

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Creative Industries



Monday, 6 March 2023

RUNWAYS SET FOR MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL

The Andrews Labor Government has welcomed the return of Australia's largest and longest-running consumer fashion event, the Melbourne Fashion Festival.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos joined Melbourne Fashion Festival CEO Caroline Ralphsmith this morning at the 'Fashion Forecourt' outside the Royal Exhibition Building ahead of the Premium Runway Series opening night.

The 2023 Melbourne Fashion Festival runs until 11 March – another key event in a jam-packed calendar this Autumn.

The Fashion Forecourt is free and open for visitors to enjoy food, drinks, and entertainment before and after ticketed events against the beautiful backdrop of the Royal Exhibition Building.

The Melbourne Fashion Festival features world-class runways with Australia's most loved designers, shopping events and experiences, styling and beauty workshops, industry seminars, arts exhibitions, and workshops.

Now in its 27th year, the Melbourne Fashion Festival has nurtured local designers, inspired excellence, and helped to put Melbourne on the map as a fashion-forward destination over three decades.

With a diverse program of events spread over nine days and 60 venues, the 2023 Melbourne Fashion Festival will attract fashion-lovers from near and far, bringing more visitors into the city.

In addition to the Melbourne Fashion Festival, visitors are set to flock to Melbourne over the next two months for the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, & *Juliet* the musical, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and the start of the AFL Premiership Season.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"Melbourne is Australia's fashion capital and the Festival showcases and celebrates our established and emerging designers with a program of free and ticketed events for everyone to enjoy."

"Fashion makes an important contribution to our economy – from the design and creative work through to bespoke manufacturing and retail."

"We're backing the Melbourne Fashion Festival in its 27th year alongside a buzzing calendar of exciting events that bring thousands of visitors into the city while supporting local businesses and jobs."