



# Indigenous Languages and Arts Program fact sheet

January 2021

The Australian Government's vision is for an Australia where respect for our rich diversity begins with respect for the world's oldest continuing culture, that of our First Australians.

First Nations languages and arts are integral to the identity, connection with culture and emotional health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and are essential to maintaining the vitality and strength of Indigenous communities.

The Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) grant program invests around \$20 million per annum to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to express, preserve and maintain their cultures through languages and arts activities around Australia.

The ILA program includes annual operational funding support to a network of 20 Indigenous Language Centres across the country working on capturing, preserving and maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The ILA program also supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to develop, produce, present, exhibit or perform Indigenous arts projects that showcase Australia's traditional and contemporary Indigenous cultural and artistic expressions.



Beats of Culture Music (BoC Music), The Youth Mill Pty Ltd

ILA program funding is vital for revitalising and maintaining our Indigenous languages and in ensuring continued support of Indigenous language workers and community-led language programs.

## How is the ILA program helping Indigenous communities?

The ILA program provides grant funding to support the following objectives to:

- empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to preserve and teach their culture through languages and arts
- foster a strong sense of cultural identity and wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which contributes to sustainable and strong communities
- contribute to the increased recognition and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and arts in the wider Australian community.

## Grant funding opportunities

There is an annual open competitive grant opportunity for organisations to submit an application for project funding to deliver community-led Indigenous languages and arts activities. ILA program guidelines are available on the Australian Government's GrantConnect website at [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au).

## Indigenous Languages and Arts activities

In 2020–21, the ILA program funded approximately 150 projects that support a wide variety of community-based Indigenous languages and arts activities, including a network of Indigenous Language Centres around the country:



For more information on the ILA program, including location and contact details of the Indigenous Language Centres, you can:

- visit our website at [www.arts.gov.au/ila](http://www.arts.gov.au/ila)
- phone 1800 006 992
- or email [ILA@arts.gov.au](mailto:ILA@arts.gov.au).