

Guidelines: IC Open Access – SPACE Program Expressions of Interest

Darebin Intercultural Centre (IC)

Acknowledgement of Country

Ngarrgma Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Guljin gurringanyinu bik wenerop Darbin dharri. Ngarri yana ngarnga Bik, Baan ba Ngarrgu. Gahgook-al Nanggit bambuth, yalingbu ba gama-dj.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land. We recognise their continuing connection to Land, Water and Culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

IC Open Access: SPACE

The IC Open Access program promotes the exploration and development of intersectional, community-engaged practices at the Darebin Intercultural Centre (IC).

Key Dates 2025-26

Applications open	Wednesday 18 June
Applications close	Friday 1 August - midday (12pm)
Short-list booking confirmations	September
Participants announced	Wednesday 1 October
Welcome session	Friday 10 October 2025 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Closing session	Wednesday 17 June 2026 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Space Stream - booking availability:	1 Oct – 10 Dec 2025, 28 Jan - 8 April & 9 April – 17 June 2026

What support we provide:

- A maximum of 30 hours use of the IC for groups/attendees of up to 30 people (pending availability, rooms listed below)
- Support from program staff to find venue availability and to complete booking and induction processes
- Inclusion in IC communications, as appropriate

What we ask:

- To be available to participate in person across the key dates of the program (see above)
- To provide proof of Public Liability Insurance cover for the duration of the programmed activities (this may be able to be arranged through Council for a fee)

- To provide a short description and an image to help communicate your project
- To complete our induction and venue booking process
- To complete any necessary checks and sign and abide by our Code of Conduct and Venue Hire Terms and Conditions.

Who can apply?

IC Open Access is open to individuals or groups who live, work or study in the City of Darebin. See [map of Darebin](#) boundaries. People who are not Darebin-based can participate in your program.

We strongly encourage applications from IC's focus communities: people who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, Deaf, Disabled, culturally and linguistically diverse, women, gender-diverse, experiencing financial hardship and LGBTIQ+ community members.

Community members and groups who are not already engaged with the IC will be prioritised. Recipients of a Darebin cash grant or other external funding are welcome to apply.

Who cannot apply?

- Darebin Council employees
- Political organisations
- Religious organisations, applying with the purpose of promoting religion or proselytising
- Applicants that own or operate Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) or hold events/activities/meetings in venues that have EGMs and/or receive sponsorship or support (in-kind or cash) from EGM revenue) due to the [Electronic Gaming Machine Policy 2023—2027](#).
- Applicants who are current recipients of a Venue Hire support grant from Darebin Council
- Applicants who have a current agreement with Darebin Intercultural Centre, such as a license or MOU. If you are unsure whether this applies to your group, please contact the IC.

What can you do?

Do you need space for an activity or program which engages one or more communities, cultures or identities? We would love to hear from you. The IC Open Access Space stream provides venue support to deliver community-led programs which align with the [IC Programming Framework](#).

Activities which engage IC focus communities, are open to the public, and are free or very low cost, will be prioritised. We acknowledge that in some instances these activities may be relevant to a particular community or by invitation only. If this is the case, please explain the reasons for this in your application.

Some examples of the types of activities that may be supported include:

- Cultural maintenance (regular activities held to maintain a particular language and/or culture)
- Intercultural performance, music, dance, comedy, or poetry
- Interfaith / intercultural events or celebrations
- Art / craft / making / writing workshops
- Intergenerational activities
- Place-based climate action

- Intersectional self-care and community care practices
- Opportunities for intercultural learning and knowledge sharing
- Explorations of creative access
- Traditional / international games
- Creative development
- Creative community engagement
- Critical thinking and discussion

How will participants be selected?

At the IC we are guided by the principles outlined in the IC [Programming Framework](#). We are seeking proposals which are underpinned by these values of respect, kindness, curiosity, care, belonging and understanding between and across cultures and identities.

Participants will be selected by an external panel based on how well your proposed activity:

- Develops intercultural understanding and cultivates mutual respect between people from different cultures, genders, generations, faiths and/or identities
- Involves members of focus communities who may experience discrimination and disadvantage
- Promotes participation by, and removes barriers for, Darebin's diverse communities
- Practically fits within the IC venue and broader program*

*There are some limitations on the space in terms of logistics, such as timing, number of participants (max. 30 unless staff in attendance), and sound levels. These will be discussed with short-listed applicants and considered as part of the final assessment.

Use of spaces will be negotiated with each shortlisted applicant. Please give an indication of your preferred times/dates on the application. Afterhours access available to people over the age of 18 only. If successful, flexibility with times/dates may be required.

We welcome proposals to both the Development and Space streams, however only one expression of interest per applicant can be successful.

We have the capacity to support 3 – 5 proposals in each stream. The decision of the panel is final and feedback will not be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

How do I apply?

A short application form will be available [online](#) from 18 June 2025. Please [contact us](#) to arrange support completing the application or to discuss an alternative format.

Short-listed applicants will be invited in to discuss venue availability and suitability before the final participants are announced. Project reporting will be via participation in a group debrief session on 17 June 2026.

How can I find out more?

We will be holding three information sessions -

Online: Tuesday 24 June 1pm-2pm
Monday 30 June 5:30-6:30pm

In person: Wednesday 2 July 4:30pm-6pm (including venue viewing)

[Register to attend an information session here.](#)

Contact us:

In person [350 High St Preston 3072](#) Open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Email intercultural@darebin.vic.gov.au
Phone (03) 8470 8440

What spaces and facilities are available?

The Darebin Intercultural Centre (IC) is located at 350 High St Preston, on the corner of High St and Gower St.

Our Ganbu guljin ganbu wilam lounge area is open to the public Mon-Fri 10am-4pm and has free Wi-Fi, basic tea, coffee and kitchenette, including a microwave, fridge, dishwasher, cups, plates and cutlery.

Our two function rooms, Wilam-nganjin and Djerring ganbu, can be booked when the IC is open and outside of these hours from 10am-9pm, as available. These spaces each have a projector with screen (HDMI compatible) and audio system with access to two roving microphones.

Our Reflection Room can be used for prayer, meditation, or as a sensory quiet space. The venue has two accessible, all gender bathrooms, an Augmented Hearing Loop and dog bowl/mat for use by assistance animals.



Wilam-nganjin
'Our Place'
(Yellow room)



Djerring ganbu
'Gather as one'
(Orange room)



Ganbu guljin ganbu wilam
'One people One Place'
(Lounge area)