



Australian Teenage Expo

Media Outlet: Herald Sun Online

Date: 17 August 2014

Monthly unique visitors: 2,000,000

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The Australian Teenage Expo is back at the Showgrounds in Ascot Vale

LINH LY MOONEE VALLEY LEADER AUGUST 17, 2014 12:00AM

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Essendon Keilor College students at the Clocktower for a school performance.

TEENAGERS may believe that the world revolves around them and at the Australian Teenage Expo that will actually be the case.

The expo will return to Melbourne Showgrounds in Ascot Vale for its fourth staging this month, with more than 10,000 attendees expected over two days.

"The expo is all about giving young people as many opportunities and choices as we can possibly put together in one place," expo co-founder Sonya Karras said.

There'll be entertainment and performances and teens can play in handball competitions, breakdancing battles, cupcake eating competitions, and play against Melbourne Vixens netballers.

The event will also include representatives from agencies and organisations providing information about mental health, eating disorders, online safety and sexual health.

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"We like to think of the expo as a place where young people can feel safe and can listen," Ms Karras said.

"Youth workers are doing great things, but not all young people will ask for those services."

Mr Karras said they found young people were feeling more judged online and within social groups.

Ambassadors include *X-Factor*, *The Voice* and *Young Talent Time* contestants Omar Dean, Krishool, Thando, Courtney Hale, Soli Tesema and Frank Dixon, and performer Vivica.

It runs August 28-29. It's open to schools only during the day and to the public 3-9pm. Tickets cost \$8.50 for children and \$10 for adults.

Details: teenageexpo.com.au

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