

2026

National Multicultural Festival

STALLHOLDER GUIDELINES



National
Multicultural
Festival



ACT
Government

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in being a part of the National Multicultural Festival. The National Multicultural Festival is one of Australia's biggest celebrations of culture and community. It takes place every year in the heart of Canberra and brings together thousands of people to share food, stories, music, dance, and traditions from all over the world.

The festival is run by the Health and Community Services Directorate, part of the ACT Government. It is guided by the ACT Multiculturalism Act 2023, which promotes a diverse, inclusive, and respectful community where everyone belongs. We aim to make the festival safe, inclusive, and fun for everyone. These guidelines explain how to apply and what we expect from stallholders.

If you have any questions or need help with your application, please get in touch — we're happy to help.

Our Vision

To create a world-class multicultural festival that brings people together, celebrates diversity, and welcomes everyone to our vibrant city.

Our Mission

- › Keep traditions alive while embracing new cultures.
- › Create a safe, fun, and welcoming space for all
- › Connect people of all backgrounds through shared stories, cultural expression, and celebration.

Our Core Values

- › Diversity – every culture is welcome.
- › Inclusion and Respect – We listen, we learn, we celebrate.
- › Collaboration – We work together.
- › Integrity – We are fair, honest, and professional.
- › Celebration – We create joy and pride.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, work, and celebrate. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – to Elders past, present and emerging – and recognise their ongoing connection to Country.

Accessibility support

We want everyone to be able to take part in the festival.

- › Need this information in another format (like large print or audio)?
Call (02) 6207 2258.
- › Need help in your language? Call 13 14 50 for interpreting and translation support.
- › If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech difficulty, use the National Relay Service: www.accesshub.gov.au

How to apply

You must apply online using the [application form](#) on our website. You'll be asked to provide information about your group or organisation and your stall.



Key dates

- › **Applications open:** 5:00pm Tuesday 15 July 2025
- › **Applications close:** 5:00pm Tuesday 26 August 2025
- › **Festival Dates:** Friday 6 to Sunday 8 February 2026

Who can apply

We welcome applications from individuals, community groups, businesses, and organisations that want to share their culture or be part of the festival.

Your group must meet the requirements for your stall type. For example, food stalls must follow health and safety rules. All requirements are listed below.

Being a stallholder is a great way to share your culture through food, drinks, crafts, cultural items/services or information.

Before you apply

- › Stalls are selected through a competitive process – clearly tell us what you will bring to the festival.
- › Stalls must align with the festival's values of inclusion, multiculturalism and community participation.
- › Political or offensive material is not allowed.
- › If you damage anything or fail to comply with the rules, you may need to pay a fee and might not be accepted in future festivals.



Stall categories

We group stalls into five main categories to support community participation and showcase Canberra's multicultural identity. Please select the category that best matches your stall when applying. If unsure, contact us for guidance.

Please note:

- › Preference is given to stalls that apply for all three days of the festival.
- › We prioritise stalls that reflect cultural authenticity, community benefit, and alignment with the festival's values.
- › Community-based, volunteer-run, and culturally led stalls are strongly encouraged to apply.
- › Preferred trading days are not guaranteed; alternate days may be offered based on application strength and stall availability.

Priority 1 - Community food, beverage and cultural item stalls

Who is this for: Multicultural community organisations, charities, and not-for-profit organisations.

What you can do:

- › Sell culturally significant food and drinks
- › Sell cultural items such as clothing, art, crafts or jewellery
- › Provide culturally significant service such as hair braiding or henna tattoos

Requirements:

- › Must be an incorporated association
- › Must submit a financial report within 21 working days after the festival, showing that funds were transferred into your community account.
- › Must comply with ACT food safety and trading regulations.
- › Include a sample menu with prices and dietary options in your application.
- › Offer at least one food menu item between \$10-\$15
- › Keep all menu prices under \$25
- › If selling alcohol, include the Alcohol by Volume percentage (ABV%) and where it is sourced from.
- › Show how your stall reflects your community's culture and traditions.



Priority 2 – Diplomatic and multicultural information stalls

Diplomatic stalls

Who is this for: Embassies, high commissions, and diplomatic missions recognised in Australia

What you can do:

- › Share cultural information or displays.
- › You can't sell food, drinks, or merchandise but you may offer free food tastings or drink samples with prior written approval from festival organisers.

