



# Social Story

Updated January 2024 V1



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**26 January 2024 4.30pm to 9pm**

**Bella Vista Farm**

Elizabeth Macarthur Drive Bella Vista NSW 2153

Phone 02 9843 0555





# Guidelines

Thank you for choosing to use a Social Story written for an Australia Day 2024 event at Bella Vista Farm. This Social Story is written by [Access Ability Australia](#) and is suited for a person who may live with autism spectrum disorder, a language disorder, social communication difficulties and/or a cognitive delay/disability.

For your Social Story to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines.

- Read Social Story often and preferably 2 weeks in advance of visit.
- Social Story to be read and shared in an environment free of distractions.
- Be calm, comfortable and honest when reading a Social Story.
- Help the participant comprehend key points and consistently monitor for level of understanding.
- Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Social Story to celebrate success.

## Event Accessibility

There will be an accessible seating area with a view to the main stage.

The accessible seating area is close to the accessible toilet.

There will be Auslan interpreters on the main stage.

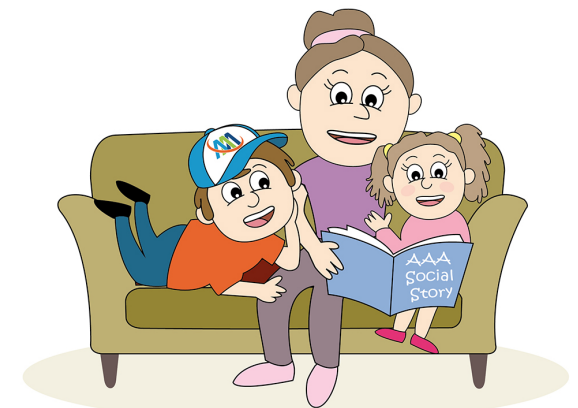


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I am going to an Australia Day event at Bella Vista Farm.

It is on Friday January 26, 2024 from 4.30pm to 9pm.

This event is for people to come together to celebrate all the things that make Australia great.





I will need to wear comfortable shoes because there is grass and dirt pathways at the farm.

I might like to bring a hat, sunscreen, water, a picnic blanket, headphones and food.

I might also like to bring money to spend on amusement rides and food.





When I arrive at Bella Vista Farm, I will see staff in orange and yellow vests.

Staff will tell us where to park our car.

I will see other staff at the farm throughout the day.

They can answer questions and help me with directions.





There are two entry gates into Bella Vista Farm.



**Gate 1**

I can enter through gate 2 which leads to a quieter section of the farm.



**Gate 2**



I will see security guards at the entry gates.

I might see lots of people, amusement rides,  
food trucks and stages set up for shows.





There will be an information stall with staff.

It will be in the middle of Bella Vista Farm,  
inside a big orange tent.

St John Ambulance will have a tent here  
and can give medical help to people who  
need it.

Police will also be walking around to make  
sure everybody is safe.





There will be toilets, including an accessible toilet.

My support person can show me where the toilets are.





There will be two stages called the main stage and the community stage.

On the main stage, there will be singers, bands, acrobats and a drumming performance.

Dorothy the Dinosaur and friends will make an appearance!

On the community stage, there will be local dance groups.





The formal activities will begin on the main stage at 6pm.

The formal activities will include:

- Cultural story telling. This ceremony recognises the event taking place on this land and is a sign of respect.
- An indigenous “Welcome to Country”
- A smoking ceremony. The smoking ceremony will make smoke and smells.

I can wear my glasses to protect me eyes from the smoke and bring a handkerchief for the smell.





There will be lots of other fun activities on the day including:

- Roaming performers and a bubble performer
- Acrobats
- People dressed up in costumes
- Yard games including Jenga, Connect 4, quoits and parachute games
- Emergency services displays
- Face painting
- The mobile library.





There will be amusement rides.

I will try to wait patiently in line for my turn  
on the amusement rides.

Waiting my turn is the fair thing to do.





The fireworks will begin at 9pm. They will run for 8 minutes.

There will be a countdown before the fireworks begin.

People might yell and clap. That's okay. Fireworks are exciting.





The Australia Day Event might feel very busy and noisy.

There will be lots of people and lots of different sounds including:

- Announcements on the microphone
- Music and singing
- People yelling excitedly and music on the amusement rides
- Fireworks.

Some of these sounds might happen at the same time.





I can wear my headphones to help with the noise.

I can go to the Homestead building in the centre of the farm for some quiet time.

I can relax at the Mobile Library.

I can go to the back of the crowds during the performances and fireworks.

It might not feel so busy or noisy at the back of the crowd.





Australia Day at Bella Vista Farm is a fantastic community event!







## Contacts

Bella Vista Farm

Elizabeth Macarthur Drive

Bella Vista NSW 2153

Phone 02 9843 0555

<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Upcoming-Events-Activities/Australia-Day-2024>