

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

## 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

### What is a Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)?

SIAG is a community-led group making decisions and developing solutions at a local level to support social connection and inclusion. Each SIAG is facilitated by their local council with funding provided by the Victorian Government.

### First Nations Social Connections Grants

First Nations Social Connection Grants through grants up to a value of \$5,000, that aim to support local community groups and organisations, particularly (but not limited to) those led by or working closely with First Nations people, to deliver events, activities or projects that encourage connection, inclusion and a sense of belonging for First Nation's communities. These initiatives support opportunities for people to come together in culturally safe ways, strengthening trust, social ties, and community-led wellbeing.

The funding of the SIAG program and initiatives has been made possible through funding provided by the Victorian Government Department of Health.

We encourage anyone considering applying for a Social Connection grant to discuss their application with the Social Inclusion Action Group Coordinator on 0439807490 [socialinclusion@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:socialinclusion@benalla.vic.gov.au)

## Application Requirements

### Eligibility

Please complete this form to apply to hold an event, activity, or project in your community.

This section of the application form is designed to help you, and us, understand if you are eligible to apply for funding. It's crucial that you complete these questions before any others to ensure you do not waste your time.

Applications will remain open for a four (4) week period, **closing on Sunday 7 June at 11.59pm.**

### Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply for a First Nations Social Inclusion Grant you must:

- be incorporated community based or not-for-profit organisation that can demonstrate how the grant will be utilised to support the First Nations communities
- be under the auspice of an incorporated organisation (if organisation is unincorporated)
- be based or deliver services within the Benalla Rural City municipality
- have satisfactorily accounted to Council for the expenditure of any previous grants
- hold relevant insurances to administer the event or project
- comply with all relevant Local Laws, Australian and Victorian legislation, including Victorian Child Safe Standards.

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

### Eligible Applications

This application process is open to all applications from not-for-profit community groups/ organisations to stage an event, activity, or project to deliver one (or multiple) of the key objectives listed below.

1. Create opportunities for social connection and inclusion of First Nations communities
2. Improve mental health, social determination and trust of First Nations communities

Funding may cover eligible expenses, including but not limited to:

- catering
- entertainment (e.g. band, face painter)
- venue or equipment hire - assistance covering hire of external facilities and equipment
- subsidised use of Council facilities and resources
- guest speakers, facilitators
- printing or promotional costs
- decorations
- purchase of resources for the event/activity

### Funding Exclusions

- Projects that are not targeted towards First Nations communities
- Projects that do not involve, or occur in, the Benalla Rural City community
- Individuals or applications that only benefit individuals (for example scholarships, sponsorship, awards)
- Applicants who offer a 'fee for service' to the community that would likely cover the costs of the event without causing hardship to the group
- Individual businesses, government agencies, political groups, religious groups and organisations
- Applicants who have not adequately acquitted previous funding provided by SIAG
- Applications that are considered by SIAG to be the funding responsibility of other levels of Government (State or Federal government agencies)
- Community organisations that receive funding from other areas of council; except where funding is proposed for a different purpose
- Projects that have already started or have been completed
- Funding of prizes, donations, gifts, grant giving programs, award ceremonies and fundraising events
- Projects that will have a negative impact on the environment
- Staff wages and salaries
- Projects better funded by other sources g. fees, sponsorships

### Assessment Criteria

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

To determine which project applications will be recommended for funding, applications will be assessed by the SIAG Community First Nations Committee.

The Committee is comprised of Aboriginal people who are current members of Social Inclusion Action Groups (SIAGs) located across Victoria.

To promote fairness and reduce the risk of conflicts of interest, the Committee does not represent local Aboriginal community members. Council staff and the SIAG Aboriginal Liaison Officer may provide administrative and procedural guidance to support the assessment process; however, funding recommendations are made by the Committee.

SIAG Community First Nations Committee members will consider each application against the following criteria:

- Is the organisation eligible to apply?
- Is the project sustainable? Will the project require additional / recurrent funding?
- Equitable distribution of funds
- Why is the project needed? How will it provide community benefit?
- How will your project support the funding program objectives?
- Community support for the project
- Is the budget realistic?
- Ability to deliver the project

As part of their submission, applicants may be required to provide details including:

- How has the community need for the project been identified? (Letters of Support can be included to help substantiate the need).
- What planning has been undertaken leading up to the application?
- Does the organisation have appropriate insurance and a risk management strategy?
- Are there benefits to the broader community rather than just to the members of the applicant organisation?
- Quotes where the purchase of goods and services form part of the proposal
- Organisation's banking details

## Funding Terms and Conditions

\* indicates a required field

- Applications must be submitted through the [Benalla Rural City Council online grants portal](#).
- A member of the organisation's executive must sign the application
- When the applicant becomes aware of the exact date of the event, activity or project, they must advise the SIAG Coordinator.
- All grants must be used for the purposes outlined in the application
- All activities associated with the project must be legal, include all required permits and comply with Child Safe Standards.
- All applicants expecting an attendance of 200+ people at their activity or event are required to complete a risk assessment, which is to be attached and submitted with their acquittal.
- Applicants must indicate all other sources of funding they have sought and/or received in relation to the project.