Requirements:

- › All displays must fit inside your stall.
- › Most stalls will be 3m x 3m. If you need a 6m x 3m stall, explain why and include a floor plan in your application.
- › You must stick to the agreed trading days and hours. If you need shorter hours, you may be placed on specific days.
- › Show how your stall reflects your community's culture and traditions.

Multicultural information stalls

Who is this for: Multicultural community groups, charities, and not-for-profit organisations.

What you can do:

- › Share cultural or educational information or displays
- › You can't sell anything.

Requirements:

- › All displays must fit inside your stall.
- › Most stalls will be 3m x 3m. If you need a 6m x 3m stall, explain why and include a floor plan in your application.
- › You must stick to the agreed trading days and hours. If you need shorter hours, you may be placed on specific days.
- › Preference is given to groups that promote multiculturalism, inclusion, and participation.



Priority 3 – Community clubs – food and beverage stalls

Who is this for: Licenced community clubs registered with Access Canberra

What you can do:

- › Sell culturally significant food and drinks
- › Sell cultural items such as clothing, art, crafts or jewellery
- › Provide a culturally significant service such as hair braiding or henna tattoos

Requirements:

- › Must be a registered club
- › Must submit a financial report within 21 working days after the festival, showing that funds were transferred into your community account.
- › Must comply with ACT food safety and trading regulations.
- › Include a sample menu with prices and dietary options in your application.
- › Offer at least one menu item between \$10-\$15
- › Keep all menu prices under \$25
- › If selling alcohol, include the Alcohol by Volume percentage (ABV%) and where it is sourced from.
- › Show how your stall reflects your community's culture and traditions.

Priority 4 – Commercial food and beverage stalls

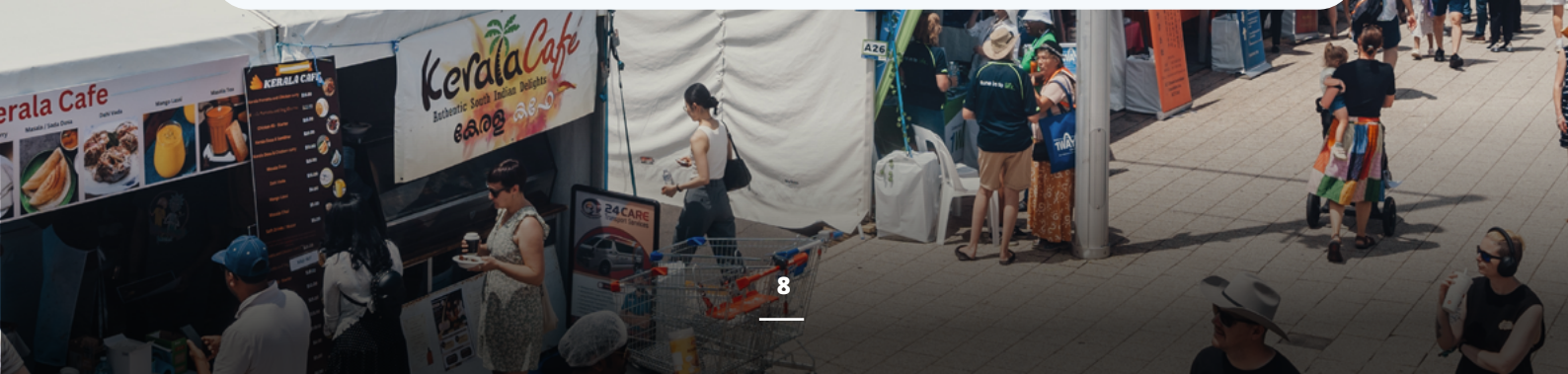
Who is this for: Established businesses, sole traders, or community groups selling items suitable for a family-friendly, multicultural audience.

What you can do:

- › Sell culturally significant food and drinks
- › Sell cultural items such as clothing, art, crafts or jewellery
- › Provide cultural significant service such as hair braiding or henna tattoos.

