

# Media Release

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



Sunday, 21 January 2024

## MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL LEAPS TO LIFE IN ITS 36TH YEAR

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Midsumma Festival, a three-week celebration of LGBTIQ+ art and culture showcasing pride, inclusivity and equality for Victoria's diverse rainbow communities, is under way in Melbourne, backed by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Equality Harriet Shing joined the celebrations at Midsumma Carnival today, helping judge the day's proudest pooches as part of the popular Midsumma Carnival Dog Show.

Midsumma Carnival is a free, all-ages event in the Alexandra Gardens that launches the broader queer summer festival of activities, bringing more than 120,000 visitors to Melbourne's CBD each year.

Carnival-goers enjoyed lively musical acts and other performers across four stages and more than 180 stalls, including community and business stalls, food zones and bars.

The festival's major highlights include the annual Pride March in St Kilda on Sunday 4 February and Victoria's Pride Street Party on Smith and Gertrude Streets on the final day of the festival, Sunday 11 February.

The statewide celebration of LGBTIQ+ communities, Victoria's Pride, also includes a series of pride activities and events across regional Victoria this summer including Queerthentic Regional LGBTIQ+ Art Prize in Kyneton and Pride Fair Day in Wangaratta.

A long running and proud supporter of the festival, the Labor Government invested an extra \$500,000 to stage the Queer PHOTO Festival in Melbourne's west through the Go West Festivals Fund.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Equality Harriet Shing**

*"Midsumma Festival is woven into the fabric of our LGBTIQ+ cultural and arts calendar here in Victoria, as well as being an integral part of our broader efforts to achieve equality and celebrate diversity as a strength."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor**

*"It's fantastic to be celebrating 36 years of Midsumma, providing opportunities for LBGTIQ+ communities to connect and celebrate who they are – congratulations!"*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Southern Metropolitan John Berger**

*"Annual events like Midsumma give all Victorians the opportunity to express their pride in and learn more about the great diversity we're proud to celebrate in Victoria."*

### **Quote attributable to CEO Midsumma Festival Karen Bryant**

*"After a record-breaking festival last year, we are eagerly looking forward to what is shaping up to be the biggest Midsumma yet. It promises to be testament to our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and the celebration of LGBTIQ+ communities, arts and culture."*

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