

# Media Release

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



Monday, 15 February 2021

## KEEPING YOUNG ABORIGINAL VICTORIANS CONNECTED

The Andrews Labor Government is calling for Aboriginal designed and led projects that will help young people stay connected with community and Culture.

Minister for Youth Ros Spence today announced applications are now open for the *Aboriginal Youth Engagement Grants Program*, with up to \$50,000 available per project.

Aboriginal community organisations and other groups are encouraged to apply with ideas to boost social and emotional wellbeing, nurture young people's talents and leadership or strengthen their identity, culture and faith.

Projects that create pathways to jobs, education and training will also be considered.

Projects will be required to adhere to COVIDSafe rules and will be delivered over the course of the year to ensure they respond to the immediate social and emotional needs of Aboriginal young people.

Successful grant recipients will be supported by the Koorie Youth Council – the representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Victoria – and the Youth Affairs Council Victoria.

The new grants program builds on the successes of the *Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program*, which funds youth-led, culturally safe mentorship programs that respond to the local needs of Aboriginal young people across the state.

For more information or to apply, visit [youthcentral.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-youth-engagement-grants](https://youthcentral.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-youth-engagement-grants).

Applications close at 11.59pm on Monday, 15 March 2021.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Youth Ros Spence

*"Having limited opportunities to catch up face-to-face with friends and loved ones has taken a toll on all Victorians this past year, but particularly young people. That's why it's vital we help them find new ways to reconnect."*

*"As well as providing connection and networking opportunities, these grants will help build positive pathways into employment and education in a way that aligns with their aspirations for their life and is culturally safe."*