

## Jurisdictional profiles

### Western Australia

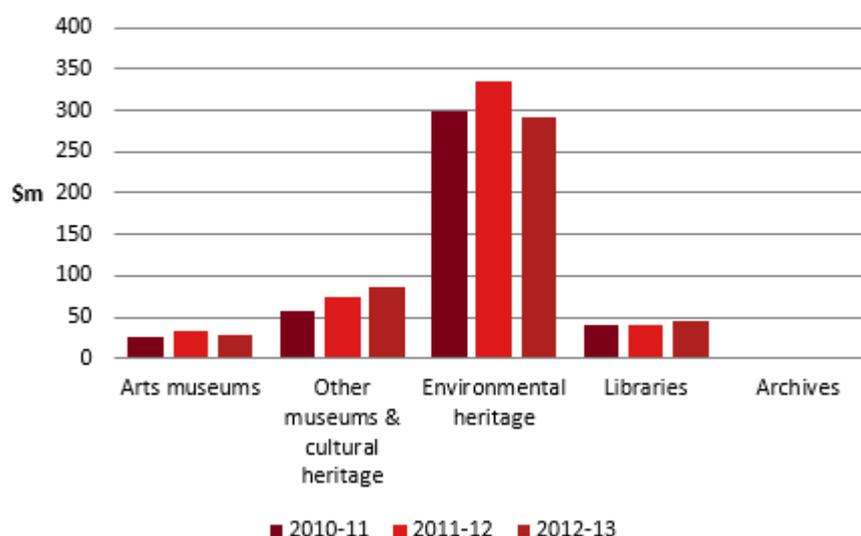
Please note updates to the data presented in this profile are available in the data tables at [Cultural Data Online](#).

### Cultural Funding by Government, 2012-13

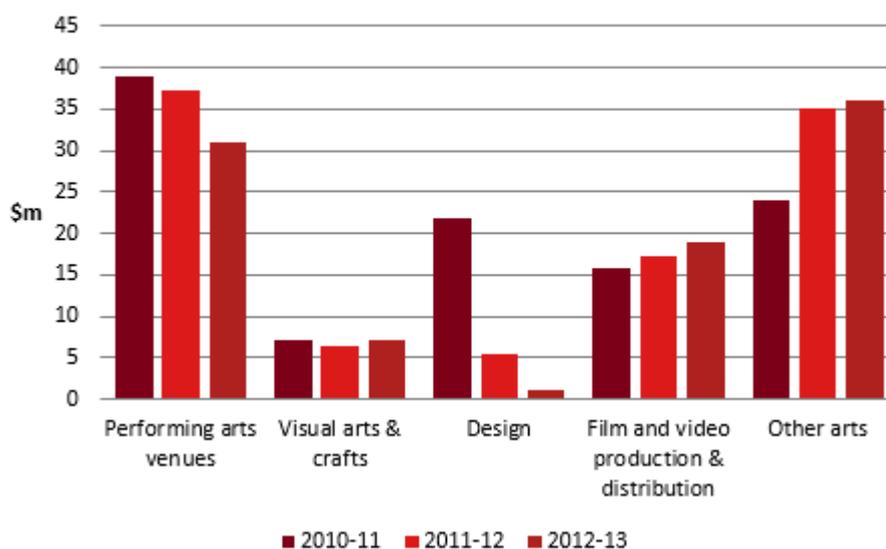
The below commentary presents an overview of expenditure on cultural activities funded by Government, based on results from the Cultural Funding by Government, Australia, 2012-13 ([cat. no. 4183.0](#)) collection conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Refer to **Table 1.1** in spreadsheets.

- In 2012-13, the estimate of total cultural expenditure by the Western Australian Government was \$581.1m, representing 18% of the cultural expenditure by all state and territory governments.
- Recurrent expenses accounted for over three quarters (78%) of Western Australian Government cultural expenditure.
- The 2012-13 estimate of per person expenditure was \$234.50.
- In the five years to 2011-12, total cultural expenditure by the WA Government had been increasing steadily from \$425.5m in 2007-08 to \$614.4m in 2011-12; an increase of 44%. In 2012-13 however, the expenditure fell 5.4% to \$581.1m, sitting squarely between the 2010-11 and 2009-10 estimates.
- As a portion of total cultural funding, the expenditure for Heritage activities fell 6.3% to \$453.0m. This fall was largely attributable to decreases in expenditure on Environmental heritage and Art museums of \$43.7m and \$5.0m respectively. However, the overall decrease was partially offset by increases in Other museums and cultural heritage (\$14.1m) and Libraries (\$3.9m). Refer to **Graph 1** below.
- The expenditure for Arts activities decreased slightly since the previous year by 2.1% to \$128.1m. The distribution of expenditure across the categories changed over this period, with decreases in Performing arts venues (\$6.3m) and Design (\$4.3m) being offset in part by small expenditure increases across half the categories. Refer to **Graph 2** below.