Requirements:

- › Must comply with ACT food safety and trading regulations.
- › Include a sample menu with prices and dietary options in your application.
- › Offer at least one food menu item between \$10-\$15
- › Keep all menu prices under \$25
- › If selling alcohol, include the Alcohol by Volume percentage (ABV%) and where it is sourced from.
- › Must submit a financial report within 21 working days after the festival, showing that funds raised at the festival, and festival related expenses.
- › Show how your stall adds value to the festival in your application.



Priority 5 – General information and Market stalls

Market Stalls

Who is this for: Established businesses, sole traders, or community groups selling items suitable for a family-friendly, multicultural audience.

What you can do:

- › Sell cultural items such as clothing, art, crafts or jewellery
- › Provide cultural significant service such as hair braiding or henna tattoos.

Requirements:

- › If community, must be an incorporated association.
- › Must submit a financial report within 21 working days after the festival, showing that funds raised at the festival, and festival related expenses. If community, must also demonstrate that funds were transferred into your community organisation's account.
- › Show how your stall adds value to the festival in your application.

Information Stalls

Who is this for: Community organisations, registered charities, and not-for-profit organisations.

What you can do:

- › Share helpful, educational, or culturally relevant information with the public.
- › You can't sell anything.
- › You can't promote political views or campaigns.

Requirements:

- › Show how your stall adds value to the festival in your application.
- › Most stalls will be 3m x 3m. If you need a 6m x 3m stall, explain why and include a floor plan in your application.
- › You must stick to the agreed trading days and hours. If you need shorter hours, you may be placed on specific days.



Stallholder fees

All prices include GST and are for a 3m x 3m marquee. If you require a 6m x 3m stall, please double the listed fee, unless otherwise noted.

Community stall pricing – site fees only

Type	1-Day Fee <i>(Fri or Sun only)</i>	2-Day Fee <i>(Fri & Sat or Sat & Sun)</i>	3-Day Fee
Cultural items & services	\$160.00	\$320.00	\$480.00
Food & non-alcoholic drinks	\$319.00	\$638.00	\$957.00
Food & alcoholic drinks (Licenced)	\$639.00	\$1,278.00	\$1,917.00
Club – food & alcoholic drinks (Licenced)	\$853.00	\$1,706.00	\$2,558.00

Diplomatic and information stall pricing – site fees only

Type	1-Day Fee	2-Day Fee <i>(Fri & Sat or Sat & Sun)</i>	3-Day Fee
Diplomatic information	\$319.00	\$532.00	\$852.00
Multicultural or community information	\$160.00 <i>(Friday or Sunday only)</i>	\$320.00	\$480.00



Commercial stall pricing – site fees only

Type	1-Day Fee (Fri only)	2-Day Fee (Fri AND Sun)	3-Day Fee
Cultural items & services	\$491.00	\$984.00	\$1,726.00
Food & non-alcoholic drinks	\$1,093.00	\$2,186.00	\$3,825.00
Food & alcoholic drinks (Licenced)	\$1,716.00	\$3,431.00	\$6,011.00
Food van (1-3m)	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,498.00
Food van (3-6m)	\$1,934.00	\$3,869.00	\$6,777.00
Food van (Licenced, 1-3m)	\$1,622.00	\$3,246.00	\$5,684.00
Food van (Licenced, 3-6m)	\$2,563.00	\$5,126.00	\$8,963.00

Note: Food van length refers to the operating/service space only. However, the total size of your trailer/truck will be taken into consideration when assessing. Tow bars and cab space must be included in your application.

Market stall pricing (non-cultural items)

Type	1-Day Fee (Sun only)	3-Day Fee
Community market stall items	\$160.00	\$480.00
Commercial/sole trader market stall items	\$491.00	\$1,726.00



Power and Cool room hire

Type – (COOL ROOM NOT PROVIDED BY FESTIVAL)	Cost
Cool room (under 5m including tow bar) with a 10Amp outlet	\$150.00
Cool room (under 5m including tow bar) with a 15Amp outlet	\$205.00
Cool room (over 5m) with a 10Amp or 15Amp outlet	Price on assessment
Each 10Amp power outlet	\$80.00
Each 15Amp power outlet	\$135.00

Cool rooms include refrigerated vehicles, mobile refrigerators etc.
Additional requests made within 3 weeks of the event may incur extra fees.

