

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safety and Inclusivity for all: Midsumma's Trauma-Informed Approach to Pride March 2025

Following the unacceptable violence which occurred at the 2024 Pride March, Midsumma has been involved in ongoing discussions with stakeholders including Victoria Police and Victorian Government representatives for many months regarding Pride March and has received extensive feedback from our diverse communities.

Arising from these discussions it has been decided that Midsumma will trial a new process which involves participants in the march not wearing formal workplace uniforms. Many members of our LGBTQIA+ communities, especially the most vulnerable within our communities, experience trauma in their lives, which impact upon them today. Whilst triggers are unique to individuals, trauma-informed practice prioritises safety and seeks to remove, where practical, common triggers identified as barriers to diverse community engagement.

This trauma-informed approach is a result of ongoing consultation and dialogue with LGBTQIA+ community groups and key stakeholders.

Further to existing arrangements, Midsumma have also made clearer that the conditions of participation exclude any armed security personnel accompanying a group of marchers.

This change will impact only a small number of groups who regularly march at Pride March but could have a significant positive impact for many in our communities. We will seek feedback after this year's trial with regard to the impact on all attendees and participants, to inform planning for future years.

This new requirement does not affect youth or community sporting groups, and workplace signage, logos or insignia on informal wear is still supported.

Midsumma maintains its commitment to inclusivity for all our diverse LGBTQIA+ communities, and to ensuring an event where all can participate in a safe way. All participants are required to meet conditions of entry that support these objectives.