**Graph 1 - Western Australian Government heritage expenditure**



**Graph 2 - Western Australian Government arts expenditure,  
By selected categories**



## Participation in Cultural Activities by Children, 2012

This commentary outlines data from the 2012 Survey of Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (cat. no. 4901.0) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to present an overview of children aged 5-14 years and their interaction with the cultural sector. Refer to **Tables 2.1 – 2.7** in spreadsheets.

- In the 12 months prior to April 2012, 34% (100,600) of children aged 5-14 years in Western Australia participated in at least one of five organised cultural activities outside of school hours.
- Playing a musical instrument was the most popular organised activity with 16% of children in Western Australia involved. By comparison, 15% were involved in dancing, 6% in organised art and craft, and 4% were involved in singing and drama.
- Almost half of all girls (46%) in Western Australia participated in at least one organised cultural activity compared with less than a quarter of boys (23%).
- The most popular activities for girls were dancing and playing a musical instrument with 40,000 (28%) and 26,300 (18%) participants respectively. Almost all children (97%) who participated in dancing took lessons in the 12 months prior to interview.
- For boys the most popular activity was playing a musical instrument attracting 22,400 (15%) participants with almost three quarters (73%) receiving lessons. A similar proportion (75%) of girls who played a musical instrument received lessons.
- Interest in dancing generally declined as children grew older with those aged 5-8 years participating in this activity at twice the rate of those in the 12-14 year age group (21% and 10% respectively). By contrast, interest in playing a musical instrument generally increased with age. Children in the 12-14 year age group participated in this activity at almost three times the rate of those aged 5-8 years (22% and 8% respectively).
- Results from the survey indicate that children from couple families (36%) were more likely to have participated in at least one of the organised cultural activities than those from single parent families (28%). There is not enough evidence to conclude that this difference is statistically significant.
- In Western Australia, children involved in dancing, organised art and craft and playing a musical instrument spent between four and five hours, on average, engaged in these activities in the last two weeks of school prior to interview. Most of the participants engaged in these activities reported durations of two or less hours although 16% of dancers participated for ten hours or more.

- Children in Western Australia spent more time, on average, engaged in almost all organised cultural activities than the national average. Time spent playing a musical instrument was similar to the national average.

## Participation in Cultural Activities by Adults, 2013-14

This commentary uses data from the Cultural Participation survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics ([cat. no. 4921.0](#)) to present an overview of people aged 15 years and over and their interaction with the cultural sector via participation in a selection of cultural activities. Refer to **Tables 3.1 – 3.3** in spreadsheets.

- Just over a quarter (28% or 554,500 people) of the population aged 15 years and over living in Western Australia participated in at least one cultural activity in the 12 months prior to interview. The rate of participation for Western Australia was marginally higher than the national rate of 27%.
- Western Australian females participated in selected cultural activities at a higher rate than males (31% and 24% respectively). These figures were in line with national participation rates (30% and 24% respectively).
- In Western Australia, 15-24 year olds had the highest participation, with around one third (36%) participating in selected cultural activities. In comparison, typically around a quarter of the population of the older age groups participated.
- In 2013-14, twenty nine percent (29%) of Western Australians born in Australia participated in selected cultural activities compared with 25% who were born overseas.
- Over half of participants (301,100 people or 54%) participated in one activity, around a quarter (125,400 people or 23%) participated in two activities and over one in ten (71,900 or 13%) participated in three activities.
- With a participation rate of 10%, jewellery making, textile, paper or wood crafts were the most popular cultural activity in Western Australia attracting 198,500 participants. By comparison, 8% participated in sculpting, painting, drawing or cartooning (including digital pieces), whilst 5.7% were involved in photography, film-making or editing (apart from recording personal events).
- Rates of participation in Western Australia were similar to those at the national level across the majority of cultural activities.

## Employment in Cultural Occupations and Industries, 2011 Census

This commentary presents ABS data on employed persons 15 years and over from the Employment in Culture publication ([cat. no. 6273.0](#)) on selected cultural occupations and industries from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The selection of 'cultural' occupations and industries in this instance were aligned with the occupation and industry classification of the Australian Culture and Leisure Classification (ACLC - Second edition [cat. no. 4902.0](#)). Refer to **Tables 4.1 – 4.13** in spreadsheets.

