

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans

Minister for Small Business and Employment

Minister for Youth



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VICTORIA'S LARGEST CELEBRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE KICKS OFF

Young Victorians across the state will take centre stage this month – leading more than 110 events as part of Victorian Youth Fest 2025 thanks to Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today launched the month-long September festival which celebrates young people by giving them the tools, stage and spotlight to showcase their creativity and leadership.

Backed by a \$220,000 investment from the Labor Government, the festival helps young people aged 12 to 25 turn their ideas into real events that bring communities together.

Grants of up to \$2,000 have been awarded to schools, councils, and community and youth-led organisations to co-design and deliver activities across the state.

This year's program stretches from Portland to Pakenham and Bendigo to Bairnsdale, making sure every community has the chance to celebrate the next generation of leaders.

Melbourne highlights include a scented storytelling screening of *Wicked!* in Moonee Ponds, a tech showcase in Williamstown on eco-friendly AI-driven startups, and an under-18 music and youth festival in Manningham.

Regional Victoria will come alive with the return of BendiGLOW Youth Fest and its battle of the bands, a laser tag and live music event in Kerang, and a Mario Kart tournament at Warragul Library.

Now in its eighth year, the Labor Government's Victorian Youth Fest has become the state's largest annual celebration of young people, shining a light on their skills, passion and ideas.

Young people and their communities alike are encouraged to participate this September. For the full Victorian Youth Fest program, visit vic.gov.au/youth-fest.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

"Youth Fest puts young Victorians in the driver's seat – a whole month of their ideas, their energy and their chance to showcase what they can achieve."

"I can't wait to see the talent, creativity and leadership that emerges at Youth Fest 2025, and celebrate alongside our young people."