

Dads' Group Grant Program 2023

Information session

14 September 2023

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Department
of Health

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Acknowledgement of Country

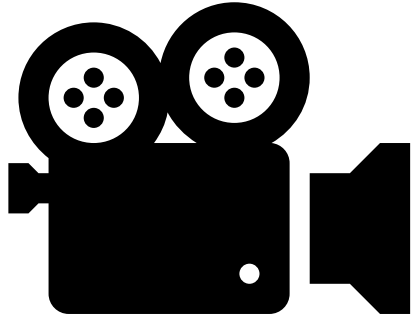
I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are all meeting.

I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.



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Reminder – Recorded session



ON AIR

- Please note this session is being recorded.
- The recording will be available upon request after the session has ended.
- If you do not wish to be recorded, please keep your camera turned off.

Session outline

1 More support for mums, dads and babies

2 Objectives and expected benefits of the program

3 Who can apply?

4 What activities might be funded?

5 What funding is available?

6 Timelines and assessment criteria

7 Requirements for funded organisations

8 Q&A opportunity

More support for mums, dads and babies

- ❑ The 2023-24 Victorian State Budget allocated funding through the More Support for Mums, Dads and Babies initiative to better meet the needs of children, parents and families in the early years (birth to starting school).
- ❑ As part of this initiative, the Victorian Government dedicated \$2 million in grants over a four-year period to expand peer-to-peer support networks for dads via the Dads' Group Grant Program.
- ❑ These groups will create nurturing environments where dads can connect, share experiences, and receive evidence-based support so they can thrive in their parenting journey.
- ❑ Funding can be used to establish new dads' groups or enhance existing dads' groups that offer face-to-face and/or virtual participation.

Program objectives

1. **Establish new or strengthen existing support groups** for dads, which are delivered face-to-face and/or online.
2. **Demonstrate competency and experience** in facilitating safe and interactive groups to actively engage dads in peer-to-peer settings.
3. **Use clear strategies to safely include and engage all dads**, including, but not limited to, dads with disabilities, Aboriginal dads, and dads from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
4. **Use an evidence-based approach** to deliver the following benefits:
 - Enhance understanding of early childhood development and early years services
 - Encourage healthy behaviours and parenting support
 - Improve health, wellbeing and peer support among dads.

Expected benefits



Enhanced understanding of Early Childhood Development and Early Years Services

- ❑ Dads better understanding childhood health and learning, and development topics like feeding, playing and sleeping.
- ❑ More dads participating in early years services, including Maternal and Child Health, playgroups, oral health and Early Childhood Education and Care settings.
- ❑ Providing a safe place for dads to discuss their child's developmental milestones and access evidence-based support materials.
- ❑ Encouraging dads to engage in stimulating, age-appropriate activities with their children, such as reading, interactive play and educational games.

Expected benefits (*continued*)



Healthy Behaviours and Parenting Support

- ❑ Dads feeling supported, connected and valued.
- ❑ Healthy behaviours encouraged, such as active engagement in caregiving to promote gender equality in parenting, and building strong emotional bonds with children.
- ❑ Dads becoming more confident in their parenting skills through open discussions, shared experiences and access to evidence-based information.
- ❑ This translates to better health outcomes and positive, safe and supportive families.

Expected benefits (*continued*)



Health, Wellbeing and Peer Support

- ❑ Group sessions helping dads to build social connections and strong networks with other parents, positively supporting their health and well-being.
- ❑ Topics such as self-care strategies and stress management techniques are openly discussed.
- ❑ Dads engage in the perinatal mental health conversation and understand the importance of seeking professional help when needed.

Who can apply?

Funding is available for application by individual organisations or partnerships involving:

- Victorian-based non-government/not-for-profit organisations whose main purpose is to support dads
- Victorian-based Local Government Authorities (LGAs)
- Victorian-based Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).

What activities might be funded?

- ❑ **Project management and staffing:** (capped at 20 per cent of the total funding): Includes salaries or wages for executive staff and administrative personnel.
- ❑ **Service delivery staff:** including facilitators, coordinators or other staff with a direct service delivery role.
- ❑ **Venue or facility hire:** (if required).
- ❑ **Equipment and supplies:** Depending on the activities and services provided, there may be costs for purchasing or maintaining equipment, such as audio-visual systems, furniture, play equipment, educational resources, and supplies for workshops or events.
- ❑ **Online platform set-up and maintenance:** Costs associated with the set-up and maintenance of the technology that will facilitate digital service delivery.
- ❑ **Marketing and outreach:** Promotional activities such as website development, online advertising, social media campaigns, community outreach events, and partnerships with relevant organisations.

