

ECHO Festival – Access and Inclusion Statement

At ECHO Festival, we are committed to creating an inclusive, welcoming, and accessible environment for all people—regardless of age, ability, cultural background, gender identity, or personal circumstance.

We believe that cultural experiences should be available to everyone, and we continually work to remove barriers to participation in our festival.

Physical Accessibility

- **Venue:** Whilst our festival site is on farmland, we have prioritised providing as even terrain as possible, removing any rocks,, bumps and ditches. We provide sections of fake grass in certain areas. Where terrain is uneven, we provide clear information in advance and offer assistance where possible.
- **Accessible Parking & Toilets:** We ensure accessible parking options are available closest to the event site and provide accessible toilet facilities.
- **Seating & Viewing:** Seating is available for patrons with mobility needs.
- **Assistance & Support:** Our staff and volunteers offer support to patrons who may require assistance navigating the site.

Communication & Hidden Disability Support

- **Sunflower Aware Event:** ECHO Festival is proud to be a Sunflower Aware Event. We recognise and support attendees living with hidden disabilities. Patrons wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower symbol will be met with understanding and patience from our trained staff and volunteers.
- **Clear Signage:** ECHO signage features clear, high-contrast text and icons to support readability.
- **Information Access:** Our website includes accessibility information and downloadable maps with accessibility features marked. All file names and alt text are optimised for accessibility. SEO descriptions have been added for each page.
- **Hearing & Vision Support:** We have reached out to Auslan interpreters for ECHO 2026 and will be present for key talks or sessions. Scripts or summaries of select talks can be made available on request.

Financial Accessibility

- **Ticketing Options:** We offer a range of ticket prices including discounted concession rates and selected free events within the festival.
- **Companion Card:** We are a Companion Card affiliate and support free entry for companions or carers of patrons with disability.

Cultural Inclusion

- **First Nations Engagement:** ECHO Festival proudly celebrates and embeds First Nations culture throughout our program. We work in consultation with local Aboriginal communities to ensure respectful and inclusive representation.

- **Diverse Programming:** Our festival showcases a wide range of artists, performers, and storytellers from diverse backgrounds to reflect the richness of our wider community.

Inclusive Practices

- **Gender-Neutral Facilities:** We offer gender-neutral toilets and ensure a safe space for LGBTQIA+ patrons and artists.
- **Sensory Awareness:** We recognise that some environments can be overwhelming. We provide quiet zones and identify zones which may be suitable for time out such as our sensory space, the Womb Room.

Continuous Improvement

We welcome feedback from our community and are committed to improving access and inclusion year on year. If you have any suggestions or specific requirements, please contact us in advance so we can assist wherever possible.

Contact for Access Enquiries:

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www.echofestival.com.au