

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP
Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



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YOUTH GRANT PROGRAM HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

The Allan Labor Government is giving young Victorians more opportunities to become involved in music and creative arts events thanks to a grants program designed to amplify the voices of young people.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today announced the launch of FReeZA 2025-2027, which offers grants between \$45,000 and \$120,000 over three years to help young people lead and deliver youth events.

Through FReeZA, the Labor Government will support community organisations, local governments, Aboriginal community organisations, and social enterprises in hosting safe, youth-friendly events for Victorians aged 12 to 25.

Young people take a central role staging events through FReeZA, which showcase their talent, open career pathways and celebrate the important contribution they make to the cultural life of their communities.

More than 640 youth-led events were supported by the program in 2023, attended by over 250,000 young people, ranging from staging live music, BMX and skate competitions, dance events to art and short film competitions.

Hume City Council received funding for Hume Youth Productions and Events (HYPE) to run events including a Battle of the Bands and Skate Jams which bring together live music, sport and recreation.

The City of Monash received funding for Quiksound Productions to host Under The Stars, an all-ages live music event in Glen Waverley which enabled local artists to play alongside popular Australian artists such as Lotte Gallagher.

Warrnambool City Council received funding for Connect Shape Create which enabled young people to lead events including open mic and visual arts festivals, engaging them as creators, presenters and participants.

Participants in the programs funded by FReeZA grants will gain practical skills such as lighting production and event management, and emerging musicians and artists will have a platform to showcase their work. FReeZA will prioritise applications that engage young people from diverse backgrounds and strengthen sector partnerships and capacity.

FReeZA will continue its longstanding partnership with The Push, a leading Australian youth music organisation that helps young people access expert industry advice, training and guidance.

Applications for FReeZA 2025-2027 are open until 30 September 2024. To apply for a grant or find out more, visit vic.gov.au/freeza-2025-27.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

"FReeZA is about giving young Victorians the stage they deserve — where their creativity takes the spotlight. I'm excited to see our young people step up, show off their talents and drive the next wave of cultural events."

"Don't miss this chance — apply for FReeZA and help bring young Victorians' ideas to life in your community."

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