### Cultural Employment over time – 2006 and 2011

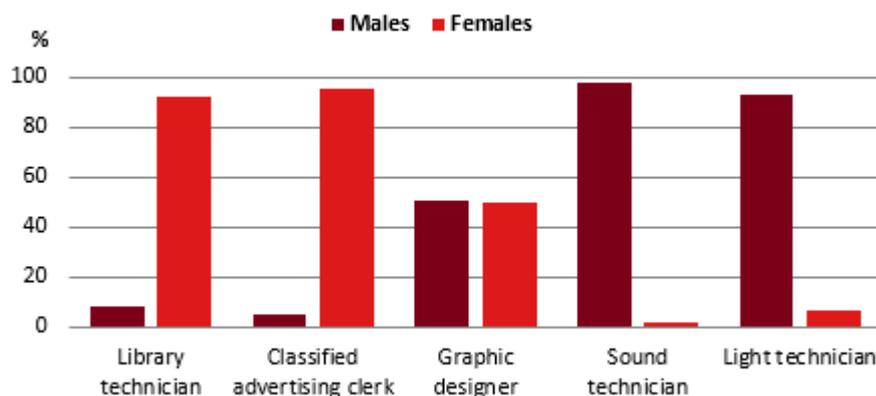
- In the 2011 Census there were 27,589 persons employed in a cultural occupation in their main job in Western Australia, an increase of 12% from the 24,629 persons reported in the 2006 Census. Whilst increases were recorded across all three broad occupation groups (i.e. heritage occupations, arts occupations and other cultural occupations), growth in employment within the arts occupation was the main driver.
- The greatest increase was reported for architects and urban planners, with 889 (26%) more persons reporting these occupations in 2011 compared with 2006. A similar increase was experienced in occupations including graphic designers, interior designers and web developers, with the number of persons employed collectively as design workers increasing by 878 persons (20%).
- Offsetting the growth in arts occupations was a fall in the number of persons employed as printing workers. Incorporating occupations such as printing machinists, graphic pre-press trade workers and printers' assistants, there were 546 (down 24%) fewer persons employed than in 2006.

- In the 2011 Census there were 29,573 persons employed in a cultural industry in their main job in Western Australia, an increase of 6% from the 27,896 persons reported in 2006. This increase was driven by the arts industry group (1,352 persons), with smaller increases in the heritage industry group (253 persons) and the other cultural occupation group (72 persons).

### Cultural Occupations by Sex and Age

- More males (13,925) than females (13,665) were employed in cultural occupations in Western Australia. There were also more males than females employed in cultural occupations nationally.
- The majority of sound technicians (98%) and light technicians (93%) employed in cultural occupations in Western Australia were male. All make-up artists (100%), and the majority of classified advertising clerks (95%), and library technicians (92%) were female. Refer to **Graph 3** below.
- Persons aged 15 to 24 years made up 12% of all persons employed in cultural occupations in Western Australia which was above the national average of 10%. The cultural occupations with the largest number of employed persons aged 15 to 24 years were graphic designer (262), music teacher (private tuition) (227), architectural draftsman (199), dance teacher (private tuition) (184), and urban and regional planner (139).

**Graph 3 - Persons employed in selected cultural occupations<sup>(a)(b)</sup>, Western Australia, 2011**



(a) In their main job in the week prior to Census night.  
 (b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

### Cultural Occupations by Other Demographic Characteristics

- Of the 27,589 persons employed in cultural occupations in Western Australia, 34% (9,472) were born overseas. Of these, 59% (5,556) originated from a main English speaking country, compared with 47% nationally.
- The cultural occupations with the largest number of employed persons born overseas were graphic designer (721), minister of religion (685), architect (576), architectural draftsman (547) and library technician (461).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples made up 2% (432) of all persons employed in cultural occupations for their main job in Western Australia. The cultural occupations employing the largest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were park ranger (87), painter (visual arts) (70), social professionals, nec (46), minister of religion and radio presenter (both 12).
- The cultural occupations employing 50 persons or more with the largest proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were park ranger (42%) and painter (visual arts) (27%).
- Of all persons employed in cultural occupations as their main job in Western Australia, 42% received a gross weekly income of \$1,000 or more per week. In comparison, 43% of all persons employed in cultural occupations nationally received a gross weekly income of \$1,000 or more per week. Some 13% of those employed in cultural occupations in Western Australia received a gross weekly income between \$600 and \$799, another 13% received between \$800 and \$999, 12%

received between \$400 and \$599, 5% received between \$200 and \$299 and a further 5% less than \$200.

