

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Youth



Monday, 17 February 2025

CREATE, CONNECT AND CELEBRATE AT YOUTH FEST 2025

The Allan Labor Government is backing young Victorians to step up, take charge and bring their communities together with Youth Fest 2025.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today announced \$220,000 in funding for Youth Fest 2025, supporting up to 110 events across the state – from live music to art showcases, cultural festivals and sports competitions, Youth Fest offers young people the chance to lead the way and make a difference in their community.

Grants of up to \$2,000 are now open to schools, local councils and community organisations teaming up with young people aged 12 to 25 to create events focused on young people.

Last year's Youth Fest program delivered 110 events that brought young people together and championed local talent focused on sustainability, mental health, music, sport and more.

The Labor Government's Youth Fest program last year funded 110 events focused on sustainability, mental health, music, sport and much more, helping to bring young people closer to their communities.

Events last year included the free BendiGLOW Youth Fest which lit up a venue in neon lights and featured a Battle of the Bands, skate workshops, laser tag, UV face painting, art workshops, market stalls and food trucks.

The Salvation Army North East used the momentum of Taylor Swift's iconic visit to Melbourne to host a themed trivia night for young people in Shepparton, encouraging attendees to dress up as their favourite 'era' and providing a platform for young Victorians to lead and participate in the event.

In Sunshine, the Liberty Unity Organisation Life Global Foundation Australia celebrated the rich heritage of the local African-Australian community with an event featuring cultural performances, art exhibitions and music, encouraging people to take pride in their heritage and build local connections.

Youth Fest 2025 applications are open until 14 March. To apply and to find out more, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/youth-fest-grants>.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

"We're giving young Victorians more opportunities to bring their communities together and create events that truly matter to them. Youth Fest is about celebrating talent, creativity and leadership – making sure everyone can be part of something special."

"From ideas big or small, this grant program ensures young Victorians are not just involved – they're leading the way and celebrating the incredible diversity of talent across the state."