Stall inclusions

3x3m marquee stalls include:

- › 1 table
- › 2 chairs
- › 1 light (with access to a single power outlet for the light only)
- › 3 walls and a roof (no front wall)

6x3m marquee stalls include:

- › Double the above

Food vans include:

- › Space for your van
- › Access to 24-hour power

Cool room fees include:

- › 1 parking space (does not include the cool room itself)
- › Access to 24-hour power

Important notes:

- › Extra power requests must be made at least 3 weeks before the festival and may incur additional costs.
- › Marquee stalls do not have overnight power; perishable food must be removed each night, or it may be discarded by ACT Health.
- › Extra tables, chairs, or equipment must be organised by stallholders themselves.
- › Remove all cash and valuables from stalls overnight. There is no dedicated overnight security for stalls.

Stallholder responsibilities

To help the festival run smoothly, all stallholders must:

- › Trade on the agreed days and hours. Late arrival, early closing or no-show may affect future applications.
- › Stay within your allocated stall space. Handing out flyers or displays outside your stall requires prior written approval.
- › Provide details of your stall activities in your application. If you plan to distribute flyers or written materials, please include copies so we can review them.
- › Provide a stall layout or floor plan if requested to ensure your setup is safe and compliant with regulations.
- › Do not share or sublet your stall space without written permission from the festival team.
- › Participate in the post-festival evaluation. If there is damage, breach of rules, or poor behaviour, you may be fined or not invited back.
- › Maintain good conduct. Your past behaviour at this or other ACT Government events may be considered during the application review.



How stall applications are assessed

Applications will be assessed based on the information provided. The festival team may contact you to move your applications to a more appropriate category if necessary.

General criteria for all stalls

- › Application submitted on time
- › Alignment with festival aims and values
- › Cultural value added to the festival
- › Variety and uniqueness offered to the festival experience
- › Completeness of information provided
- › Past participation (note: past attendance does not guarantee selection)
- › Compliance history with festival rules.

Additional criteria for food and alcohol stalls

- › Sample menu provided
- › Menu feasibility for preparation on-site
- › Affordability with menu items capped at \$25
- › Offer at least one food menu item between \$10-\$15
- › Alcohol details (if selling alcohol), including ABV% (Alcohol by Volume) and cultural/local relevance.

Additional criteria for diplomatic and general information stalls

- › A clear purpose for the stall
- › Samples of materials to be handed out.



Countering foreign interference

The ACT Government is committed to keeping the National Multicultural Festival safe and inclusive for everyone. We work across the public service and with businesses and communities to build resilience to attempts at foreign interference. For more information visit Countering foreign interference in the ACT:

www.act.gov.au/emergency-and-safety/countering-foreign-interference-in-the-act

Getting support to participate

We're here to help support all groups, including those new to the festival or those facing barriers to participation.

Auspicing

If your group is not legally incorporated, you can ask an incorporated organisation to support your application. This is called auspicing.

