporting and encouraging all who become involved to build their skills and capacity.

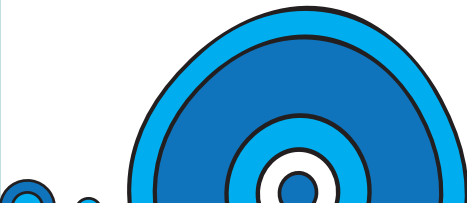
Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic)

YACVic (www.yacvic.org.au) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria. As an independent, not-for-profit, member-driven organisation, its vision is that the rights of young people in Victoria are respected, and they are active, visible and valued in their communities.

YACVic auspices and supports various agencies, including the Youth Disability Advocacy Service and the Koorie Youth Council and provides a wide range of training and capacity building opportunities for the youth sector and young people. These include sector-wide conferences, workshops and content based community of practice sessions and networks.

Available support to funded organisations

KYC and YACVic will provide the following support to grant recipients:

- support organisations with the application process, including hosting two online information sessions, with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to respond to questions about the program
 - promote projects to the youth sector via existing KYC and YACVic media and communication channels
 - invite funded projects to participate in monthly Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Network yarns online with existing partners
 - assist organisations to deepen their understanding or attend training related to the Code of Ethical Practice for the Victorian Youth Sector, the Victorian Child Safe Standards and where appropriate, the Australian National Youth Mentoring Benchmarks
 - participate in the Koorie Youth Participation Network and/or the Youth Participation Practice Network hosted by KYC and YACVic
 - provide templates for recording case studies with participants, which can be used in evaluation and reporting
 - invite programs and participants to attend, participate and present at the Koorie Youth Summit and the YACVic State Conference
 - provide access to other KYC and YACVic resources and or training opportunities.
- 

What activities will not be funded?

The following will not be funded:

- projects that do not have a youth-led approach
- purchase, maintenance or upgrading of facilities or equipment
- construction or building restoration work
- interstate and international travel
- retrospective funding for projects or programs that have already started or are completed
- activities taking place outside Victoria that are not part of a cross-border community project
- projects that are already funded under other government programs
- activities occurring outside of the stated funding period (April to 31 December 2021)
- organisations that have failed to complete projects previously funded by the Victorian Government, without demonstrating sufficient cause.

What about current health advice?

All activities funded under the Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants must comply with the latest health advice and social distancing measures throughout the lifespan of the project.

For more information on current health advice and translated COVID-19 resources, please visit:

- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19
- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19





What are the assessment criteria?

Applications will be assessed based on responses to questions outlined below.

Selection Criteria 1: What types of activities does your organisation deliver?

Words: 100; Weighting: 10%

Please include:

- a description of your organisation, including your primary purpose and the things you do.

Selection Criteria 2: What needs have been identified for/by the young people you work with?

Words: 500; Weighting: 25%

Please include:

- context, challenges and needs of the young people you work with
- how you know that these are the needs of these young people (consider: consultation, current work with young people, observation of young people in community).

Selection Criteria 3: What are you going to do?

Words: 500; Weighting: 20%

Please provide a detailed action plan that clearly outlines the proposed activities by describing:

- the activities that will be delivered
- the role of young people in identifying these activities
- the timelines for the activities within the grant period
- your readiness to proceed with the activities
- COVID-19 safe requirements in place.

In addition, you will be required to complete a budget table that shows cost estimates.

Selection Criteria 4: Who is involved?

Words: 300; Weighting: 10%

Please outline who will be involved, the role they will play and the skills they will bring including:

- project coordinators and individuals responsible program tasks
- any partner organisations and their roles
- any Elders, community members or volunteers and their roles in the activities.

Selection Criteria 5: What will the proposed activities achieve?

Words: 500; Weighting: 25%

Please demonstrate:

- alignment of the activities with the program objectives (see above)
- alignment with the strategic direction of your organisation
- the extent to which the proposed activities address young people's needs.

Selection Criteria 6: How will you measure your success?

Words: 300; Weighting 10%

- How will you measure whether you achieved what you set out to achieve?
- What methods will you use to collect data?
- How will the story of young people's participation and achievements in the project be told?





Can I have an auspice arrangement?

No, auspice arrangements are not available for the Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants.

What are the conditions of funding?

The following conditions will apply to all successful applicants:

- the grant recipient must enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing which will set out the conditions, reporting requirements and contractual targets of the funding
- the funded activity must commence by April 2021 and be completed by 31 December 2021
- funds must be spent on the project as described in the application and the Funding Agreement
- any unspent funds must be returned to the Department
- any variation to the approved project must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to implementation
- the grant recipient must have an appropriate level of Public Liability Coverage
- where relevant, organisations are required to arrange Working with Children checks on staff and people aged 18 and over who come into regular, direct and unsupervised contact with young people
- from 1 July 2019, where funding will support the care, education, services or activities for children (under 18 years), it is a requirement that the applicant is:
 - a separate legal entity that can be sued in its own right in child abuse proceedings; and
 - appropriately insured against child abuse

This requirement will improve the ability of child abuse survivors to bring a legal claim for compensation and ensure that successful claims can be paid.





What is the application process?

To ensure a fair and equitable process, no applications will be accepted after the closing date.

STEP 1 Read these Guidelines to ensure your organisation and project are eligible.

STEP 2 Consider the assessment criteria in terms of your project.

