

Australia Day 2027 Grant

Guidelines and Assessment Criteria

Introduction

Community groups wishing to conduct an activity or event to celebrate Australia Day can apply for funding. The level of support provided will depend on the capacity of the activity or event to deliver outcomes that are beneficial to the Wellington Community and reflect the purpose of Australia Day.

Although 26 January marks the anniversary of the First Fleet, Australia Day celebrations reflect contemporary Australia, our diverse society and landscape, our remarkable achievements, and our bright future. It is also an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in the future.

The Wellington Shire Council will support inclusive Australia Day events and activities. Funding provided will depend on the capacity of the event to deliver benefits to the Wellington community and reflect the purpose of Australia Day.

Overview

Not-for-profit community groups operating in the Wellington Shire can apply.

Applications Open: **9.00am Thursday 1st Oct 2026**
Applications Close: **4.00pm Friday 30th Oct 2026**

If you require assistance in completing this application, please contact Council's Grants Officer on 1300 366 244.

Please see below reference to our Helpful Resources for Applicants:

[Sample Answers for Grant Applications](#)

[Tips for Preparing your Project Budget](#)

Important things to note

What will not be funded:

- Events or activities that have not previously complied, or do not comply, with Council's requirements.
- Event or activity debts, budget deficits or retrospective expenses.
- Scholarships and uniforms.
- Events or activities that deliver a religious or party-political message.
- Subscriptions to organisations.
- Events or activities held at gaming machine venues.
- Events or activities which encourage consumption of alcohol.

Criteria – General

1. All applicants must provide a copy of a current Public Liability Insurance certificate of currency with activity/event details, where applicable. (For an event the P/L certificate of currency must include the event name, date and location).
2. Applications must be completed in full and have sufficient evidence to make a reasonable assessment of the application. Council reserves the right to further investigate aspects of the application. Applications and Acquittal Reports must be on the correct form.
3. Applications must be completed and returned **by 4.00pm on Friday 30th October 2026**. The closing date will apply for all applications. No late applications will be accepted.
4. Applications deemed to be for commercial benefit will be considered ineligible. This will be determined on a case by case basis and will include applications where the main beneficiary is a business.
5. Funding must be returned if the activity is not completed in line with the Funding Agreement. Any excess funding must be returned.
6. **Applicants who have previously been successful in receiving funding MUST have completed all Acquittal Reports and complied with Council requirements prior to being considered for the current funding round.**
7. Funding must not be regarded as a recurring commitment from Council. There is no guarantee a recurring event or activity will be funded in the future. Funding is limited.
8. Council may reduce the amount allocated to you if the funding applied for is considered unsubstantiated, excessive, or if you have previously received funding.
9. Multiple applications for the same township will not be accepted.
10. Successful applicants will be required to sign a Funding Agreement, which includes the conditions of grant funding. You may also be asked to comply with additional conditions.
11. If you choose to spend funds on trophies or plaques, up to 15% of your total grant funds only, will be reimbursed for these items.
12. For all expenditure items, you must include a quote or evidence/receipt of all items purchased during the acquittal process.
13. Council encourages the sharing of resources in the community as a way of creating partnerships. If Council is aware of an alternative option available to you, we will recommend it as an alternative to funding.
14. Events or activities must be conducted safely, comply with requirements of local and other authorities, and have minimal negative impacts on the community or environment.

15. All activities **MUST** align with Key Council Plans and Strategies:
 - a. [Wellington Shire Council Plan](#)
 - b. [Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan](#)
 - c. [Sustainability Strategy](#)
16. Acknowledge Council's contribution in any advertising or promotion of the event/activity.
17. If your event has been successful in receiving a Federal Government Australia Day Grant you are not eligible to receive funding from a Wellington Shire Council's Australia Day Grant.
18. **An Acquittal Report must be completed by 8 weeks after your event – Tuesday 23 March 2027.**

Contact

For general grant enquiries or if you require assistance in completing the application form please contact:

Community Facilities Planning and Grants Officer

Phone: 1300 366 244

Email: grants@wellington.vic.gov.au