What activities might be funded? *(continued)*

- ❑ **Training and professional development:** Staff attendance at conferences, workshops, or courses related to fatherhood, parenting, mental health, or group facilitation.
- ❑ **Co-design workshops:** Inviting dads to participate in collaborative workshops, aimed at incorporating participant feedback into session content and structure.
- ❑ **Program resources:** Developing and providing program materials, handouts, educational resources, and tools for participants can incur costs. These materials will only be covered if they align with the program objectives.
- ❑ **Miscellaneous costs** such as refreshments to be provided at group sessions or events.

What funding is available?

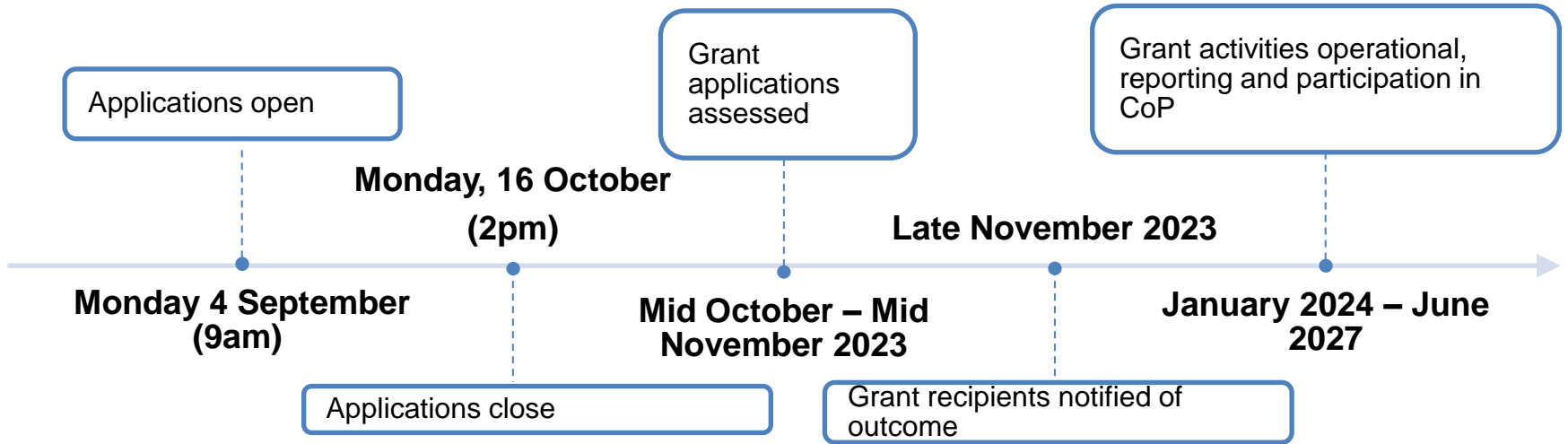
Two tiers of funding are available:

Funding tier	Annual grant amount (exc. GST)	Reach
1	Between \$50,001 - \$100,000	Statewide service delivery across metro areas, growth centres and/or large regional centres, targeting participation by dads from a broad range of backgrounds.
2	Up to \$50,000	Focused reach into regional Victoria, or services targeted at specific groups, such as dads from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or multicultural backgrounds.

- Organisations may only apply for funding under one tier.
- The volume of grants awarded in each tier will be based on the overall quality of the submissions received and their suitability against the assessment criteria.
- The service delivery expected of funded organisations will vary depending on the grant amount provided.
- Successful organisations will receive equal grant amounts over the four-year period, commencing in early 2024.



Timelines



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Assessment criteria

Grants will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Organisational capacity
- Activity design and structure
- Collaboration
- Participant outreach and engagement
- Budget and value for money.

Requirements for funded organisations

Organisations that are successful in their grant application will be subject to the following ongoing requirements:

1. Reporting requirements

- Funded organisations will be required to submit a brief grant acquittal report at the end of each financial year and may be asked to participate in data collection by the department.

2. Community of Practice

- Successful organisations will be required to nominate one or more representatives to attend Community of Practice (CoP) meetings, which may be scheduled up to four times each year.

Questions?

**For further information
please contact:**

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