

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Employment



Saturday, 16 December 2023

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ABORIGINAL-LED PROJECT FUNDING

The Allan Labor Government is encouraging Aboriginal-led organisations and communities to apply for support for their innovative projects to help prevent and provide early responses to family violence in Aboriginal communities across Victoria.

As part of the project funding under the Labor Government's \$2.2 million 2023-24 Community Initiatives Fund, applicants can receive up to \$200,000 for projects delivered by local organisations and communities that align with the *Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families* priorities.

Dhelk Dja is the Aboriginal-led Victorian Agreement which encourages Aboriginal communities and services to work with government and be accountable for ensuring Aboriginal families and communities are living free from family violence.

Since 2014, the Fund has supported more than 333 projects in Aboriginal communities across Victoria.

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* invested \$31 million to maintain Aboriginal-led family and sexual violence service delivery, building on \$18.2 million provided from 2021 to fund 80 Aboriginal-led initiatives and services under the *Dhelk Dja* Family Violence Fund.

Since the landmark Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Labor Government has invested more than \$3.8 billion to improve the way we prevent and respond to family violence.

Applications will close on 7 February 2024. For more information visit vic.gov.au/aboriginal-cif.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward

"Aboriginal voices and experiences need to be at the forefront of our work in driving down and ending family violence."

"This funding is driven by Aboriginal self-determination, supporting grassroots projects of innovation, strong partnerships and inclusiveness."