- Over a quarter (26%) of dance teachers (private tuition) in Western Australia received a gross weekly income of less than \$200 per week. In contrast, the majority of environmental managers (95%), and urban and regional planners (86%) received a gross weekly income of \$1,000 or more per week.
- In 2011, 59% (16,192) of persons employed in cultural occupations as their main job in Western Australia were working at least 35 hours per week, while 14% (3,948) reported that they worked between 1 and 15 hours, and 11% each worked between 16 and 24 hours (3,001), and 25 and 34 hours (3,036).
- The majority of persons working in cultural occupations lived in the Greater Perth area (23,857), compared with 3,671 persons living in the rest of Western Australia.

### **Cultural Industries by Sex and Age**

- Interestingly, more females (15,259) than males (14,314) were employed in cultural industries in Western Australia, which was not the case nationally.
- Persons aged 15 to 24 years made up 18% of all persons employed in cultural industries in Western Australia. Cultural industries with the largest number of persons employed aged 15 to 24 years were newspaper and book retailing (786), motion picture exhibition (741), video and other electronic media rental (523), newspaper publishing (439) and arts education (401).
- The cultural industry with the largest proportion of persons employed aged 55 years and over was religious services (35%). In contrast, motion picture exhibition accounted for 5% of all persons aged 55 years and over employed in cultural industries in Western Australia for their main job.

### **Cultural Industries by Other Demographic Characteristics**

- Of the 29,571 persons employed in cultural industries in Western Australia, 9,488 (32%) were born overseas. Nearly two thirds of these (61%) were from a main English speaking country (5,798).
- The cultural industries with the largest number of employed persons born overseas were architectural services (1,332), religious services (1,050), printing (956), newspaper publishing (849), and newspaper and book retailing (722).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples made up 1% (338) of all persons employed in cultural industries in Western Australia. The cultural industries employing the most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were creative artists, musicians, writers and performers (93), nature reserves and conservation parks operation (49), arts education (19), radio broadcasting (17) and religious services (16).
- The cultural industry employing the largest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was nature reserves and conservation parks operation (9%).
- The cultural industry with the largest number of persons receiving a gross income of \$1,000 or more per week in Western Australia was architectural services (2,513). By comparison, the newspaper and book retailing industry had the largest number of persons receiving a gross weekly income of less than \$200 per week (487).
- More than half (55%) of those employed in cultural industries as their main job in Western Australia reported that they worked at least 35 hours per week, 11% worked 16 to 24 hours, a further 11% worked 25 to 34 hours, and 19% worked between 1 and 15 hours.
- In the week prior to the 2011 Census, 41% of those employed in cultural industries worked part-time (between 1 and 34 hours per week).
- The majority of persons employed in cultural industries lived in Greater Perth (25,348) compared with 4,161 persons living in the rest of Western Australia.

## Cultural and Creative Industry Business Counts, 2014-15

The cultural and creative industry business counts were drawn from the ABS Counts of Australian Businesses ([cat. no. 8165.0](#)) comprised of actively trading businesses in the Australian economy. The cultural and creative industry component was selected on the basis of the industry coverage and classification used in the ABS Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Accounts, 2008-09, ([cat. no. 5271.0](#)), which includes 43 ANZSIC codes. Refer to **Tables 5.1 – 5.2** in spreadsheets.

- At June 2015, the number of actively trading Western Australian cultural and creative businesses had fallen by 207 to 13,279 (2% fall) from the June 2014 total of 13,486. This fall was twice what was experienced at the national level.
- At June 2015, Computer System Design and Related Services were the most common cultural and creative industry class making up over a quarter (28%) of the total number of cultural and creative businesses in Western Australia. With an increase in business numbers over this period, up by 33 to 3,704 (up 1%). Over half (57%) of these were non-employing, while 41% had between 1-19 employees. The majority of the remaining businesses in this class employed 20-199 employees, with 5 employing 200 or more employees.
- Architectural Services and Other Specialised Design Services were the next most common cultural and creative businesses in Western Australia with 1,555 and 1,160 businesses in Western Australia respectively.

## Cultural Attendance, 2013-14

This commentary uses data from the Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2013-14 survey ([cat. no. 4114.0](#)) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which provides estimates of people aged 15 years and over who attended a range of cultural venues and events in the 12 months prior to interview. Refer to **Table 6.1** in spreadsheets.

- In 2013-14, eighty eight percent of Western Australians attended at least one cultural venue or event. Nationally, the attendance rate was 86%.
- A little over two thirds of Western Australians (68%) attended a Cinema in 2013-14. In comparison, around one third (34%) attended a Library, and just over a quarter attended Museums and Art galleries (28% and 26% respectively).
- In respect to cultural events, over one third (35%) of Western Australians attended Popular music concerts, while around one in five attended Other performing arts events or Theatre performances (21% and 18% respectively). Nationally, the attendance rates for cultural events followed a similar pattern.

