

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

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



Monday, 11 September 2023

BRINGING MORE CREATIVE EVENTS TO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

More creative events and festivals are set to light up regional cities and small towns across Victoria, with new grants to bring more performances, shows and gigs to our regional communities, backed by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos today announced applications are now open for the latest round of grants through the Labor Government's *Small Regional Presenters Program*, boosting local jobs, tourism and supporting local and visiting performers showcase their talent to new audiences in 2024.

With grants of up to \$15,000, the program supports community groups and councils to bring single live shows, a series of events or an annual program in their local community. It also supports local presenters to bring experienced industry professionals to their regions for mentorships and workshops, helping build local skills and develop strategies to grow their audiences.

From supporting comedy and cabaret events in Maldon, folk music gigs in Creswick, a shadow puppetry play for children and families in King Valley, and a workshop on the power of technology in storytelling in Castlemaine – last year's program brought a diverse range of performances to local audiences of all ages.

Applicants must be members of Regional Arts Victoria or Local Government Authorities that do not receive organisational or multi-year funding through Creative Victoria.

Small Regional Presenters is part of the Government's *Creative State 2025* strategy and is delivered by Regional Arts Victoria, the state's peak body for creatives and creative organisations in the regions.

Applications open Wednesday 13 September and close on Monday 30 October 2023. To apply visit rav.net.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos

"Our Small Regional Presenters program has a mighty impact for small towns and regional communities, bringing a range of high-quality performances and events to local audiences."

"These grants do more than just bring shows to town, they back local venues and help build the skills and capacity of community presenters enabling them to grow their programs and build their audiences of the future."

Quote attributable Regional Arts Victoria CEO Jo Porter

"From funny stories to serious music, small presenters bring performances into the hearts of Victoria's regional communities."

"If you know your community and what they'd like to see in your local venue, we're looking forward to working with you to get your ideas on stage."