

Media Release

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



Saturday, 4 December 2021

CELEBRATING LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES ACROSS REGIONAL VICTORIA

Victorians can celebrate our state's LGBTIQ+ communities through dozens of events across regional Victoria as part of Melbourne Pride.

Melbourne Pride is a landmark LGBTIQ+ event for Victoria, featuring a series of activities in our regional communities over the summer and a one-day street party in Melbourne on 13 February 2022.

Marking more than 40 years since the decriminalisation of sex between men in Victoria, this event will help heal historic wounds by giving all Victorians the chance to show their pride in and support for LGBTIQ+ communities.

Melbourne Pride's regional activities are now underway, with community events, art exhibitions, theatre shows, podcasts, documentaries and a range of other initiatives across regional Victoria.

Among the activities is Pop-Up Pride in Bendigo, which will today feature drag performances, live music, stalls, a Trans Clothing Swap, short films from the Bendigo Queer Film Festival and exhibitions.

Meanwhile proud Nguri-Illum Wurrung / Dja Dja Wurrung / Wurundjeri / Wamba Wemba artist Vince Partington has created sculptural work PIRNBIAL (meaning rainbow in Woiwurrung language), which examines the connection between traditional culture and identity based on Vince's own experiences. It is showing at Healesville's Hearth Gallery from now until late January and on 13 February.

A list of regional Melbourne Pride activities will be kept updated at midsumma.org.au/regional-activations with events already scheduled for the Macedon Ranges, Ballarat, Geelong, Morwell and Wangaratta.

Leading LGBTIQ+ arts and cultural organisation Midsumma is delivering Melbourne Pride on behalf of the Andrews Labor Government. Further details of the street party on 13 February 2022 will be released in the coming months.

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

Quote attributable to Minister for Equality Martin Foley

"Melbourne Pride is a celebration of our LGBTIQ+ communities and everything they contribute to our state."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"It doesn't matter whether you live in Melbourne or Bendigo – we support and celebrate every LGBTIQ+ Victorian."

Quote attributable to Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Todd Fernando

"It's so important that our diverse LGBTIQ+ communities right across rural and regional Victoria have the opportunity to tell their stories and histories, and that we all have the opportunity to celebrate their identities through events such as these."