



## Opening Gala Social Story

7pm - 10:30pm  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Mission to Seafarers

## Schedule

7:00pm - Doors open  
7:30pm - First half of the event  
8:20pm - Break with live music  
8:40pm - Second half of the event  
9:15pm - Presentations finished  
10:30pm - Event finished

## Overview

The Opening Gala is a big, joyful event that celebrates the start of Q-Lit Festival.

You'll hear short performances and readings from a range of LGBTQIA+ writers, poets, and artists.

The atmosphere will be lively but welcoming, with people chatting, laughing, and enjoying the show together.

You can sit back, relax, and enjoy the variety of voices being shared - no participation is required.



Stepped entrance via Flinders St.



Main Hall, seats will be in rows and there is a bar in the back corner.



2 stall bathrooms in the back of the Main Hall. Not wheelchair accessible.



Stepped entrance via Flinders St.



Courtyard connected to the Main Hall, good for a quiet space.



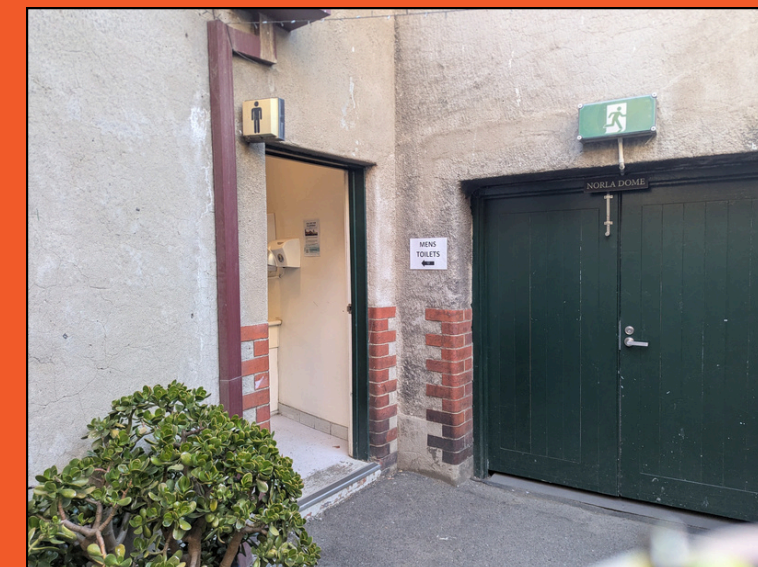
Exit to the accessible bathroom at the back of the Main Hall.



Accessible entrance via Siddeley St.



Garden connected to the courtyard, good for a quiet space.



The door to the right is the accessible bathroom, the door to the left has bathrooms with urinal.

## What to Expect

At the entrance there will be a person to check you in through viewing or scanning your ticket.

The lighting will be soft and the music will be audible but not loud.

It is general seating and you're welcome to sit wherever you like.

The audience will most likely take in the presentations, talks and performances in a quiet and subdued manner.

## People You'll See

At the event there will be staff, volunteers, presenters and audience.

The audience will most likely be dressed in causal street wear to relaxed formal.

There may be representatives from the funding bodies, including the Victorian State Government and the City of Melbourne.

We will have Bookworm Buddies at the event, their role is to make people feel welcome and to be your friend if you've come along. Say hi to them!

## Spaces & Facilities

As the space is a historically listed building not all entrances and bathrooms are wheelchair accessible.

The accessible entrance is located on Siddeley St and you will enter via the beautiful garden. There will be a temporary ramp for your entrance into the Main Hall.

The accessible bathroom is located in the Norla Dome. There will be a temporary ramp at the exit of the hall leading to the bathroom.

The Main Hall is a large open space with a bar. There will be a covered quiet space connected to the Main Hall.

## Support & Reassurance

It's okay to arrive late or leave early.

You don't have to talk if you don't want to.

Bookmark Buddies and Q-Lit volunteers are there to help if you're feeling unsure.

You're welcome exactly as you are.