The Northern Territory’s vast multicultural community will benefit from a significant funding boost to this year’s Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship Program.

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today announced a $250,000 increase to the 2002/03 program, fulfilling another Labor election promise.

"The Government has allocated $697,000 to the Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship Program in this year’s Budget, compared to $447,000 last year," Ms Martin said.

"A total of 32 projects have been approved, with a number of organisations set to receive individual grants for a wide variety of activities.

"In this first round of funding, just over $340,000 has been handed out, with the rest of the sponsorship to be allocated in October when applications will be called for a second round."

Part of the $250,000 increase to the Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship Program includes $150,000 for a special Cultural and Linguistic Awards program.

Ethnic Affairs Minister Kon Vatskalis said he was proud the Northern Territory now had the fourth largest ethnic community sponsorship program in Australia.

"This Government recognises the vital role ethnic groups play in the Territory," he said.

"The Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship Program provides multicultural organisations with an opportunity to share their unique way of life, and offers the rest of the community a chance to learn about other cultures."

Projects funded this year include a multipurpose community hall for the Alice Springs Islamic Society, movie screenings by the Tamil Society of the NT, and the Filipino Barrio Fiesta and the Cypriot Cultural and Wine Festival both to be held on the 31st of August at Marrara.

Applicant / Organisation $ Approved

Alice Springs Islamic Society $20,000
Australia-China Friendship Society NT Branch $2,000
Australian Multicultural Arts and Welfare Association Inc $2,000
Australian-Japanese Association of the NT Inc $1,000
Catholic Diocese of Darwin $33,000
Chinese Language and Culture Centre of Darwin $2,000
Chung Wah Society Inc $37,800
Chung Wah Society Inc $2,000
Council on the Ageing (COTA) - Greek Coffee Club $7,400
Council on the Ageing (COTA) - Italian Seniors Group $7,400
Council on the Ageing (COTA) - Portuguese/Timorese Seniors Club $7,400
Cyprus Community of NT $10,000
Darwin Theatre Company Inc $5,000
Deutscher Klub Darwin Inc $12,000
Filipiniana Senior Citizens Association Inc $5,500
Filipino Australian Association of the NT Inc $12,000
Greek Orthodox Community of Northern Australia Inc $33,000
Greek Orthodox Community of Northern Australia Inc $8,500
Indian Cultural Society of the NT $5,000
Islamic Society of the NT Inc $12,000
Multicultural Council of the NT $600
Multicultural Council of the NT $7,000
Multicultural Council of the NT (Triennial Operational Funding) $40,960
Multicultural Council of the NT Inc $2,500
Multicultural Council of the NT Inc $3,000
Multicultural Council of the NT Inc
 - as a sponsoring body for the Happy Migrant Social Club $6,500
Multilingual Broadcasting Council of the NT $6,000
Northern Territory Cretan Association $2,000
Portuguese & Timorese Social Club Inc $6,000
Serbian Ethnic Community $20,000
Tamil Society Inc $2,000
The Tennant Creek Town Council
- as a sponsoring body for the Barkly Multicultural Association $4,500
Torture and Trauma Survivors Service of the NT $16,000

TOTAL $342,060