

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



Tuesday, 6 October 2020

POWERING IDEAS AND INNOVATION IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

The Victorian Government is helping African communities deliver creative projects that get people active, interested and inspired.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence today announced 22 local projects will be funded under the *Community Innovation Grants Program* – an initiative of the Government’s \$8.6 million *Victorian African Communities Action Plan*.

The projects are designed to support African Victorians and promote a stronger sense of belonging and connection to their communities, with successful recipients from across the state and targeting a range of different groups – such as young people, women and seniors.

Some of the successful projects include:

- A vegetable garden in Shepparton, harvesting traditional vegetables such as maize and okra
- A two-day forum for young African Victorians, applying business strategies to social issues
- A digital storytelling program recruiting nine emerging African Victorian filmmakers
- A leadership workshop for African Victorian law students to assist with confidence and job opportunities

The 22 projects – including those from regional areas – will share in a total of \$264,000.

The program was designed and delivered in partnership with the Victorian African Communities Action Plan Implementation Committee, which comprises a diverse group of African Victorian community leaders.

For a full list of successful recipients, visit vic.gov.au/community-innovation-grant-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

“We have been so impressed by the innovative ways that African communities have sought to boost inclusion and participation – and I am proud that we can support these projects to reach their full potential.”

“It is heartening to already see the impact of our partnership with African communities under the Action Plan and I know these projects will be a real source of support to community members in the weeks and months ahead.”

Quotes attributable to Victorian African Communities Action Plan Chair Anthony Carbines

“The Victorian African Communities Action Plan is a comprehensive, long-term strategy to address a wide range of issues affecting Victorians of African heritage and is about providing opportunities where they’re needed.”

“These innovation grants are just one way we’re working with African communities to make Victoria a stronger, safer and fairer place to be.”