

2025 Queenscliff Music Festival FOOT-in-the DOOR Artist Submission Guidelines

November 28-29-30

The Festival

The Queenscliff Music Festival is a 3-day event held annually over the last weekend in November.

The 2025 Festival will be held on the 28th, 29th and 30th of November, and will be the 27th Festival.

Award winning and high profile, Queenscliff Music Festival is nevertheless a community event that is operated by a minuscule staff and an army of truly amazing volunteers.

The Festival is held in the seaside heritage township of Queenscliff (hence the name) on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria. It is managed with respect for the local community and the sensitive coastal environment that supports the event.

There are a range of venues, both inside the Festival precinct and dotted around the town. They include circus tents, marquees, Heritage community buildings, and a church..

Queenscliff encompasses a wide range of music, and we're pretty much up for anything original (sorry no cover bands or metal accepted). Anything different or quirky will definitely catch our attention.

Your Application

You **MUST** have an Internet site with streaming audio (preferably more than one song) to apply. This can be in the form of a Website, Facebook, YouTube, Soundcloud etc. This saves you CD's and postage costs and ensures that we don't drown in CD's.

We often receive more applications than we have spaces on the program for and in the end we will program what we believe will work best for our Festival and the particular section of the FOOT-in-the-DOOR.

Programming decisions are made for a variety of reasons – which we are not at liberty to spell out. So please don't ask us to explain! We are unable to provide feedback on applications; it just doesn't work that way.

Phone calls or emails lobbying for your application **WILL NOT** help your cause; in fact they may even hinder your chances - high maintenance acts are not popular. Let your music speak for itself.

You will hear from us either way – whether your application has been successful or unsuccessful, so keep an eye on your emails.

Programming

FOOT-in-the-DOOR

This is our own local brand of Amplify (formerly FReeZA) funded program dedicated to emerging talent that is totally delivered by young people. (This is why we ask your age – not to be ageist, just needing to gauge eligibility for this stage.) 2025 will see 2 genre-based competitions – Rock and Folk & Blues.

Sections

You will see in your application that you are required to select a genre section to 'compete' in. Please choose which best fits your music/sound, and no telling us that your sound is 'genre bending' and it's 'too hard to categorise', you'll just have to try!

Rock

Friday Night

We **DON'T** do the following genres; metal, emo, hardcore, and other genres that don't fit into the 'Queenscliff Music Festival style'. Have a look at who's playing on the main program to give you an idea. This section can include hip-hop.

Folk & Blues

Saturday

For acts that may fit into the genres of folk, blues, world, jazz, pop, singer/songwriter types. Bands and solo artists can fit into this section. Originality and a little 'something different' will go a long way in this section.

What the Competition Involves

5 artists in each competition (Folk & Blues and Rock) competing for a grand prize. 15 minute sets, and please make sure you have 15 minutes worth of **ORIGINAL MATERIAL**.

Winning the section **does not** guarantee you a spot at the festival the following year. If you're good enough it will definitely hold you in good stead though.

Age

ALL band members must be between the ages of 12-25, **no exceptions**. We are a youth run, youth based, and youth attended event and we're extremely proud of this. We're a Amplify-funded program and we work within their guidelines.

Under 18's

Must be accompanied by their parent/guardian (see info re. guests below), whilst at the festival. For more information check www.qmf.net.au about our 'Accompanied Youth' ticket types and conditions.

Drug, Alcohol & Smoking Free

Please remember we're a **DRUG, ALCOHOL, VAPE & SMOKING FREE** venue/program, and any artists found not adhering to this will be disqualified. Being the supportive festival that we are, there'll be plenty of water provided.

Guests

Each individual performer is entitled to ONE guest pass for their parent/guardian/guest (note; artists performing in more than one act will only be entitled to 1x performer pass and 1x guest pass). Feel free to encourage all your mates and family to come along, however they will have to purchase a ticket and we suggest they do so prior to the festival weekend via www.qmf.net.au to avoid disappointment on the weekend.

Under 18s must allocate their guest pass to a parent/guardian. You will not be granted access to the festival without your accompanying responsible adult.

Over 18's can allocate their guest pass to whomever they like (as long as the guest is over 18).

Each performer (and their guest) will receive their own '3 Day Festival pass'.

Ticket information: www.qmf.net.au

Location

We accept applications from bands from many different areas of Australia. We are however particularly interested in supporting and promoting local artists from the Geelong, Bellarine and Surf Coast areas. Local artists will not be given a spot simply because they are local, you have to earn your spot, however, if it came down to a toss-up between a local artist and an artist from Melbourne, we would be more inclined to give the spot to the local.

Equipment

Queenscliff Music Festival does not take responsibility for any equipment or belongings brought onto the Festival site by the artist, even when that equipment is under the supervision of person/s associated with the Festival. You can store your equipment temporarily in the Pavilion before and after your set if there is room, but the venue has opening hour restrictions so if anything is left in there you will not be able to collect it until the next day.

Insurance

Please be aware that the Festival's Public & Products Liability does not provide protection for artists.

For your protection we recommend you arrange your own public liability insurance. If you are not sure of your insurance status, we suggest you refer to your manager / agent as appropriate.

Alternatively, we are aware that Duck for Cover offers entertainers insurance at very reasonable premiums: www.duckforcover.com.au

Backline

Queenscliff Music Festival provides backline for the Pavilion venue, which hosts our FOOT-in-the-DOOR program. We will provide all successful applications with the venues backline listings closer to the festival. Anything on top of what we provide is your own responsibility, so if you want some super amazing amp, you'll have to bring it yourself.

Sound check

NO SOUNDCHECKS. There are 15 minute change over's between each act and it is important that you adhere to these times, as not only does it throw the program out of whack when you don't, the judges will take this into consideration when marking you!

DEADLINES

Applications open on August 22nd and close September 22nd 2025

The deadline is the deadline.

The application form will be removed from our website on September 23rd 2025. No applications will be considered after this time. We may decide to close applications earlier.

Please send any queries in regards to this process to hana.cooke@qmf.net.au

Thanks for reading & good luck!