

# GUIDELINES

## Social Cohesion Research Grants Program 2016-17

### Round 2

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND THE MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS



Victoria's strength is built on its rich history and the diversity of cultures and identities that make up our community. Our society celebrates the differences and the multitude of experiences we bring to our everyday lives and interactions.

It is critically important that we continue to develop our understanding of each other, expand our knowledge of our environment and build on the strength of our intercultural community.

Our modern world has thrown up challenges which seek to disintegrate the threads that have woven our communities together. Destructive narratives and hateful agendas are seeking to alienate, segregate and harm how we relate to one another. Broad and false assumptions are being used to excuse behaviours that hurt our society.

To tackle these multifaceted issues, the Victorian Government in partnership with community and not-for-profit organisations, community members, Australian and international academics, and philanthropic foundations developed the Strategic Framework to Strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities (the Framework). The Framework outlines a whole of society approach to strengthening cohesion amongst all Victorians, whilst enhancing our ability to respond to factors that contribute towards violent extremism. It also recognises that government cannot respond to these challenges alone, and that ongoing partnerships are vital for a coordinated and robust response.

One of the foundations of the Framework is the need for our policies and program delivery to be evidence-based. As part of this, we have established the Research Institute on Social Cohesion (RIOSOC) which aims to bring diverse sectors together in a community of practice to engage in a whole-of-community response to complex issues.

We also developed the Social Cohesion Research Grants Program (the Program) to address the need for evidence and research. In 2015, Round One of this Program was delivered and successfully funded seven diverse projects exploring the key research priorities. The outcomes of these projects will be delivered across 2016-17.

In Round Two, there has been a review of the key research priorities for a renewed focus on new knowledge in key issues as well as an option for research projects to run for up to two years.

We are looking forward to further building our knowledge around social cohesion, community resilience, community polarisation and preventing violent extremism. The outcomes of this research are vitally important for developing our knowledge and enhancing our strong, cohesive and pluralistic communities.

**The Hon James Merlino MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education

**Robin Scott MP**  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



## OVERVIEW

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In May 2015, the Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Ministerial Taskforce (Taskforce) was established to lead Victoria in adopting a whole-of-government whole-of-community collaborative approach to building resilience and strengthening social cohesion. Integral to this approach is the aim to support Victorians to identify, reject, respond and recover from violent extremism.

The Taskforce is chaired by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon James Merlino MP. Other members include the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott MP, the Minister for Police, the Hon Lisa Neville MP and the Minister for Youth Affairs Jenny Mikakos MLC.

The Taskforce has approved \$4 million over four years to fund the Research Institute on Social Cohesion (RIOSCI), which includes the Social Cohesion Research Grants Program (Program). The Community Resilience Unit in the Department of Premier and Cabinet has been created by the Taskforce to administer this and other funding as directed by the Taskforce.

Grants which are approved as part of the Program will contribute towards the current evidence base and inform the development of innovative policy and practice. Approved grants will align with the *Strategic Framework to Strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities (Strategic Framework)* and support the evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and programs co-created by Government and communities.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Social Cohesion Research Grants Program (Program) will support the objectives of the *Strategic Framework*. The long-term, overall objective of the Program is to:

- Fill gaps in knowledge and respond to the rapidly evolving environment associated with social cohesion, community resilience and factors which contribute to violent extremism;
- Understand the development of effective whole-of-community initiatives on building key resilience features;
- Better understand the protective factors that prevent young people being drawn to violent extremism;
- Support Government and other stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions for program and policy design and implementation;
- Support a socially cohesive Victoria underpinned by social justice and equity in which all Victorians have a sense of belonging, acceptance and worth; and
- To promote partnerships between researchers, government and community.

## FUNDING AVAILABLE

Total funding of \$500,000 (excluding GST) is available for the 2016-17 funding round.

The Research Grants Program is divided into two funding streams:

- **Small Grants** for research proposals up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) and lasting up to 12 months.
- **Large Grants** for research proposals up to \$150,000 (excluding GST) and lasting up to 24 months. Large Grants research proposals may be funded over two financial years.

Individual applicants can apply for one stream and one application only. The difference between the two streams relates to size and complexity of the project.

Large Grants will have a two stage application process. Stage 1 will be an Expression of Interest (EOI) and Stage 2 will be an invitation only application for shortlisted applicants from Stage 1.

