

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans
Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Wednesday, 6 January 2021

SUPPORTING COVIDSAFE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The Andrews Labor Government is helping diverse communities come together in a COVIDSafe way to celebrate their culture and traditions.

Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs Shaun Leane today opened the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program, inviting organisations to apply for funding for events to be held between March and June this year.

The funding recognises the important role of community connection and celebration and will support events held either in person or in a digital format.

Any in-person event must adhere to the COVIDSafe Public Events Framework.

With the entertainment and events industry one of the hardest hit because of the pandemic, this funding will help bring more life and colour to the state, celebrating our vibrant cultural diversity, whilst ensuring the health and safety of all Victorians.

In March, Victoria's Greek community will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Greek independence – a significant occasion on the cultural calendar.

Delivering on an election commitment, the Labor Government is investing \$200,000 to support celebrations.

Victoria is home to the largest Greek population in the world outside of Greece.

This year's funding also includes \$50,000 to support organisations holding Hindu celebrations, events and festivals.

Applications close 3pm on Wednesday, 3 February. For more information or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/multicultural-festivals-and-events-program.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs Shaun Leane

"We have much to celebrate here in Victoria and this funding will ensure that, after such a challenging year, festivals and events are supported to take place."

"Projects funded will celebrate our rich cultural diversity whilst supporting the revitalisation of Victoria's economy."

"I can't wait to see Victorians out celebrating the 200th anniversary of Greek independence in March, our dedicated \$200,000 funding will help it be COVIDSafe but importantly, a milestone to remember."