



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

LOCAL MISSION
going and growing as God's people

Cross-Cultural Ministry Grants

For the development of mission and ministry
in Australia and New Zealand

Introduction

LOVE COMES TO LIFE when people of all nations reach out to each other across cultural borders and grow together as sons and daughters of God.

If you attend a typical Lutheran gathering in Australia or New Zealand, most people you encounter will be of Northern European heritage.

There are a few exceptions, namely our Asian and African (heritage) congregations who worship in their own languages, but these groups also tend to stick to themselves.

Our goal is to see the mix of nations referred to in the opening statement.

Over the past few decades our society has become much more multicultural, and it is our vision that Lutherans engage with these people from non – European backgrounds as well. The New Testament depicts a church that is a witness to the world when members love each other across ethnic lines.

These Cross-Cultural Ministry grants (up to \$1000) are provided to assist you to engage with your multicultural neighbourhood, and this booklet provides details of grant assessment criteria as well as reporting requirements.

The Objectives of this Grant program

Intentional mission actions:

As mentioned above, these grants are offered to support you to shape some activities that intentionally engage a wider range of the people who live in your neighbourhood to draw them into your fellowship. Migration to Australia and New Zealand was largely from Europe in earlier times and came from cultures exposed to Christianity.

Now many of us are surrounded by people coming from Asia, Africa, and the Middle east (who now make up 25% of the population.) and we have a new mission-field close at hand.

Prompt release of funds:

We aim to release grant money quickly, so you can respond when the opportunity is there, as not everything can be planned far ahead. To facilitate this, applications can be submitted year-round, and we will assess them promptly.

Backing creative ideas:

We are prepared to back ideas that might even fail, but most of all we want to capture the 'story' of Lutheran congregations reaching out in love – so we can be mutually encouraged.

Assessment Criteria (Preferred activities)

We offer these small grants to support plans that lead to the following two main outcomes:

1. Engagement out in the community: With a particular focus on those whose ethnic heritage and background is not yet represented in our congregation.
2. Relationship building within our congregations: Intentionally fostering engagement with our fellow Christians of differing ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

As our funding pool is limited there may be times when we give priority to applications that demonstrate a plan to address outcome #1

We anticipate that the funds will support new initiatives in the form of one-off events, or short programs. Sadly, we are not in a position to offer funding towards salary at this present time.

Note: As you plan your activity one consideration is where to hold it, and the normal default is to use the church premises. This might be the only realistic option but if you are planning to reach unchurched people give some thought to whether the first contact could happen in a more neutral location (like a local park.) Hopefully as the relationship builds people will be more comfortable to come to 'inhouse' activities.

The Outline for the Grant application.

The CCM webpage 'Cross-Cultural Ministry Grants Documents' section has a Grant Application Form which you fill electronically and email to the Local Mission office via crosscultural@lca.org.au.

Choose a name for your project or event that is specific to your key objective.

The application asks for 5 attachments and an endorsement letter from the congregation Chair

- 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL** (Max 250 words)
Provide a brief overview of the activity and how the funds will be used and the background to the mission initiative.
- 2. MISSIONAL TARGET GROUP** (Max 200 words)
 - 3.1 Describe the demographic profile of the area in which your activity will be undertaken and any specific issues regarding the context
 - 3.2 Provide information about how this activity forms part of the wider congregational mission and ministry plan.
- 3. ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES** (Max 200 words)
How will the activity be managed (and risks addressed)?
- 4. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES** (Max 200 words)
Describe what you hope to achieve by the proposed activity in the short and medium terms.
- 5. BUDGET**
Provide a simple budget that shows the anticipated expenditure of the grant and other financial and in-kind contributions being made to run the activity.
- 6. ATTACH LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM CHURCH CHAIRPERSON**

Reporting:

Recipients will be asked to provide the Cross-Cultural Ministry team with some feedback within a month of concluding the activity. At that time we ask that scans of receipts are sent to verify expenditure.

A reporting template will be forwarded to successful applicants

Our objective is to keep the reporting requirements to a minimum

Our preferred reporting method is that you write a short story (with a photo) or make a short film about what happened. These 'stories' can then be circulated (when appropriate) to encourage others

The reporting template will include an alternate format for those who feel that the outcome of the activity cannot be told in 'story' form.

We have included a Sample Application on the CCM webpage for further reference.

Alternative Funding Sources

The LCA Cross-Cultural Ministry Grant funding stream has been reduced so we encourage you to consider alternative sources of funds like:

- LCA district Mission Outreach and Mission Resource grants
- The Collier Charitable Fund
- Government grants
 - The 3 levels of government (Federal, State and Local) offer grants to support a fairly wide range of activities that improve the wellbeing of citizens. Churches are also in the 'business' of improving civic life and are respected by outsiders for this.
 - Often these govt grants are designed to assist with the expenses of running the activity, but sometimes can be used for salary costs. The important thing is to look for a grant that can underpin an activity that your group already plans to pursue.

Document Controls	
Document Version	4.1
Ownership	CCCM
Reviewed by	Craig Heidenreich and Erin Grainger
Approved by	CLM
Date Approved	1/2/2023
Next Review Date	2/03/2024
Confidentiality Level	Public