

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Water
Minister for Equality



Wednesday, 25 October 2023

SUPPORTING LGBTIQA+ CONNECTION AND DIVERSITY EVENTS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQA+) communities to connect and celebrate their diversity with pride.

Minister for Equality Harriet Shing today announced the opening of the \$400,000 Pride Events and Festivals Fund for 2023-24, which includes two dedicated funding streams for eligible community groups, for the first time.

Large LGBTIQA+ events and festivals can apply for grants between \$10,001 and \$25,000, while grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible small events and festivals.

The program funds inclusive and diverse events that celebrate LGBTIQA+ organisations and communities, promote inclusion and combat discrimination and prejudice.

The program aligns with the Labor Government's LGBTIQA+ strategy, *Pride in our Future 2022-32*, Victoria's first ever whole-of-government strategy to create safe, strong, and sustainable LGBTIQA+ communities.

Applications from rural and regional Victoria are strongly encouraged along with applications from LGBTIQA+ people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, faith communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, older LGBTIQA+ people, bi+ communities and other LGBTIQA+ groups.

Since 2018, the Pride Events and Festivals Fund has supported eligible LGBTIQA+ not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and groups to host more than 185 events that have fostered connection, pride, safety and visibility, and strengthened communities, while breaking down stigma.

Applications are open until 5:00pm on Wednesday, 15 November. To apply or to check your event's eligibility, please visit www.vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Equality Harriet Shing

"We're working to create a Victoria where every person feels respected, included, visible and safe."

"Now more than ever, rainbow community events and festivals that promote inclusion and combat discrimination play a vital role in strengthening community networks, promoting pride and celebrating the rich history and stories of LGBTIQA+ people from all walks of life."

Quotes attributable to Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities Dr Todd Fernando

"Pride events and festivals support our diverse LGBTIQA+ communities to come together and celebrate being their authentic selves."

"The events build connection and support wellbeing for LGBTIQA+ people and their families, partners and friends and we particularly need community events this year."