

# Media Release

**Martin Foley MP**

Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Creative Industries

Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 29 August, 2017

## OLDER VICTORIANS CELEBRATED AT VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

The Victorian Seniors Festival is set to return in October for its 35<sup>th</sup> year, to celebrate the more than a million Victorians over 60 who make such a valuable contribution to our society.

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley today announced that the Festival will return from Sunday 8 October.

More than 1,500 events and activities will be held around the state throughout the month for older Victorians to enjoy with family and friends.

Older Victorians make up more than 15 per cent of the state's population, and from team sports and skill-building activities to education and arts events, the Seniors Festival offers something for everyone to enjoy.

Promoting inclusivity and the diversity of older Victorians, this year's Festival theme is "You're welcome". Regardless of background, experience or mobility, everyone is encouraged to take part to learn new skills and make new friends in their communities.

The Festival will also acknowledge the high rate of volunteering among Victorian seniors. The most recent Ministerial Council for Volunteers publication, *Volunteers in Victoria*, shows that 40 per cent of Victorians aged between 65 and 74 volunteered in some way in 2014.

The Andrews Labor Government working towards an age-friendly and inclusive Victoria for all seniors, and one that celebrates the remarkable contribution they make across the state.

For more information about events and activities, visit [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival) or pick up a free Victorian Seniors Festival program at any Coles store, local library, council office or neighbourhood house. You can also call 1300 135 090 to have a program sent to you.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley

*"We're excited to host the Victorian Seniors Festival for its 35<sup>th</sup> year and celebrate the huge contribution older Victorians make to our community."*

*"The Festival is part of our work to create an inclusive Victoria for all those aged 60 years and above, and provide a range of activities to keep our seniors healthy and active."*

### Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Human Services Sharon Knight

*"I encourage all Victorians to come and participate in the free and low-cost events taking place all across Victoria, as there truly is something for everyone to learn, be entertained by and enjoy."*