

# Media Release

**Mr Danny Pearson MP**  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop  
Assistant Treasurer  
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Friday, 18 October 2024

## SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S MOST ACCESSIBLE MUSIC EVENT

Victorians of all abilities will enjoy a stellar line-up of live music and a silent disco at tomorrow's Ability Fest, supported by the Labor Government and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

Minister for Worksafe and the TAC Danny Pearson today joined Ability Fest founder Dylan Alcott AO and TAC CEO Tracey Slatter to announce \$820,000 in support of the festival, which will be held at Alexandra Gardens and features more than 20 of Australia's biggest musical acts.

The Labor Government is providing \$630,000 through the Community Support Fund and \$50,000 through the Live Music Festivals Fund, with TAC providing \$140,000 to support the silent disco.

Now in its fifth year, Ability Fest is Australia's first all-accessible music festival and one of the country's leading inclusive events. The not-for-profit event has raised more than \$1 million for the Dylan Alcott Foundation to empower young Australians with a disability to fulfil their potential through scholarships, mentoring and grants.

This year's line-up features artists performing across two stages – the Main Stage will showcase acts such as Ocean Alley, ONEFOUR, Cub Sport, and King Stingray; while Mark's Stage will feature renowned DJs including Bag Raiders, Jordan Brando, Cry Baby, and Wax'o Paradiso.

The TAC-supported silent disco will return, using new technology to ensure an even more inclusive experience. People with hearing impairments will have the option of wearing a haptic vest or strap to feel the beat of the music, allowing them to take part in the disco.

The event will also feature local food trucks, elevated viewing platforms, pathways, quiet zones and sensory areas to create a welcoming and comfortable environment.

For more information on the festival and ticketing details, visit [abilityfest.com.au](https://abilityfest.com.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson

*"Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the joy of live music, and Ability Fest continues to lead the way in showing how major events can be accessible for all people."*

*"We're proud to support Ability Fest and the Dylan Alcott Foundation as it puts on a great event for all Victorians."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

*"We're proud to support Ability Fest as it continues to set the standard for inclusive events, bringing together great music and innovative experiences to ensure all Victorians can enjoy the festival."*

### Quote attributable to Ability Fest founder Dylan Alcott AO

*"I'm so proud of the path Ability Fest has paved for accessible events across the country. Our top priority is to create an incredible festival that is also accessible, and I believe we've achieved that since our launch in 2018."*

### Quote attributable to Transport Accident Commission CEO Tracey Slatter

**Media contact:** Alan Padgham 0418 783 688 | [alan.padgham@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:alan.padgham@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

*“Having a disability shouldn’t mean missing out, and we’re proud to support Ability Fest and work towards a day when accessibility for everyone at all events is a standard.”*

**Quote attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt**

*“With so many high profile artists, great food and accessible activities, Ability Fest is another example of Melbourne attracting the best talent and putting on the best events.”*

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

*“Ability Fest has been an important part of our events calendar since 2018, and we’re proud to help make more great live music accessible to everyone.”*