

Friday, 7 June 2024

## CELEBRATING BENDIGO'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

The Allan Labor Government is making sure multicultural communities in Bendigo have the spaces and facilities they need to bring people together and celebrate their traditions.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today announced two local organisations will receive a grant through the latest round of the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund.

The Bendigo Islamic Community Centre will receive \$400,000 to continue construction on a new community centre – bringing the Government's investment in this project to more than \$1.3 million and ensuring the new centre can serve the community well into the future.

The Golden Dragon Museum will also receive more than \$60,000 to deliver a new masterplan to guide the museum's future.

The masterplan will include a review of infrastructure, operations and visitor engagement at the museum, which is the pride of Bendigo's Chinese community and an Australian tourism icon in its own right.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has invested more than \$88 million to deliver over 560 multicultural community infrastructure projects.

Funding through the flagship Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund supports access to culturally appropriate spaces for Victorians to connect with community and have a sense of belonging.

More information about the grant can be found at [vic.gov.au/multicultural-community-infrastructure-fund](https://vic.gov.au/multicultural-community-infrastructure-fund), with further recipients to be announced in due course.

### Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

*"One of the things I love about Bendigo is our diversity – which is why we're proud to be supporting the Bendigo Islamic Community Centre and Golden Dragon Museum so they can continue to grow."*

*"The awful and senseless vandalism last month was deeply disrespectful to our Chinese community – and today is about harnessing the confidence and optimism that I know the community share about its future."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

*"With this funding, the Golden Dragon Museum can do the work to map out how it can attract even more visitors to Bendigo every year."*