STEP 3 Discuss your application by contacting:

- Derm Ryan, dryan@yacvic.org.au, 0408 674 738
- Banok Rind, banok@koorieyouth.org.au, 0439 927 405

STEP 4 Attend an information session with KYC, YACVic and the Department. Information can be found at www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-youth-engagement-grants

STEP 5 Submit your application by 11.59pm on Monday 15 March 2020 to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing via email to youth@dffh.vic.gov.au.

How will applications be assessed?

All applications will be scored against the assessment criteria in these guidelines.

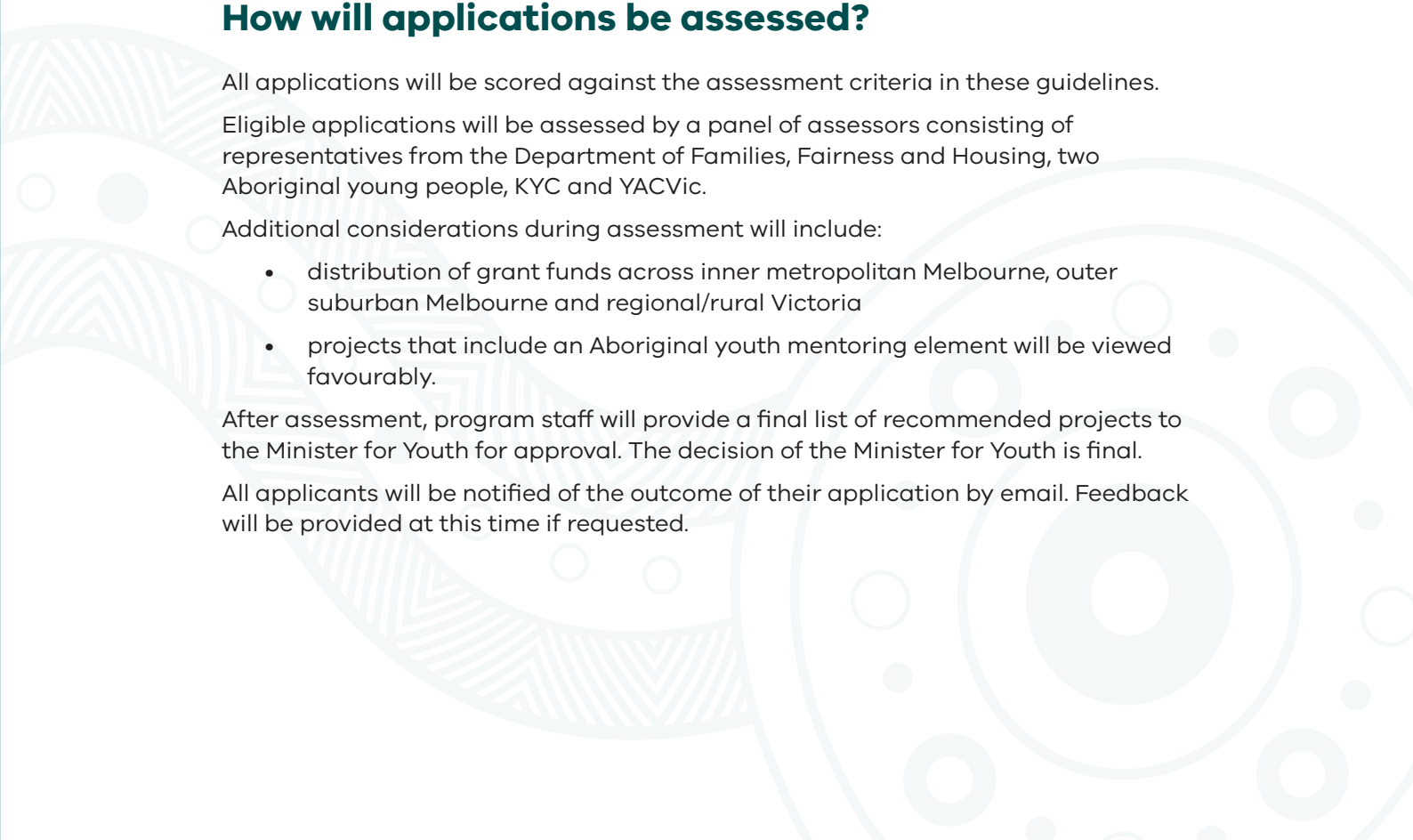
Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of assessors consisting of representatives from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, two Aboriginal young people, KYC and YACVic.

Additional considerations during assessment will include:

- distribution of grant funds across inner metropolitan Melbourne, outer suburban Melbourne and regional/rural Victoria
- projects that include an Aboriginal youth mentoring element will be viewed favourably.

After assessment, program staff will provide a final list of recommended projects to the Minister for Youth for approval. The decision of the Minister for Youth is final.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Feedback will be provided at this time if requested.



The background of the lower half of the page is a solid teal color. It is decorated with white, stylized Indigenous-style patterns. These include a large circular motif with concentric circles and dots, and several flowing, wavy lines filled with various geometric patterns like chevrons and zig-zags.

Need further assistance?

For more information, help with your application or to check if you have any outstanding final reports, contact:

- Derm Ryan, Youth Affairs Council Victoria, dryan@yacvic.org.au, 0408 674 738
- Banok Rind, Koorie Youth Council, banok@korieyouth.org.au, 0439 927 405
- Vicki Burgess, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, vicki.burgess@dffh.vic.gov.au, 0425 773 494