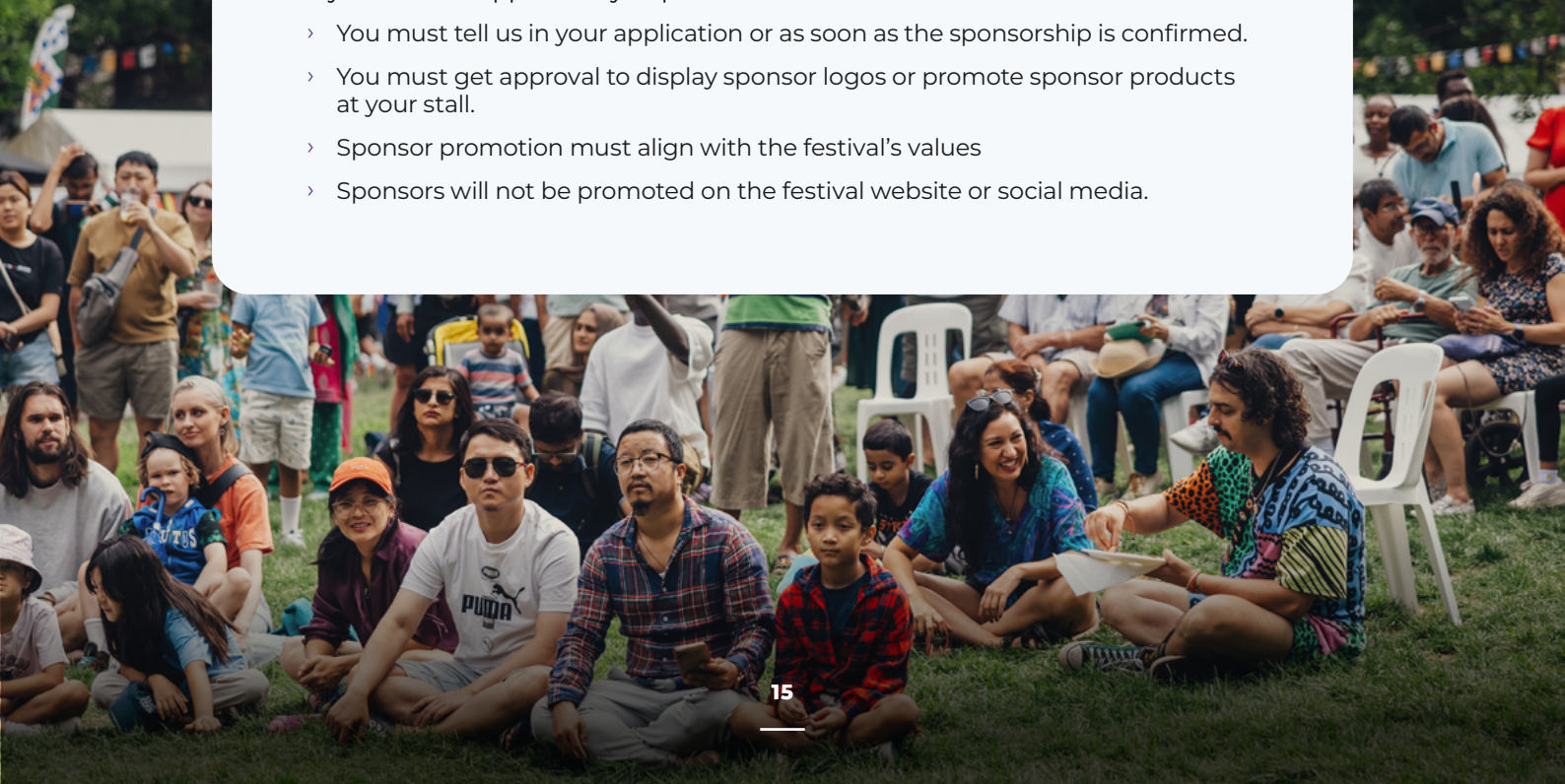
Key points:

- › Auspicing organisations take legal and financial responsibility for your stall.
- › You'll need to include **written approval** from the auspicing organisation and list all groups involved in your application.
- › Auspicing is only permitted for information stalls, not for stalls involving fundraising or sales.
- › Requests for auspicing are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Sponsorship

If your stall is supported by a sponsor:

- › You must tell us in your application or as soon as the sponsorship is confirmed.
- › You must get approval to display sponsor logos or promote sponsor products at your stall.
- › Sponsor promotion must align with the festival's values
- › Sponsors will not be promoted on the festival website or social media.



Getting help with your application

We're here to support you — especially if you're a new stallholder or applying for the first time.

Information sessions:

Each year, we hold information sessions to help guide stallholders through the application process and answer any questions you may have. These sessions are a great way to learn more, meet the team, and feel confident about your application.

For details on when and where these sessions will take place, please visit the festival website for the latest updates.

Book an appointment with us:

During the application period, we're offering one-on-one online appointments with a member of the festival team. These personalised sessions are designed to give you tailored support based on your specific stall idea, questions, or challenges.

Whether you need help refining your application, understanding requirements, or just want to talk through your plans, we're here to help.

An email will be sent out with instructions on how to book your appointment.

Keep an eye on your inbox!

Contact us if you:

- › Need help with your application
- › Experiencing issues with the application form
- › Are unsure which stall category to apply for
- › Have questions about fees, rules, or festival logistics.

Email: inbox@multiculturalfestival.act.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6207 8698

Thanks for your interest in being part of the 2026 National Multicultural Festival. We look forward to celebrating with you!

