

## Multiculturalism: Application Recommendations and Ideas

The grant application must clearly articulate how the proposed initiatives address practical needs while creating inclusive spaces where individuals from all cultural backgrounds feel valued and supported. It should demonstrate the embodiment of unity, compassion, and love, aligning with the programme's objectives to foster meaningful community impact and strengthen social cohesion. When presenting this to an assessment officer, it is crucial to illustrate how you promote cohabitation among diverse cultures and backgrounds. Focus on conveying how your initiatives cultivate unity and harmonious relationships, rather than relying on theological viewpoints or church jargon. By framing the context in practical terms, you will help the officer visualise how your efforts align with the grant programme's goals, thereby promoting inclusivity and community cohesion.

### **Stream 1: Multicultural celebrations in a church setting can include:**

- **Multicultural Church services:** Hosting multilingual services and/or where people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds come together for worship in their native languages, such as English, Tamil, Korean, Mandarin, Hindi, Gujarati, Arabic, and more. These gatherings, held on special occasions or regularly, may feature multilingual worship, cultural expressions through testimonies, traditional performances like songs and skits, potluck meals, and ethnic-themed events.
- **Morning tea:** Many parishes regularly hold morning tea after church services, providing a space for fostering unity and cross-cultural learning.
- **Multicultural preachers and events:** Celebrating various cultural and national events, including Christmas and other special church occasions, with preachers and activities that reflect the diversity within the congregation.

### **Stream 2: Multicultural Amenities:**

Upgrading amenities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities is essential to enhance community participation. Begin by highlighting how specific upgrades or purchases will benefit various language-speaking groups within your congregation:

- **Facility improvements:** Renovating community centres, meeting rooms, or spaces used for welcoming people, counselling, and support groups is crucial for creating inclusive environments for diverse groups.
- **Accessibility enhancements:** Consider improving access pathways, extensions, roofing, flooring, kitchen, bathrooms and fencing. Address cleaning needs for outdoor and indoor areas where events like playgroups, seniors' fellowships, craft classes, and other activities take place, ensuring that cleaning tools and equipment are suitable for the spaces.

- **Appliances and equipment:** Invest in appliances that meet ministry needs, such as community pantry supplies, coffee machines, furniture, multilingual signage, and study or activity materials. Ensure that stage setups, as well as heating and cooling systems, are up-to-date or upgraded as needed.
- **Audio-visual and security upgrades:** Consider purchasing audio-visual equipment like recording cameras and devices, alongside security resources like CCTV, lighting, access controls, security windows and emergency communication systems. These improvements enhance accessibility for people with disabilities and create spaces that respect different cultural practices.

### Stream 3 Social and Intercultural Connections

Programs that encourage social participation are essential and may already be part of your church's activities. These can include:

- **Elders/senior citizen gatherings:** Meetings, picnics, and walking programs that promote fellowship and health. Churches often have monthly meetings and picnics for seniors to gather, share fellowship, and break bread.
- **Language classes:** English as a Second Language (ESL) and other language lessons for students from diverse backgrounds, helping bridge language barriers.
- **Children and youth programs:** Engaging young people in faith-based and social activities.
- **Women's and men's meetings:** Seminars, picnics, and gatherings for different groups, fostering community and support.
- **Social events:** Church picnics, weekend getaways, Treestump camps, children's ministry, and more.
- **Outreach ministry:** Engaging with the broader community to share support and faith.
- **Playgroups and mother's fellowship:** Providing spaces for parents and children to connect and grow together.

While planning to apply for a specific stream, if you are unsure which category your project falls under, please contact the Multicultural NSW customer service team at 1800 020 283 and choose "option 1" for grant application questions, or select the option that best aligns with your query.



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