

Media Release

Mr Colin Brooks MP

Minister for Child Protection and Family Services

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

Acting Minister for Mental Health

Acting Minister for Treaty and First Peoples



Sunday, 2 October, 2022

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF TODAY

The Andrews Labor Government's Seniors Festival kicks off today marking its 40th year celebrating the more than a million Victorians over 60 who make a profound contribution to our state.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Colin Brooks today officially launched the festival at Federation Square, with seven hours of live music from the Orlando Combo Jazz Band, the Makepisi Acapella Choir, Dave Arden Band, Sally Ford and the Idiomatics, Spectrum as well as roving performers, dances and activities.

The Labor Government has contributed \$400,000 to support the festival and empower older Victorians to connect, socialise and improve their wellbeing, with almost 3000 activities to be held across the state during October for older Victorians to enjoy with family and friends.

Seventy-nine local councils, businesses and community and cultural organisations will help deliver festival activities in every corner of the state, including concerts, dances, sport, the arts, history talks and tours, as well as a film festival showcasing classic and digitally restored films.

This year's theme 'Takin' it easy' focuses on presenting accessible and comfortable spaces, both live and online, to ensure our seniors feel relaxed to participate and ease back into events.

Building on the success of the previous festivals, this year's events will include online and radio programs, as well as First Nations performances and entertainment from multicultural artists.

The Country Concert series will take the festival fun on the road to 26 regional towns and the Aged Care Tour will entertain aged care residents with music and magicians from September to December.

To ensure older Victorians can make the most of the Festival, Victorian Seniors Card holders can access free travel on public transport services from 2 to 9 October – including on V/Line.

For V/Line trips that require a reservation, more information is available on Seniors Online: seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/free-travel.

Information programs can be found at Coles stores, local councils, libraries and community organisations, or view the online calendar at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Colin Brooks

"We have a great line up for this year's festival – it's just one way we say thank you to seniors for everything they do."

"The month-long seniors festival provides senior Victorians with opportunities to get involved, meet new people, learn new skills, or just enjoy the entertainment – whether online or in person."