

Magdalen Laundry

Abbotsford Convent.



About

The Magdalen Laundry is a large, self-contained venue featuring a vaulted ceiling and clerestory windows. This versatile space can be creatively configured to suit a wide range of large events, including exhibitions, conferences, and performances. The adjoining Boiler Room can be used as a backstage area or opened to create a larger working space.

The Mezzanine offers an additional green room, meeting room or creative space, and is available separately for hire.

During the 1920s, the Convent's Magdalen Laundry was the largest commercial laundry in Melbourne. For close to a century, many residents of the Convent worked here.

Today, the Magdalen Laundry is among the few surviving, relatively intact, examples of its type anywhere in the world. Like the rest of the Convent, this is a sensitive, heritage-listed space. There are some inherent heritage requirements and limitations of use incorporated into our conditions of hire.



Usage

The Magdalen Laundry is ideal for food and wine events, live music events, theatre and performance, conferencing and works well in partnership with its satellite rooms, making it an ideal central space for a larger footprint.

Key Features

- Large creative event space
- Event bathrooms and green room mezzanine

Dimensions

- Main hall: 24 x 12.9m (307.8m²)
- Boiler Room: 13.4 x 9.4m (127.1m²)
- Total area: 434.9m²

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Facilities

The Magdalen Laundry is equipped with the following:

- RGB house lighting for general room and stage wash
- Box truss rigging
- DMX and RJ45 patching
- Three phase and 10amp power
- Dividable room via permanent drape line
- Green room (mezzanine)
- Private toilets

Available for hire:

- Stage pieces
- Screen
- Sound

Other considerations

- Preferred AV supplier MAV
- Other external AV permitted
- Compulsory staffing required
- Compulsory cleaning required



Accessibility

The Magdalen Laundry is universally accessible, and the related Mezzanine space is accessible via an elevator. Gender-neutral and accessible toilets are available within the venue.

Adjacent rooms

The Magdalen Laundry connects to the [Industrial School](#) and [Mercator Lawn](#). Close by is the [Packing Room](#) and [Sacred Heart Courtyard](#), making this venue an ideal central point for a large event footprint.

Magdalen Laundry: venue hire rates

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	Full day (8 hours)	Half day (4 hours)	7-day week
Standard - high impact	\$1800	\$1350	\$9000
Standard - low impact	\$900	\$675	\$4500
Community/NFP - high impact	\$1350	\$1013	\$6750
Community/NFP - low impact	\$675	\$506	\$3375
Subsidised - high impact	\$900	\$675	\$4500
Subsidised - low impact	\$450	\$338	\$2250

Pricing

Impact refers to the impact the event will have on the Convent. It is assessed based on the nature of the event, number of attendees, anticipated noise levels, infrastructure, catering and services required. Please note that all events with a live audience are deemed high impact.

Subsidised rates are offered at the ACF's discretion on a case-by-case basis.

A non-negotiable cleaning fee will be added to each day of venue hire and is undertaken according to the use of the room.

The minimum hire period is four hours. Additional hours beyond this will default to a full day hire.

A 7-day week booking charges only for five days, providing two days free of charge.

Administrative fees may be added depending on the nature and complexity of the event.

Film and photography bookings attract an additional permit fee. Details can be found [here](#).

Prices do not include GST.

Site visits

To arrange a site visit, first register the event by booking online.

Site visits are predominantly reserved for events that have received a formal quotation. As our venues are frequently occupied, site visits must be by appointment and we cannot accept drop-ins.

Staffing and equipment

A compulsory Venue Supervisor is required for all hours of the hire period.

Additional staff may be quoted if the event requires it.

Front of house and additional support crew are available for minimum four-hour calls.

Basic furniture and AV equipment is available for hire, subject to availability.

Magdalen Laundry: capacity and safety

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Standing room only	430
Cocktail / roving event	350
Seated - theatre style	350

Compliance, Production and Complex Events

The Abbotsford Convent has a methodology in place to ensure the safety of all staff, venue hirers, visitors and community members. Hirers with complex events are invited to lodge an application form [here](#) and may be required to submit an event proposal for evaluation. Appropriate production and compliance documentation may be requested, including but not limited to:

- Runsheet
- Production schedule
- Floorplans and site maps
- Risk assessment
- Proof of public liability insurance
- Waste management plan
- Liquor license

Administration and additional staffing fees may apply.

Complex events will require production meetings with our Venue Hire and Operations teams.

All hirers and their suppliers must complete a Precinct Safety Induction upon arrival at or prior to the event.

The Convent reserves the right to decline an event if it does not align with our [core values](#).



Caring for our venues

Abbotsford Convent is a unique heritage arts precinct with specific hiring conditions.

Hirers must not affix anything to the interior or exterior walls of the venues or buildings as our venues are heritage listed, aged, and very sensitive.

Naked flames and oil-based smoke machines are not permitted.

Confetti, rice and balloons are not permitted.

Electrical items, ranging from urns and kettles to amps and lighting, must be tested and tagged.

Overnight storage is not permitted unless the venue has been booked for this purpose.

You can find our full Conditions of Hire [here](#).

Magdalen Laundry: floor plan

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