

# Media Release

**The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP**

Minister for Veterans

Minister for Small Business and Employment

Minister for Youth



Tuesday, 27 January 2026

## VICTORIAN YOUTH FEST BACK AGAIN FOR 2026

The Allan Labor Government is backing young Victorians to once again step up, take the lead and bring their communities together with the return of Victorian Youth Fest 2026.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today announced \$220,000 in funding to support the delivery of more than 100 events across the state as part of the month-long festival taking place this September.

Grants of up to \$2,000 are now open to schools, local government and community organisations working alongside young people aged 12 to 25 to create youth-led events during the festival.

From live music and art showcases to sporting activities and cultural celebrations, Victorian Youth Fest gives young people the chance to design and deliver events that reflect their interests and strengthen local connections.

Successful organisations will be required to partner with young people to design, coordinate and deliver events that put youth voices, leadership and creativity front and centre.

Last year's Youth Fest delivered 110 youth-led events across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, highlighting the talent and creativity of Victoria's youth.

Events included a scented storytelling screening of *Wicked!*, an eco-friendly AI startup event, an under-18s music festival and a Mario Kart tournament.

Victorian Youth Fest 2026 applications are now open and close at 1pm on 4 March 2026. To apply and to find out more, visit [vic.gov.au/youth-fest-grants](http://vic.gov.au/youth-fest-grants).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

*"We're pleased to be launching Victorian Youth Fest again in 2026 – backing young people across the state to come together, take the lead and bring their ideas to life."*

*"Youth Fest gives young people the opportunity to channel their energy and creativity into events they can design, lead and share with their peers and local communities."*

*"This program opens doors for young people, including those who may not otherwise have the chance, to create, plan and deliver events they're passionate about."*