Additional funding rounds will become available over the next two years (2017-18 and 2018-19).





## PROGRAM RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The research priorities for this grants program have been reviewed in consultation with an expert academic reference group, and endorsed by the Taskforce.

The Program aims to understand innovative program approaches that strengthen open-mindedness, empathy and capacity for critical thinking and tackle issues around violent extremism in culturally and context-sensitive ways.

### Research Priority 1

#### Social Cohesion and Diversity

- Examine the protective factors (individual and community) that build resilience to racist and religious exclusivist views.
- Develop insights into how public language and discourse impacts people both negatively and positively, particularly on marginalised and vulnerable young people.

### Research Priority 2

#### Community Polarisation, Marginalisation and Violent Extremism

- Examine the driving factors behind the attraction to violent extremist narratives and behaviour.
- Develop multi-disciplinary program approaches that incorporate health, educational and other expertise to holistically tackle issues related to violent extremism.
- Investigation of contemporary social trends that legitimate violence as a means to deal with complex social issues.

### Research Priority 3

#### Project Innovation and Evaluation methodologies

- Develop innovative methodologies and theories for assessing the strength and impact of individual and cross-program initiatives to community resilience, social cohesion and the prevention of violent extremism.

Definitions can be found at page 11.

Please note that although national and international contexts are interconnected with the local Victorian context, it is expected that all research outcomes will have direct relevance to, and be able to inform decision making within Victoria.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

## PARTNERSHIPS



Eligible applicants must:

1. Be a member of the Research Institute on Social Cohesion (RIOSOC).
2. Be part of an **institution, organisation or government agency** which undertakes research, or has a proven history of being able to undertake research.
3. Be based in a locality with a Victorian postcode and have their head office in Victoria.
4. Be a legal entity, such as an incorporated body or association, and be able to enter into legal agreements with the Victorian Government represented by the Community Resilience Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC);
5. Have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
6. Have at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance to cover all aspects of the project.
7. Have a partnership with other individuals or groups from research institutions, government agencies, community groups and/or not-for-profit organisations.

Partnerships are important for fostering innovation, cross-sector collaboration and whole-of-community approaches to finding effective responses to these complex areas of research.

Partnerships are required between lead applicants and other individuals or groups from research institutions, government agencies, community groups and/or not-for-profit organisations.

Lead applicants may establish interstate and/or international partnership(s).



## TIMELINE

### Small Grants

The Small Grants will have a one stage application process.

The timeline and details are:

Activity	Proposed timeframe for Small Grants
Small Grants applications open	Friday 16 September 2016
<b>Small Grants applications close</b>	<b>11.59pm Friday 21 October 2016</b>
Notification of outcomes	Early 2017
Completion of research project	Up to 12 months from commencement date of the relevant Funding Agreement (see Funding Conditions)

### Large Grants

The Large Grants will have a two stage application process.

The timeline and details are:

Activity	Proposed timeframe for Large Grants
Stage 1: Large Grants EOI Applications open	Friday 16 September 2016
<b>Stage 1: Large Grants EOI Applications close</b>	<b>11.59pm Friday 7 October 2016</b>
Stage 2: Applications to Stage 2 will be invitation only. Details of the Stage 2 application process will be included in the invitation email.	Early November 2016
Notification of outcomes	Early 2017
Completion of research project	Up to 24 months from commencement date of the relevant Funding Agreement (see Funding Conditions)

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

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Eligible applications will be assessed by an Assessment Panel comprised of academic and government representatives. Panel members will have access to all applications submitted.

The Assessment Panel will meet to discuss assessments and make recommendations to the Taskforce for final approval. Assessment will take into account scoring, comments, and the balance of applications across the research priorities.

In some cases the Assessment Panel may request applicants to provide additional information, including evidence of support and partnership with other organisations, and particular ethics considerations.

Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

**Selection Criterion 1 (30%):** Alignment with the Strategic Framework and the research priorities approved by the Taskforce. This includes the capacity for proposals to inform one or more of the research priorities, to fill existing research/ knowledge voids and originality.

**Selection Criterion 2 (20%):** Capability (experience and expertise) of proposed research team, including demonstration of sound knowledge of current theory and practice and awareness of previous and ongoing research.

**Selection Criterion 3 (30%):** Quality of project design and proposed methods. This includes clarity of research objectives, project innovation, human research ethics considerations, feasibility and probability of success, evaluation processes, partnerships, strength of multi-disciplinary approach, and capacity for staged release of research findings.

