

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Equality



Monday, 18 October 2021

CELEBRATING OUR LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES AS WE SAFELY REOPEN

A landmark event celebrating Victoria's diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) communities will be held in February 2022, allowing more Victorians to participate in this important occasion as our state safely reopens.

Melbourne Pride will be one of the most significant LGBTIQ+ events in Victoria's history, featuring a series of activities across regional Victoria and a one-day street party event in Melbourne's inner north.

The event will now be held on 13 February 2022 – a move that will allow more people to participate as our state safely reopens under Victoria's Roadmap.

Melbourne Pride will help heal historic wounds by providing an opportunity for people across Victoria to demonstrate their pride in and support for LGBTIQ+ communities.

Leading LGBTIQ+ arts and cultural organisation Midsumma is delivering Melbourne Pride on behalf of the Victorian Government, with the inaugural event designed to mark more than 40 years since the decriminalisation of sex between men in Victoria.

It will provide important business and employment opportunities for industries, particularly LGBTIQ+-owned businesses, and provide a platform for LGBTIQ+ artists and advocates.

Melbourne Pride is an opportunity for LGBTIQ+ Victorians and our wider community to come together after a challenging period which has exacerbated challenges some LGBTIQ+ people were facing before this pandemic, including isolation.

The Government has delivered more than \$1.9 million to support Melbourne Pride 2021, as part of our broader work to achieve equality for LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Quote attributable to Minister for Equality Martin Foley

"The new date for Melbourne Pride will help make this event as fabulous as our diverse rainbow communities."

Quote attributable to Member for Richmond Richard Wynne

"We want as many LGBTIQ+ Victorians and their supporters as possible to come together and celebrate with pride in the inner north."

Quote attributable to Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Todd Fernando

"Melbourne Pride is about celebrating the progress we have made towards equality and reflecting on the work we still need to do together, and this timing will help us to make this the best event it can possibly be."