

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Education

Minister for Women



Thursday, 4 May 2023

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS GENDER EQUALITY WORK

The Andrews Labor Government is providing more support to community and women's organisations working to advance gender equality with the new *Investing in Women Grassroots Grant Program*.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins has announced \$200,000 is available to support community organisations on activities that advance gender equality including community engagement events, leadership and training programs, community projects and advocacy efforts.

Women, girls and gender diverse people continue to face major barriers to equality, from gender stereotypes that limit their choices to unequal pay to violence and discrimination.

Grassroots organisations play a vital role in breaking down these barriers. These local groups know the challenges of the women in their communities and what they need to thrive. These organisations can often be the first to respond with solutions that are tailored to the unique circumstances of women and girls in their networks.

The program will fund activities across the state that contribute to the goals of cultural change (where people are free from gender stereotypes and prejudices), health and wellbeing, safety and respect, and economic security.

Worth \$10,000 each, the grants will help groups build their capacity, strengthen networks and reach a wider audience.

Experiences of gender inequality can compound and change over a lifetime and are profoundly shaped by the other forms of disadvantage and discrimination many women face.

This is why the grants are designed to deliver projects that support women and girls from a diverse range of ages, backgrounds, identities and experiences, continuing to drive progress towards gender equality in Victoria.

Applications close at 3pm on Friday, 19 May. For more information visit [Investing in women grassroots grant program | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/investing-in-women-grassroots-grant-program)

Quotes attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

"When women and girls are empowered, they are better able to contribute to their families, their communities, and the economy.

"I encourage Victorians to apply for this program and take advantage of an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of women across Victoria."

Media contact: Alison Caldwell 0408 495 637 | alison.caldwell@minstaff.vic.gov.au