**Selection Criterion 4 (20%):** Value for money, including capacity to leverage off other research activities, cooperative linkages (including in-kind contributions), and access to supplementary funding sources.





## FUNDING STRUCTURE

## FUNDING CONDITIONS

Payment milestones will be discussed with each grant recipient during the preparation of the Funding Agreement. The length of time of the research project may impact on the number of payment milestones. There will be a minimum of three payment milestones for each project including:

- 30% on signing of the Funding Agreement. Funding Agreements will only be signed subject to the provision of any additional information requested by the Assessment Panel.
- 40% on the receipt of a progress report including methodology, methods, preliminary outputs and analysis.
- 30% upon submission of the final report, including any data sets collected whilst undertaking the research.

Payments will be made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). All claims must be submitted on a tax invoice and be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent of the recipient organisation.

Non-financial milestones including project plans and draft reports may be included as part of the Funding Agreement.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Victorian Government through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement by DPC are fixed and no substantive changes will be accepted.

You may request a copy of the Funding Agreement template by contacting the Community Resilience Unit on (03) 9651 5937.

All successful applications will be required to maintain at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance to cover all aspects of the project for the term of the agreement. Successful applicants will be required to produce a certificate of currency to verify their insurance.

## APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

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**STEP 1** – Read the Guidelines to see if your organisation and your proposal is eligible.

**STEP 2** – Consider the selection criteria in relation to your proposal.

**STEP 3** – Determine if you are applying for a Small Grant or Large Grant. Please note the different application dates and process for the two funding streams. See page 6 for specific timelines.

**STEP 4** – If you have any questions, discuss your application with the Grants Enquiry Line on 1300 366 356 or [communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au).

**STEP 5** – Submit your application online:

- For Small Grants applicants: Complete and submit your application online at <https://dpc1.force.com/publicform/scrsmallr2>
- For Large Grants applicants: Complete and submit your Stage 1 Expression of Interest (EOI) application online at <https://dpc1.force.com/publicform/scrlrgeoitg1>

Shortlisted applicants for the Large Grants Stage 2 will be by invitation only.

Applicants will be notified of final outcomes in early 2017.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## CONTACTS AND ENQUIRIES

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Please refer to the following links for additional information related to the Program:

- Research Institute on Social Cohesion - [www.vic.gov.au/riosc](http://www.vic.gov.au/riosc)
- Community Resilience Unit - [www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience)
- Strategic Framework to strengthen Victoria's Social Cohesion and the Resilience of its Communities – [www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/CommunityResilience)
- Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation Surveys 2015 [www.scanlonfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Mapping-Social-Cohesion-Report.pdf](http://www.scanlonfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Mapping-Social-Cohesion-Report.pdf)

For more information and to discuss your application, please contact the Community Resilience Unit::

- **Phone:** 1300 366 356
- **Email:** [communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityresilience@dpc.vic.gov.au)
- **Website:** [www.vic.gov.au/riosc](http://www.vic.gov.au/riosc)



## DEFINITIONS

These definitions are provided for the purpose of these Guidelines.

Resilience - The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses or acute shocks they experience. (100 Resilient Cities 2016)

Partnerships – Partnerships means financial or non-financial collaboration between two or more parties to undertake the research. See Section 6 of the Guidelines above.

Violent Extremism – A willingness to use violence, or support the use of violence by others, to promote a political, ideological or religious goal. Violent extremism includes a willingness to use or support terrorism, other forms of politically-motivated violence (e.g. violent protests) and some forms of communal violence (e.g. racially-motivated assaults).

Social Cohesion – The degree to which a society creates a sense of belonging and promotes trust. In Australia, the key measurement of social cohesion is achieved through the Scanlon-Monash Index (SMI) of Social Cohesion which provides an overview in the five core domains of social cohesion:

- Belonging: shared value, identification with Australia, trust.
- Social justice and equity: evaluation of policies, views on the adequacy of financial support for people on low incomes, the gap between high and low incomes, trust in the Australian government.
- Participation: voluntary work, political and cooperative involvement.
- Acceptance and rejection, legitimacy: experience of discrimination, attitudes towards minorities and newcomers.
- Worth: life satisfaction and happiness, future expectations.







