

# Media Release

**The Hon Martin Foley MP**  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Equality  
Minister for Creative Industries



Monday, 21 September 2020

## GRANTS SUPPORT CONNECTION AMONG LGBTIQ VICTORIANS

Virtual events and projects that help LGBTIQ Victorians connect to each other and experience pride and belonging are set to be held across the state, with support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Equality Martin Foley today launched the new round of the Pride Events and Festivals Fund. Organisations are invited to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for events and projects for LGBTIQ communities which can be run online before 30 June 2021. Total funding of \$200,000 is available.

The Pride Events and Festivals Fund is now in its third year. For the first time, all events must be able to take place online and be held in line with current coronavirus restrictions at the time of the activity.

This change will make it easier for LGBTIQ Victorians living in rural and regional areas to access a broad range of diverse events. At least half of the grants will be awarded to organisations based in regional and rural areas, which will be delivering events to local LGBTIQ communities.

Reflecting our commitment to inclusion, all event organisers will be required to ensure their event provides meaningful access for people living with a disability.

By facilitating connection across diverse communities, the Victorian Government is helping LGBTIQ Victorians to overcome social isolation, which has been exacerbated during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Victorian Government has already provided \$1.14 million in support directly to organisations offering services to LGBTIQ Victorians impacted by the pandemic, as part of its ongoing commitment to addressing the needs of LGBTIQ communities.

Organisations can apply for grants until 23 October 2020, with application information available at [vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund](https://vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund)

### Quotes attributable to the Minister for Equality Martin Foley

*"It is more important than ever for LGBTIQ Victorians to stay connected with their communities and feel proud of who they are and what they've achieved together."*

*"I encourage organisations to take advantage of these grants by thinking creatively about how they can connect with diverse communities online."*

### Quote attributable to the Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Ro Allen

*"I have no doubt that LGBTIQ organisations are up to the challenge of hosting events differently, and I'm excited to see the ideas for keeping our rainbow communities connected and strong."*