
17. Cultural Participation in Western Sydney

The Western Sydney region is a policy priority area of the New South Wales Government. According to data collected by the ABS in 1999, people living in Western Sydney have a lower level of participation in cultural activities than other Sydneysiders. This chapter examines the extent by which their participation is lower.

THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The Western Sydney region is bounded on the north by Hawkesbury City Council, on the west and the south by Wollondilly Area Council and on the east by Holroyd City Council. It comprises the local government areas of:

Auburn (Area);
Bankstown (City);
Baulkham Hills (Area);
Blacktown (City);
Blue Mountains (City);
Camden (Area);
Campbelltown (City);
Fairfield (City);
Hawkesbury (City);
Holroyd (City);
Liverpool (City);
Parramatta (City);
Penrith (City); and
Wollondilly (Area).

About two-fifths (43%) of the population of the Sydney Statistical Division resides in Western Sydney.

ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS

In 2002, the ABS conducted a household survey on attendance at selected cultural venues and events. It showed that attendance rates in Western Sydney were lower than for the rest of Sydney for all cultural venues and events surveyed, and that for art galleries, classical music performances and theatre performances, the attendance rates were about half that of the rest of Sydney. Even for the most popular venues and events, attendance rates were significantly lower (for cinema, 67% compared with 79%, and for libraries, 37% compared with 43%).

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS, Sydney,
12 months before interview, 2002

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER ('000)			
Art gallery	175.9	690.0	865.9
Museum	279.5	605.0	884.5
Libraries(a)	490.3	807.7	1 298.0
Popular music	290.4	631.4	921.7
Classical music	103.9	281.3	385.1
Theatre	137.1	471.9	608.9
Dance	142.2	230.9	373.1
Musicals and operas	217.2	466.9	684.1
Other performing arts	241.1	454.5	695.7
Cinema	891.9	1 473.4	2 365.3
ATTENDANCE RATE (%)			
Art gallery	13.3	36.8	27.1
Museum	21.1	32.3	27.6
Libraries(a)	37.0	43.1	40.6
Popular music	21.9	33.7	28.8
Classical music	7.8	15.0	12.0
Theatre	10.3	25.2	19.0
Dance	10.7	12.3	11.7
Musicals and operas	16.4	24.9	21.4
Other performing arts	18.2	24.3	21.7
Cinema	67.2	78.7	73.9

(a) National, State and local libraries.

Source: ABS, Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2002 (data available on request).

Of those who attended cultural venues or events, the frequency of attendance was often less for those in Western Sydney than in the rest of Sydney. For example, of those in Western Sydney who attended art galleries, 52% had been once in the previous 12 months compared with 38% who had been once in the rest of Sydney.

FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS, Sydney,
12 months before interview, 2002

	WESTERN SYDNEY.....		REST OF SYDNEY.....		SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION.....	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<i>Frequency of attendance</i>	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Art gallery						
Once	90.6	51.5	265.2	38.4	355.8	41.1
2-4 times	74.6	42.4	281.1	40.7	355.7	41.1
5 times or more	*10.7	*6.1	143.7	20.8	154.4	17.8
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>175.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>690.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>865.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Museum						
Once	157.5	56.4	239.2	39.5	396.7	44.9
2-4 times	100.6	36.0	270.0	44.6	370.6	41.9
5 times or more	*21.4	*7.7	95.8	15.8	117.3	13.3
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>279.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>605.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>884.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>

FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS, Sydney,
12 months before interview, 2002 *continued*

<i>Frequency of attendance</i>	WESTERN SYDNEY...		REST OF SYDNEY.....		SYDNEY STATISTICAL DIVISION.....	
	<i>Number</i> '000	<i>Per cent</i> %	<i>Number</i> '000	<i>Per cent</i> %	<i>Number</i> '000	<i>Per cent</i> %
Libraries(a)						
1–5 times	215.5	44.0	330.3	40.9	545.8	42.0
6–20 times	169.9	34.7	273.2	33.8	443.1	34.1
21 times or more	104.9	21.4	204.1	25.3	309.1	23.8
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>490.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>807.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 298.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Popular music						
Once	137.8	47.5	160.2	25.4	298.0	32.3
2–4 times	97.3	33.5	318.7	50.5	416.0	45.1
5 times or more	55.2	19.0	152.5	24.2	207.7	22.5
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>290.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>631.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>921.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Classical music						
Once	54.6	52.6	102.2	36.3	156.8	40.7
2–4 times	37.3	35.9	117.1	41.6	154.4	40.1
5 times or more	*12.0	*11.5	62.0	22.0	73.9	19.2
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>103.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>281.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>385.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Theatre						
Once	93.9	68.5	172.2	36.5	266.1	43.7
2–4 times	36.2	26.4	215.7	45.7	251.9	41.4
5 times or more	*7.0	*5.1	84.0	17.8	90.9	14.9
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>137.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>471.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>608.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Dance						
Once	62.5	44.0	112.5	48.7	175.0	46.9
2–4 times	57.9	40.7	86.3	37.4	144.1	38.6
5 times or more	*21.8	*15.3	*32.2	*13.9	54.0	14.5
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>142.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>230.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>373.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Musical and operas						
Once	127.3	58.6	235.7	50.5	363.0	53.1
2–4 times	76.7	35.3	199.3	42.7	276.1	40.4
5 times or more	*13.2	*6.1	*31.8	*6.8	45.0	6.6
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>217.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>466.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>684.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Other performing arts						
Once	147.0	61.0	203.1	44.7	350.1	50.3
2–4 times	72.7	30.2	199.7	43.9	272.4	39.2
5 times or more	*21.4	*8.9	51.8	11.4	73.2	10.5
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>241.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>454.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>695.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Cinema						
1–5 times	495.2	55.5	670.0	45.5	1 165.1	49.3
6–20 times	318.4	35.7	664.8	45.1	983.1	41.6
21 times or more	78.4	8.8	138.6	9.4	217.0	9.2
<i>Total who attended</i>	<i>891.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 473.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>2 365.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) National, State and local libraries.

