

# Guidelines: IC Open Access – DEVELOPMENT 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: DEVELOPMENT

**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

<b>Applications open</b>	Wednesday 18 June
<b>Applications close</b>	Friday 1 August - midday (12pm)
<b>Participants announced</b>	Wednesday 1 October
<b>Welcome session</b>	Friday 10 October 2025 1:00pm - 4:00pm
<b>Closing session</b>	Wednesday 17 June 2026 4:00pm - 8:00pm

## What support we provide:

- A stipend payment of \$2000 (on invoice with ABN)
- Up to 10 hours use of the IC (rooms listed below)
- Support from program staff, peer-to-peer connections and learning opportunities
- Access supports available, including subsidy to complete any necessary checks where payment is a barrier, e.g. Working with Children Check.
- 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 a short description and an image to help us communicate about your project
- To present at least one free, publicly accessible session, in the form of your choosing
- To complete our registration, induction and venue booking process
- To complete any necessary checks and sign and abide by our Code of Conduct.

## 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. You may wish to collaborate with people who are not Darebin-based.

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 LGBTIQA+ community members.

We are seeking to engage with people and groups who are not already involved with the IC. 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 proselytizing
- 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](#).
- Previous recipients of IC Open Access Development stream support
- Applicants who have a current agreement with the IC, 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 have an idea which engages one or more communities, cultures or identities that you would like to explore? We would love to hear from you. The IC Open Access Development stream supports research, experimentation, and the development of new ideas, rather than polished outcomes.

As part of the IC Open Access program, you are invited to develop your idea and present at least one free, publicly accessible session. This can be an informal way of sharing your ideas, involving others in your process, and experimenting with community participation. This session can take any form of your choosing, and it is ok if you don't know what that might be yet.

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

- Takeover of an IC Nights, our monthly social evening (Feb-Jun)
- Activation of the IC Ganbu gulin ganbu wilam lounge
- Digital offering online or onsite
- Creative community-engagement
- Creative development with open rehearsal

- Experimental uses of the space and technology
- Explorations of creative access
- Local responses to place
- Critical thinking and discussion
- Climate action
- Cooking demonstrations, food-based workshops or communal meals
- Intercultural performance, music, dance, comedy, or poetry
- Traditional / international games
- Curated screening and discussion
- Interfaith / intercultural events or celebrations
- Intersectional self-care and community care practices
- Art / craft / making / writing workshops
- Spiritually inclusive responses to the IC Reflection Room
- Intergenerational processes
- Opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing
- Facilitated mini-bus tours to cultural sites or institutions

## How will participants be selected?

At the IC we are guided by the principles outlined in the Darebin Intercultural Centre's [Programming Framework](#). We are seeking proposals which are underpinned by these values of respect, kindness, curiosity, care, belonging and understanding. We want this program to be an incubator for new ideas about culture and identity.

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, the 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 and after-hours use is limited. Please give an indication of your preferred times/dates on the application.

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 have a chat with us about your idea before the final participants are announced.

If successful, you will need to provide a tax invoice with ABN for the \$2000 stipend. 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 and Auslan interpretation)

[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](mailto: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.

We also have limited shared access to the adjacent [Shire Hall](#), which can accommodate larger events and commercial kitchen needs.



**Wilam-nganjin**  
'Our Place'  
(Yellow room)



**Djerring ganbu**  
'Gather as one'  
(Orange room)



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