



VITAL statistics

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTS AND CULTURE STATISTICS

SUMMARY REPORT AUGUST 2007



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Please note that future updates to the information and data contained in this report will be made available via the online version of this document at www.dca.wa.gov.au

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Cover Audience at the ARTRAGE Semi-Permanent Conference 2007 Photo by Michael Howard

Inside from Left Up Under, Down Over exhibition opening Photo by Pauline Miles | Subiaco Station, Diatribe, Freight Studio Artists, DADAA Inc. Photo by Terry Mathews | WA Ballet Regional Touring Program Photo by Lizzie Coles





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FACT SHEET

Vital Statistics, the most recent collection of Western Australian arts and cultural data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publications highlights active involvement in and valuable support for arts and culture by a variety of people in our community. This summary sheet is a quick reference guide to the report's key findings. The full report is available on the Department's website – www.dca.wa.gov.au

Attendance and participation in arts and culture

Arts and culture engages a significant proportion of the WA population.

88% (or 1.4million) of people aged over 15 in WA attended at least one cultural venue or event in 2005-06¹. This is higher than the national average (85%).

During that time, WA recorded attendance rates higher than or equal to the national average attendance rates in 9 of the 12 cultural categories including cinemas, zoos and aquariums, libraries, popular music concerts, classical music concerts, and other performing arts.

In the 12 months prior to April 2006, **71%** of Western Australian children (aged 5-14 years) attended at least one of the selected cultural venues or events, and over a third (34%) were involved in cultural activities outside of school hours.

97% of young people (aged 15-17 years) in the State recorded higher attendance levels at cultural venues or events compared to other age groups surveyed.

Attendance rates were similar to or higher than national figures for WA for people aged over 60 years, or those with a disability.

In 2002, **76%** of Indigenous people in WA had been to at least one of the selected Indigenous events, whilst over a quarter (26%) participated in creative arts activity.

Many Western Australians choose to participate in arts and cultural activities as a volunteer or hobby.

In 2004, 333,500 people in WA participated in cultural activities such as arts and craft, writing and music as a hobby².

In 2000, 40,600 people in WA reported volunteering for a cultural organisation. This is 3.1% of the Western Australian adult population compared with 2% of people nationally.

1 The 2005-2006 ABS survey on Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events collected data on 12 selected cultural venues and events.
2 Hobby is defined as an activity for the participants' own use, or for the benefit of their family, and they did not have any other involvement in culture activities.

Government support for arts and culture

The Western Australian Government is committed to the development of vibrant and sustainable arts and culture for all Western Australians.

In 2004-2005, the State Government provided \$294m in cultural funding, directly supporting the arts and cultural industries in Western Australia. This figure represents a 31% increase in funding since 2001-2002.

This expenditure equates to \$147 per person in Western Australia.

Over the five year period, funding has increased for broadcasting and film (up 69%), performing arts venues (38%), and other museums (32%).

Expenditure per person for the other levels of government were \$87pp at the Federal level and \$67.94 pp from Local Government.

Economic impact of the arts and cultural sector

Arts and cultural industries generate important employment and income for many Western Australians.

Scale of industry

In 2004, over 12,000 businesses were operating in the Western Australian cultural sector with the largest number of businesses in architectural services (2,291), creative arts (1,784), and music and theatre productions (1422).

During 2002-03 television services businesses earned income totaling \$339million, while film and television production businesses operating in WA generated an income of \$24million.

In the same period, music and theatre production businesses staged 2,432 paid performances in WA generating 838,000 paid admissions or \$33.6million in income.

Employment and work

In 2001, 33,914 people in WA were employed³ in a cultural occupation or a cultural industry⁴, accounting around 4% of the total workforce.

This comprised of 6,255 people with a cultural occupation employed directly in cultural industries and 16,707 working 'embedded' in other industry areas. The remaining 10,952 people were employed in non-cultural or business and support roles in the cultural sector.

Household expenditure

In 2003-04, Western Australian households spent about \$1.352m per year on culture (\$34 per week) - an increase of \$8 per week from expenditure in 1998-99.

- 3 As their 'main job' i.e. the job in which the person usually works the most hours. It should be noted however that some people may have cultural jobs as their second job.
- 4 Figure includes those who hold cultural occupations in non-cultural industries, non-cultural occupations in cultural industries, and cultural occupations in cultural industries.

Further Details

Contact the Policy and Research Officer at the
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For more statistics on Western Australian arts
and culture visit

www.dca.wa.gov.au