Source: ABS, Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2002 (data available on request).

The likelihood of a person in Western Sydney attending cultural venues and events is influenced by where they were born. People in Western Sydney who were born in Australia were more likely to attend the cinema than those born overseas (an attendance rate of 72% compared with 61%) and more likely to attend popular music concerts (24% compared with 18%). However, those born overseas were more likely to attend museums (26% compared with 18%) and dance performances (15% compared with 8%).

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS,
By Country of Birth, Western Sydney, 2002

	<i>Born in Australia</i>	<i>Born overseas</i>	<i>Total</i>
NUMBER ('000)			
Art gallery	107.8	68.1	175.9
Museum	145.7	133.8	279.5
Libraries(a)	283.2	207.1	490.3
Popular music	194.6	95.8	290.4
Classical music	50.9	53.0	103.9
Theatre	87.1	50.0	137.1
Dance	62.1	80.0	142.2
Musicals and operas	134.4	82.8	217.2
Other performing arts	139.4	101.7	241.1
Cinema	575.5	316.5	891.9
ATTENDANCE RATE (%)			
Art gallery	13.4	13.0	13.3
Museum	18.1	25.6	21.1
Libraries(a)	35.2	39.6	37.0
Popular music	24.2	18.3	21.9
Classical music	6.3	10.1	7.8
Theatre	10.8	9.6	10.3
Dance	7.7	15.3	10.7
Musicals and operas	16.7	15.8	16.4
Other performing arts	17.3	19.5	18.2
Cinema	71.6	60.6	67.2

(a) National, State and local libraries.

Source: ABS, Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2002 (data available on request).

By grouping some of the cultural venues together, it is possible to produce reliable estimates of attendance rates for overseas born people by where they were born. The following table shows that people in Western Sydney who were born in a main English speaking country (United Kingdom and Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada or the United States of America) had the highest attendance rates at art galleries and museums, the performing arts and the cinema. People born overseas but not in a main English speaking country had the lowest attendance rate for the cinema. Their attendance rates at art galleries and museums and the performing arts were similar to those in Western Sydney who were born in Australia.

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED GROUPINGS OF CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS,
By Country of Birth, Western Sydney, 2002

	<i>Born in Australia</i>	<i>Born in main English speaking countries</i>	<i>Born in other countries</i>	<i>Total born outside Australia</i>	<i>Total</i>
NUMBER ('000)					
Art galleries or museums	194.5	37.9	111.7	149.6	344.1
Libraries(a)	283.2	*29.4	177.7	207.1	490.3
Performing arts	392.4	56.2	206.7	262.9	655.2
Cinema	575.5	75.7	240.8	316.5	891.9
ATTENDANCE RATE (%)					
Art galleries or museums	24.2	39.9	26.1	28.6	25.9
Libraries(a)	35.2	*30.9	41.6	39.6	37.0
Performing arts	48.8	59.2	48.4	50.3	49.4
Cinema	71.6	79.7	56.3	60.6	67.2

(a) National, State and local libraries.

Note: Where this table combines different venues, the numbers shown are less than the sum that can be calculated from the previous table due to the elimination of double-counting.

Source: ABS, Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2002 (data available on request).

CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

Data on cultural occupations are available from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Note, however, that if a person held multiple jobs in the week before the Census, the occupational information relates only to their main job.

While two-fifths (41%) of employed people in Sydney lived in Western Sydney, only about one-quarter (26%) of those employed in cultural occupations lived there.