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

- Wherever possible goods and services should be purchased from Benalla-based and/or First Nations
- The financial support provided by SIAG as part of the Council must be acknowledged wherever This includes having the SIAG, Benalla Rural City Council and Victorian State Government logo on all media release material.
- All media release material is to be approved by the SIAG Coordinator prior to release. This includes but is not limited to; flyers, social media posts and articles in local newspapers or newsletters.
- Successful applicants must complete an acquittal with evidence that the grant funding has been used for the purpose described in the application.
- Grant funds must be expended within 12 months of being awarded
- Successful organisations agree to Council using information from their project in its Annual Report, Council publications and reports to the funding
- Any variation to the use of the grant funding must be approved by the SIAG Committee.

## Confirmation

### I Confirm that the applicant

- Has read and understands the program
- Is an incorporated community based and not-for-profit group or organisation, including local branches of state, national and international groups, trust funds and schools.
- If an unincorporated group is sponsored by an incorporated
- Is based or deliver services within the Benalla Rural City
- Does not owe any reports or money to **Benalla Rural City Council** as a result of previous funding or grants.
- Has the appropriate type and level of insurance for the activities that are the subject of this grant.
- Is not an individual, individual business, government agency, political or religious group
- Adheres to the 11 Child Safe Standards from the Victorian

### Please select below \*

Yes  No

You must confirm that all statements above are true and correct.

## Applicant Contact Details

\* indicates a required field

## Privacy Notice

We pledge to respect and uphold your rights to privacy protection under the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) as established under the *Privacy Act 1988* and amended by the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*. To view our privacy statement, go to [Benalla Rural City Council Privacy Statement](#)

## Applicant

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant Form Preview

## **Applicant - Organisation/Group Name \***

Organisation Name

## **Organisation Primary Address \***

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, and Postcode are required.

## **Organisation Primary Email \***

Must be an email address.

## Primary Contact

### **Applicant Project Contact \***

First Name

Last Name

### **Applicant Project Contact Position \***

### **Applicant Project Contact Primary Phone Number \***

Must be an Australian phone number.

### **Applicant Project Contact Primary Email \***

Must be an email address.

This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

## Organisation Details

\* indicates a required field

### **Is your organisation incorporated?**

Yes  No

Note that you are ineligible to apply if your organisation is not incorporated unless sponsored by an incorporated organisation

### **What is your incorporation number? \***

Incorporated Association or Australian Corporation Number.

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant Form Preview

**Please attach a copy of your Certificate of Incorporation \***

Attach a file:

**What are the primary services/activities provided by your organisation? \***

**How long has your organisation been established? \***

**How many members does your organisation have? \***

**What type of not-for-profit organisation are you?**

- Community group
- Community Hall or reserve Committee of Management
- Community Sports Club
- Healthcare not-for-profit
- Philanthropic organisation
- Social enterprise
- Peak body
- Professional association
- General not-for-profit (i.e. none of the sub-types listed above)
- Other:

Please choose the option that best applies to your organisation.

## Auspice Information

\* indicates a required field

**Is your organisation Auspiced by another organisation for the purposes of this grant? \***

- Yes  No

Unincorporated organisations applying for a grant must be Auspiced by an incorporated organisation.

## Auspice Organisation Details

**Name of Auspice Organisation \***

Organisation Name

**Incorporation or Australian Corporation Number of Auspicing Organisation \***

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant Form Preview

**Auspice Contact \***

First Name

Last Name

**Auspice Contact Position \*****Auspice Primary Address**

Address

  
**Auspice Contact Phone Number \***

Must be an Australian phone number.

**Auspice Contact Email \***

Must be an email address.

**Please attach a letter from the Auspicing organisation confirming this arrangement is valid and current**

Attach a file:

Letter must be signed by an appropriately authorised person (e.g. manager, CEO, Board Chair) and must include, name, position, signature and date.