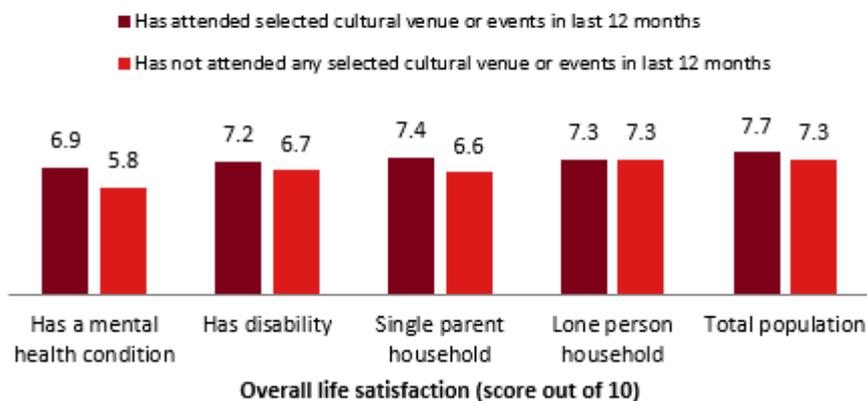
## Cultural Attendance and Disadvantage, 2014

This commentary was produced based on data collected from the 2014 General Social Survey ([cat. no. 4159.0](#)), conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The purpose of the collection is to provide an understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across populations. Key factors influencing an individual's social inclusion were collected, including cultural attendance data. Data was collected from persons aged 15 years and over. Refer to **Tables 7.1 – 7.5** in spreadsheets.

- In 2014, almost ninety percent of Western Australians (89%) aged 15 years and over attended a selected cultural venue or event in the last 12 months, slightly above the national attendance rate.
- Ninety three percent (93%) of Western Australians in a couple family household with children attended a cultural venue or event compared to seventy eight percent (78%) of Lone person households.
- Almost ninety percent (89%) of Western Australians with a highest non-school qualification of a Certificate level or diploma attended a cultural venue or event compared to 83% for No non-school qualification.

- Ninety percent of Western Australians living in major cities attended a cultural venue or event compared to 84% of people living in outer regional and remote areas and 82% of people living in inner regional WA.
- Western Australians aged 15 years and over mean overall life satisfaction was higher across all but one selected characteristics (Lone person households) for those who had attended a selected cultural venue or event in the last 12 months. This was particularly true for those with a mental illness (6.9 compared to 5.8) and persons in single-parent households (7.4 compared to 6.6). Refer to **Graph 4** below.
- Of those who did not visit a public library in the last 12 months, nearly two thirds (65%) stated the main reason was a lack of interest or need. The next most common barrier to visiting a public library was no time.

**Graph 4 - Overall mean life satisfaction, Western Australia, By selected characteristics, 2014**



## Cultural Attendance and Disability, 2012

This commentary was based on data collected in the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012 ([cat. no. 4430.0](#)), designed to measure the prevalence of disability in Australia and provide a profile of those with disability, their carer's and older people. Refer to **Table 8.1** in spreadsheets.

- In 2012, for Western Australians aged 5-64 years with disability, 59% had visited a movie, concert, theatre or performing arts event in the last 12 months, 36% had visited a public library and nearly 24% had visited a museum or art gallery.
- For Western Australians aged 65 years and over with disability, over one third (36%) had visited a movie, concert, theatre or performing arts event in the last 12 months, just over a quarter (26%) had visited a public library and a sixth (17%) had visited a museum or art gallery.
- For persons employed in cultural and creative occupations in Western Australia, 9.3% or around 3,800 have disability. This is in line with the national estimate.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Involvement in Cultural Activities, 2014-15

Commentary below details relevant results of the 2014-15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (cat. no. 4714.0). The purpose of this survey is to bring together a wide range of information to link across areas of social concern including cultural involvement. The population of reference are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over. Refer to **Table 9.1** in spreadsheets.

- In 2014-15, over two thirds (69%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia were involved in selected cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in the last 12 months. This was slightly above the national level of 63%.
- Half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia were involved with funerals/sorry business. This proportion increases to over two thirds (69%) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in remote areas.
- In comparison, just over one third (36%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were involved in NAIDOC week activities and around a quarter (25%) were involved in sports carnivals (excluding NAIDOC activities).
- An estimated 7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia receive income from selected cultural activities.