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Whether Employed in Cultural Occupations, Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION			
Employed in cultural occupations(a)	25.9	74.1	100.0
Total employed	40.7	59.3	100.0

(a) Comprises those people whose main job was in a cultural occupation.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census of Population and Housing (data available on request).

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing showed that there was a total of 19,455 people with a cultural occupation as their main job living in Western Sydney, which was 3% of the total number of employed persons. This is somewhat lower than the equivalent percentage for the rest of Sydney (5%).

The most common cultural occupations of people living in Western Sydney were printing tradespersons (4,002 people), graphic designers (1,548 people), ministers of religion (1,287 people), printing hands (1,157 people), and library assistants (630 people).

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER			
Media producers and artist directors, nfd	13	38	51
Media producer	246	2 911	3 157
Artistic director	4	61	65
Environment, parks and land care manager	114	317	431
Park ranger	41	66	107
Architects and landscape architects(b)	507	4 043	4 550
Advertising specialist	172	1 419	1 591
Librarian	595	1 836	2 431
Archivist	44	151	195
Art teacher (private)	99	273	372
Music teacher (private)	529	1 422	1 951
Dance teacher (private)	273	567	840
Drama teacher (private)	23	118	141
Minister of religion	1 287	1 953	3 240
Urban and regional planner	345	981	1 326
Historian	14	110	124
Interpreter	320	369	689
Translator	76	241	317
Artists and related professionals, nfd	165	1 009	1 174
Visual arts and crafts professionals, nfd	8	72	80
Painter (visual arts)	109	456	565
Sculptor	20	94	114
Potter or ceramic artist	66	133	199
Visual arts and crafts professionals, nec	237	550	787
Photographer	416	1 420	1 836
Designers and illustrators, nfd	190	756	946
Fashion designer	175	765	940
Graphic designer	1 548	5 642	7 190
Interior designer	176	1 150	1 326
Illustrator	95	473	568
Journalists and related professionals, nfd	42	437	479
Editor	199	1 395	1 594
Print journalist	258	1 487	1 745
Television journalist	19	350	369
Radio journalist	26	175	201
Copywriter	17	339	356
Technical writer	119	440	559
Journalists and related professionals, nec	80	548	628
Authors and related professionals, nfd	0	35	35
Author	127	819	946

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001 *continued*

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
	NUMBER		
Book editor	30	277	307
Script editor	6	42	48
Film, television, radio and stage directors, nfd	9	39	48
Art director (film, television or stage)	7	109	116
Director (film, television, radio or stage)	86	804	890
Director of photography	8	118	126
Film and video editor	79	623	702
Stage manager	43	154	197
Program director (radio or television)	42	256	298
Technical director	15	67	82
Film, television, radio and stage directors, nec	45	219	264
Musicians and related professionals, nfd	12	59	71
Music director	20	96	116
Singer	114	326	440
Instrumental musician	376	1 384	1 760
Composer	12	124	136
Musicians and related professionals, nec	4	22	26
Actors, dancers and related professionals, nfd	6	38	44
Actor	140	734	874
Dancer or choreographer	86	213	299
Actors, dancers and related professionals, nec	220	519	739
Media presenters, nfd	7	36	43
Radio presenter	97	312	409
Television presenter	18	139	157
Conservator	19	97	116
Museum or gallery curator	15	189	204
Architectural associate	489	968	1 457
Theatre or cinema manager	65	212	277
Library technician	399	521	920
Museum or art gallery technician	11	34	45
Signwriters(c)	499	559	1 058
Printing tradespersons(d)	4 002	4 029	8 031
Picture framer(e)	164	317	481
Performing arts support workers, nfd	18	48	66
Sound technician	281	951	1 232
Camera operator (film, television or video)	71	342	413
Television equipment operator	28	122	150
Broadcast transmitter operator	26	107	133
Motion picture projectionist	66	120	186
Light technician	45	222	267

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001 *continued*

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER			
Production assistant (film, television or radio)	55	437	492
Production assistant (theatre)	3	29	32
Make up artist	43	256	299
Performing arts support workers, nec	43	281	324
Piano tuner	28	48	76
Desktop publishing operator	171	375	546
Visual merchandiser	365	447	812
Photographer's assistant	43	108	151
Library assistant	630	1 113	1 743
Proof reader	68	98	166
Museum or gallery attendant	25	152	177
Printing hands(f)	1 157	764	1 921
Classified advertising clerk	77	120	197
Ticket collector or usher	273	521	794
Total cultural occupations	19 455	55 722	75 177

