

# A visit to **WINTERFEST!**

Winter Park  
Tumbalong Park Tumbalong Boulevard,  
Darling Harbour NSW 2000

July 18-21, 2024  
1pm to 8pm (Thursday and Sunday)  
1pm to 9pm (Friday and Saturday)



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# Social Story

Updated July 2024 V1.0

# Guidelines

Thank you for choosing to use a Social Story written for Winter Park at WINTERFEST 2024.

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 two 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.

We hereby acknowledge the support and assistance provided by [Access Ability Australia](#) in helping to prepare this Social Story.

We express our sincere appreciation to Access Ability Australia for their pivotal role in assisting us to highlight its commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Their expertise and support have played a vital role in ensuring that WINTERFEST is welcoming to all individuals in our community.

# Sensory Guide

A Sensory Guide helps people understand what they might feel, hear, see or smell. It's useful for people who are sensitive to sensory experiences, such as those with autism or sensory processing disorder. This guide can be helpful in dealing with new or challenging situations.

## In Winter Park at WINTERFEST:

### I might feel

- Artificial snow (snow machine at front of stage)
- Change in ground surface
- Heat (fire pits)
- Shared personal space
- Slime
- Uneven ground surface
- Weather/Night Air

### I might hear

- Amplified voices
- Announcements
- Applause/Cheering
- Café equipment
- Entertainment
- Fireworks banging, popping and shooting
- Performers
- Music
- Musical instruments
- Shouting (food truck venders calling out order numbers)
- Soundscapes (dome)

### I might see

- Bright lights (light arches throughout park)
- Colourful lighting
- Crowd movement
- Disco ball (inflatable igloo)
- Fairy lighting
- Fireworks (obstructed view from nearby Cockle Bay)
- Illuminated lighting (dome)
- Digital screens (gaming bus)
- On screen presentations (stage)
- Snow swirl inflatables moving
- Textured lighting (stage ceiling)
- Vibrant colours
- Vivid entertainment

### I might smell

- Fireworks burning
- Food/Drink
- Slime
- Smoke (fire pits)





**I am going to Winter Park at  
WINTERFEST.**

**It is on Thursday July 18 to Sunday  
July 21.**

**This event is for families to come  
together to celebrate winter.**





**I will need to wear comfortable walking shoes and warm clothing.**

**I might like to bring my headphones or ear buds, as well as money to buy food and drink from the food trucks.**



**When I arrive, I might see lots of people and bright, colourful lighting.**

**I will see event staff wearing black shirts with the “Place Management” and “NSW government” logos.**

**I might see customer service event staff with a white puffer vest over a black shirt.**

**Event staff can answer questions and help me with directions.**





**I will see a large canvas covered dome.**

**I can walk through the dome.**

**There will be a colourful Southern Lights display projected on the walls inside the dome.**

**I will hear soundscapes inside the dome.**

**Soundscapes are background noises, sound effects or musical instruments.**



The dome will be fully enclosed except for the entry during Winter Park





**There will be an inflatable igloo.**

**The inflatable igloo leads to a  
marquee workshop area.**

**I can participate in a winter slime  
workshop inside the marquee.**

**There could be up to 30 other people  
at the workshop.**

**Staff will be at the workshop to help  
me.**



**At night time, the inflatable igloo will turn into a Disc-gloo.**

**The disc-gloo will have fairy lights and a disco ball.**

**This will be a hangout space to relax and enjoy the lights.**







**There will be a gaming bus.**

**The gaming bus has seats inside with consoles, games and equipment including PlayStation, XBOX, Nintendo Switch and Wii.**

**There could be up to 18 other people gaming inside the bus.**

**There will also be an area outside the bus for gaming.**





There will be a stage with lots of entertainment, including:

- winter adventure films shown on two large screens
- live shows for children
- a children's band
- DJs and a family-friendly party band
- "Just Dance" games from the gaming bus projected onto the screens.

I can find out more about the performers [online](#).



**There will be snow machines that  
will blow out snow in front of the  
stage at different times.**

**I can move to the back of the crowd  
if I do not want to feel the snow.**





**There will be five fire pits.**

**The fire pits will have fences around them to keep me safe.**

**There will be areas to sit and relax while watching the fire pits.**



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There will be food trucks and a bar.



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**I might need to wait in line for the different activities or to buy things from the food trucks and bar.**

**Other people might be waiting in line too.**

**I will try to wait my turn.**

**Waiting my turn is the fair thing to do.**







**Winter Park might feel very busy and noisy.**

**There will be lots of people and lots of different noises including:**

- **people talking, laughing and having fun**
- **performers on stage**
- **music**
- **fireworks from nearby Cockle Bay.**





**I might smell smoke from the fire pits and different foods cooking.**



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**I can wear my headphones or earbuds to help with the noise.**

**I can sit away from the crowds and the smell of the smoke and food.**

**I can go to the inflatable igloo from 5pm for some quiet time.**



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**Winter Park at WINTERFEST is a  
wonderful community event!**



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# Accessibility

- [View](#) accessibility in Darling Harbour map.
- Two entry points into Winter Park, along Tumbalong Boulevard. Open entry ways.
- Winter Park fully fenced.
- Accessible pathways from entry gates to food trucks.
- Ground surface of grass, Supa Trac flooring and artificial snow (in front of stage). Super-Trac flooring is a strong, temporary floor that make a stable surface for people to walk on. Grassed areas may become muddy and slippery.
- St Johns Ambulance First Aid tent onsite.
- Each event activity will have staff to provide support and supervision.
- Fire pits with fencing and ember lids.
- Pram parking behind workshop space.
- Quiet space may be available within inflatable igloo at entry of workshop space after 5pm.
- Wayfinding signage.
- Water fountains within Winter Park.
- Security staff on site wearing yellow high vis vests.
- Fencing separating activities include planter boxes, white picket fences, metal fencing and ropes and bollards.
- Furniture includes picnic tables with attached seating, pallet furniture with cushions, seating, bean bags and illuminated glow cubes.

- Food truck counters not accessible. Staff will come out from behind counters to serve people in wheelchairs.
- Entry to bar/coffee over grass.
- Fenced toileting area for assistance animals. Water bowls available.
- Cables on ground with covers.

## Darling Quarter Carpark

- Closest accessible, approximately 200 metres from entry to Winter Park. Restrictions apply. [www.firstparking.com.au/locations/darling-quarter/](http://www.firstparking.com.au/locations/darling-quarter/).
- General parking. Restrictions apply.
- Lift access.
- Accessible pathway to Winter Park entrance.
- Other parking options [available](#).

## Toilets

- No toilets within Winter Park.
- Toilets, including accessible toilets, approximately 150 metres from both sets of entry gates to Winter Park.
- Toilets signed.
- Baby change facilities.

## Dome

- Grass ground surface leading up to dome.
- Entry and exit with a 1500mm space to pass through.
- Slight gradient inside entry.
- Supa-Trac flooring inside.

## Workshop Marquee

- Workshop area over grass.

## Gaming Bus

- Gaming bus over grass.
- One step up into entrance.
- Two rows of bench seating with plastic cushions.

## Stage

- Accessible viewing area.
- Auslan interpreters during children's performances.
- Adventure Films with captioning.



# WINTERFEST!

## Contact Details

Event address:

Winter Park, Tumbalong Park  
Tumbalong Boulevard, Darling Harbour NSW 2000

Phone 02 9240 8500 (Place Management, NSW)

[www.darlingharbour.com/whats-on/campaigns/winter-park](http://www.darlingharbour.com/whats-on/campaigns/winter-park)



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