## Expressions of Interest

\* indicates a required field

**Event/activity/project Title \***

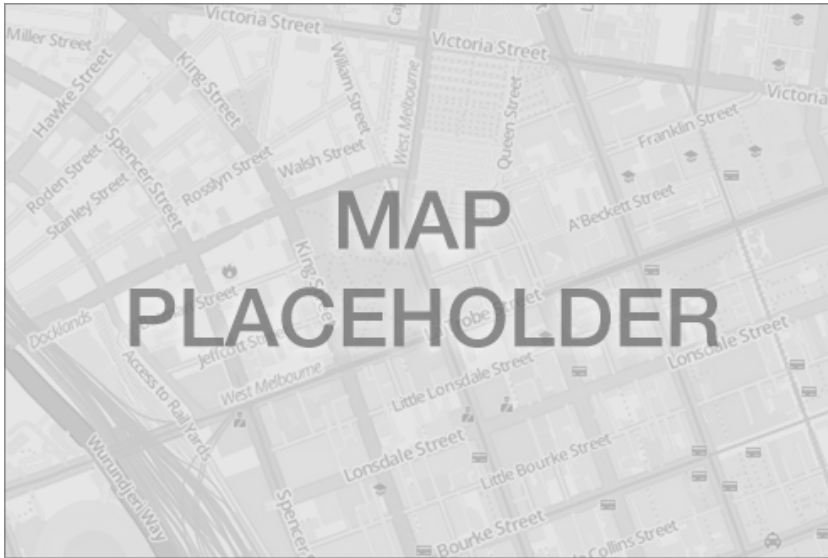
Must be no more than 250 characters.

Provide a name for your project/program/initiative. Your title should be short but descriptive

**Project Location**

Address

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant Form Preview



**Describe the event, activity, or project that you wish to undertake \***

Please be descriptive and include a good level of detail.

**Who is the main target audience of this project?**

- Whole of community
- First Nations residents
- Children and/or young people
- Families
- People with living or lived experience of mental health
- People with disabilities and/or carers
- Newcomers / Migrants
- Older residents
- Members of the LGBTQIA+ community
- Other:

**Describe potential community benefit. How will it improve social connections, inclusion, mental health or resilience.**

Please be descriptive and include a good level of detail.

**Describe the provisions made for including people of all ages and abilities in your project, activity or event.**

Please be descriptive and include a good level of detail.

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

Anticipated start date

Must be a date.

Anticipated end date

Must be a date.

## Budget

\* indicates a required field

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application? (max. \$5,000)

**Total Amount Requested \***

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application? (Max \$5,000)

## Budget

Provide an overview of the estimated budget required to stage your event, activity, or project.

**Income** could include: Council funds (up to \$5,000), community group \$ contribution, donations.

**Expenditure** could include: hall hire, equipment hire, catering, printing, musical entertainment.

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$

## Budget Totals

Total Income Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Expenditure Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Income - Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

## Bank Details

\* indicates a required field

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

To ensure prompt payment for successful applications, please provide bank details for your group or organisation.

A copy of a recent bank statement or similar must be supplied for fraud and auditing purposes. The attachment must show account name, BSB and account number.

### Bank Account \*

Account Name

BSB Number

Account Number

Must be a valid Australian bank account format.

### Please attach copy of Bank Statement to verify account \*

Attach a file:

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

## Certification and Feedback

\* indicates a required field

### Certification

This section must be completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation (may be different to the contact person listed earlier in this application form).

**I certify that to the best of my knowledge the statements made within this application are true and correct, and I understand that if the applicant organisation is approved for this grant, we will be required to accept the terms and conditions of the grant as outlined in the letter of approval.**

I agree \*

Yes

No

Name of authorised person \*

First Name

Last Name

Position \*

Phone Number \*

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email \*

Must be an email address.

Date \*

# 2026 First Nations Social Connection Grant

## Form Preview

Must be a date.

### Reporting

Successful applicants must submit a basic acquittal report within one month of completing their funded activity.

Information to be provided will include:

- Receipts
- Number of attendees
- Age range of attendees
- Photographs or media of event.
- General summary the event

**I agree to the reporting conditions \***

Yes  No

### Applicant Feedback

You are nearing the end of the application process. Before you review your application and click the **SUBMIT** button please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

**Please indicate how you found the online application process: \***

Very easy  Easy  Neutral  Difficult  Very difficult

**How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this application?**

Must be a number.

Estimate in minutes i.e. 1 hour = 60

**Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to the application process/form that you think we need to consider.**