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001 *continued*

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER PER 100,000 EMPLOYED PERSONS			
Media producers and artist directors, nfd	2	4	3
Media producer	33	270	174
Artistic director	1	6	4
Environment, parks and land care manager	15	29	24
Park ranger	6	6	6
Architects and landscape architects(b)	69	375	251
Advertising specialist	23	132	88
Librarian	80	170	134
Archivist	6	14	11
Art teacher (private)	13	25	20
Music teacher (private)	72	132	107
Dance teacher (private)	37	53	46
Drama teacher (private)	3	11	8
Minister of religion	174	181	178
Urban and regional planner	47	91	73
Historian	2	10	7
Interpreter	43	34	38
Translator	10	22	17
Artists and related professionals, nfd	22	94	65
Visual arts and crafts professionals, nfd	1	7	4
Painter (visual arts)	15	42	31
Sculptor	3	9	6
Potter or ceramic artist	9	12	11
Visual arts and crafts professionals, nec	32	51	43
Photographer	56	132	101
Designers and illustrators, nfd	26	70	52
Fashion designer	24	71	52
Graphic designer	209	524	396
Interior designer	24	107	73
Illustrator	13	44	31
Journalists and related professionals, nfd	6	41	26
Editor	27	130	88
Print journalist	35	138	96
Television journalist	3	32	20
Radio journalist	4	16	11
Copywriter	2	31	20
Technical writer	16	41	31
Journalists and related professionals, nec	11	51	35
Authors and related professionals, nfd	0	3	2
Author	17	76	52

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001 *continued*

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER PER 100,000 EMPLOYED PERSONS			
Book editor	4	26	17
Script editor	1	4	3
Film, television, radio and stage directors, nfd	1	4	3
Art director (film, television or stage)	1	10	6
Director (film, television, radio or stage)	12	75	49
Director of photography	1	11	7
Film and video editor	11	58	39
Stage manager	6	14	11
Program director (radio or television)	6	24	16
Technical director	2	6	5
Film, television, radio and stage directors, nec	6	20	15
Musicians and related professionals, nfd	2	5	4
Music director	3	9	6
Singer	15	30	24
Instrumental musician	51	129	97
Composer	2	12	7
Musicians and related professionals, nec	1	2	1
Actors, dancers and related professionals, nfd	1	4	2
Actor	19	68	48
Dancer or choreographer	12	20	16
Actors, dancers and related professionals, nec	30	48	41
Media presenters, nfd	1	3	2
Radio presenter	13	29	23
Television presenter	2	13	9
Conservator	3	9	6
Museum or gallery curator	2	18	11
Architectural associate	66	90	80
Theatre or cinema manager	9	20	15
Library technician	54	48	51
Museum or art gallery technician	1	3	2
Signwriters(c)	68	52	58
Printing tradespersons(d)	541	374	442
Picture framer(e)	22	29	26
Performing arts support workers, nfd	2	4	4
Sound technician	38	88	68
Camera operator (film, television or video)	10	32	23
Television equipment operator	4	11	8
Broadcast transmitter operator	4	10	7
Motion picture projectionist	9	11	10
Light technician	6	21	15

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS(a), Western Sydney and Rest of Sydney, August 2001 *continued*

	<i>Western Sydney</i>	<i>Rest of Sydney</i>	<i>Total Sydney</i>
NUMBER PER 100,000 EMPLOYED PERSONS			
Production assistant (film, television or radio)	7	41	27
Production assistant (theatre)	0	3	2
Make up artist	6	24	16
Performing arts support workers, nec	6	26	18
Piano tuner	4	4	4
Desktop publishing operator	23	35	30
Visual merchandiser	49	42	45
Photographer's assistant	6	10	8
Library assistant	85	103	96
Proof reader	9	9	9
Museum or gallery attendant	3	14	10
Printing hands(f)	157	71	106
Classified advertising clerk	10	11	11
Ticket collector or usher	37	48	44
Total cultural occupations	2 632	5 174	4 139

(a) Comprises people whose main job was in a cultural occupation.

(b) Comprises Architects and landscape architects n.f.d., Architect and Landscape architect.

(c) Comprises Signwriters n.f.d., Supervisor (signwriter), Signwriter and Apprentice signwriter.

(d) Comprises Printing tradespersons n.f.d., Graphic pre-press tradespersons, Printing machinists and small offset printers, Binders and finishers and Screen printers.

(e) Comprises Picture framer and Apprentice picture framer.

(f) Comprises Printing hands n.f.d., Printing table hand and Printer's assistant.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census of Population and Housing (data available on request).

According to the 2001 Census, cultural occupations which were far less prevalent in Western Sydney than in the rest of Sydney included:

- architects and landscape architects (69 per 100,000 employed, compared with 375 per 100,000 employed in the rest of Sydney).
- media producers (33 per 100,000 employed, compared with 270 per 100,000 employed in the rest of Sydney);
- advertising specialists (23 per 100,000 employed, compared with 132 per 100,000 employed in the rest of Sydney);
- editors (27 per 100,000 employed, compared with 130 per 100,000 employed in the rest of Sydney); and
- interior designers (24 per 100,000 employed, compared with 107 per 100,000 employed in the rest of Sydney).