

# Arts and Culture State and Territory Profiles

## Data quality document

The State and Territory Profiles have been prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on behalf of the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Statistics Working Group. The testing and processes referred to below are standard ABS practices.

### Data reference periods

The data sources referred to in the State and Territory Profiles have different reference periods and are therefore not directly comparable in respect of time.

### Data comparisons

Significance testing was used in preparing this document. Significance testing is a measure used to compare survey data, from a single data source, to determine statistically significant differences (eg. detecting true differences between the proportion of male and female participation). Comparisons made between overlapping populations (eg. state and national figures) do not fit within this standard test as the test assumes populations are independent of one another. Caution should be used when making such comparisons.

### Random perturbation of table cells

To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released.

These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. Perturbed statistics in these tables are consistent with statistics released via services such as Table Builder.

### Survey outputs and sampling error

Sampling error occurs as a result of using a sample from a population (a survey) rather than conducting a complete enumeration of the population (census). It refers to the difference between an estimate from a survey and the 'true' value of the population which would result if a census was taken.

### Non-sampling errors

Non-sampling errors are caused by factors other than those that relate to sample selection. It refers to the presence of any factors that result in the data values not accurately reflecting the 'true' value of the population. Non-sampling error can occur at any stage of a census or sample survey, and are not easily identified or quantified. Types of non-sampling errors include coverage errors, non-response errors, response errors, interviewer errors and processing errors.

### More information

For more information about the characteristics and fitness of the data used in these profiles, the ABS publishes detailed Explanatory Notes, Quality Declarations and other relevant information on the ABS Website. Please see the following links for details.

[Census of Population and Housing](#)  
[Cultural Funding 2012-13](#)  
[Children's Cultural Participation 2012](#)  
[Adult Cultural Participation 2013-14](#)  
[Counts of Australian Businesses 2011-2015](#)

[Cultural Attendance 2013-14](#)  
[General Social Survey 2014](#)  
[Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2012](#)  
[National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2014-15](#)