



Australian High Commission
Malaysia

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES NEW GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR MALAYSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

Kuala Lumpur, 15 October 2026 – The Australian High Commission in Malaysia today launched the [Australia–Malaysia Kerjasama Program \(AMKP\)](#) Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Grants Round and concurrently opened applications for its 2026–27 [Direct Aid Program \(DAP\)](#).

These two programs seek to directly support and enable the work of Malaysian civil society and community organisations. AMKP grants will fund initiatives advancing longer-term institutional, economic and social reform, while DAP grants will support practical community projects with clear, sustainable development outcomes.

The CSO grants are a targeted component of Australia’s four-year bilateral development cooperation program with Malaysia [announced by Foreign Minister Penny Wong in 2025](#). The program supports Malaysia’s ambition to become a high-income country by 2030 through various initiatives that strengthen inclusive economic growth, governance and resilience, and enhance social protection and gender equality.

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Danielle Heinecke, said: “Civil society organisations help ensure that policy and development reflect community needs. These grants will connect Australia with Malaysian organisations whose local expertise and ideas can advance Malaysia and Australia’s agreed shared priorities on equitable economic growth, resilience and governance reform.”

More than A\$1 million will be available over three years to support CSOs under AMKP. The grants are flexible, and can support a range of initiatives, including those related to governance and institutional reform; economic development; education; community and

rural development; gender equality; disability equity and social inclusion; and climate resilience.

Australia is also opening its annual DAP application process. The DAP supports small-scale, sustainable projects that deliver practical development benefits for local communities. In Malaysia, priority will be given to initiatives that strengthen people-to-people links, community development and service delivery, with a particular focus on sport, culture, youth empowerment and the environment. The DAP will provide grants of up to A\$66,500 for projects lasting up to two years.

Applications for both grants rounds open on **15 October 2026** and close on **15 November 2026**. Successful applicants are expected to be notified by the end of December 2026.

Prospective applicants can learn more about eligibility, assessment criteria and application requirements through the following information sessions:

- **Online information session:** Thursday, 22 October 2026, register [here](#).

Further information and application forms are available at:

- Direct Aid Program application: <https://dap.smartygrants.com.au/>
- Australia-Malaysia Kerjasama Program Civil Society Organisation application: <https://dfatcommunity.smartygrants.com.au/>
- Australian High Commission website: <https://malaysia.highcommission.gov.au/>

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Media imagery can be downloaded here: [Link](#)

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