



NGAA Submission: Towards a new National Cultural Policy


May 2026

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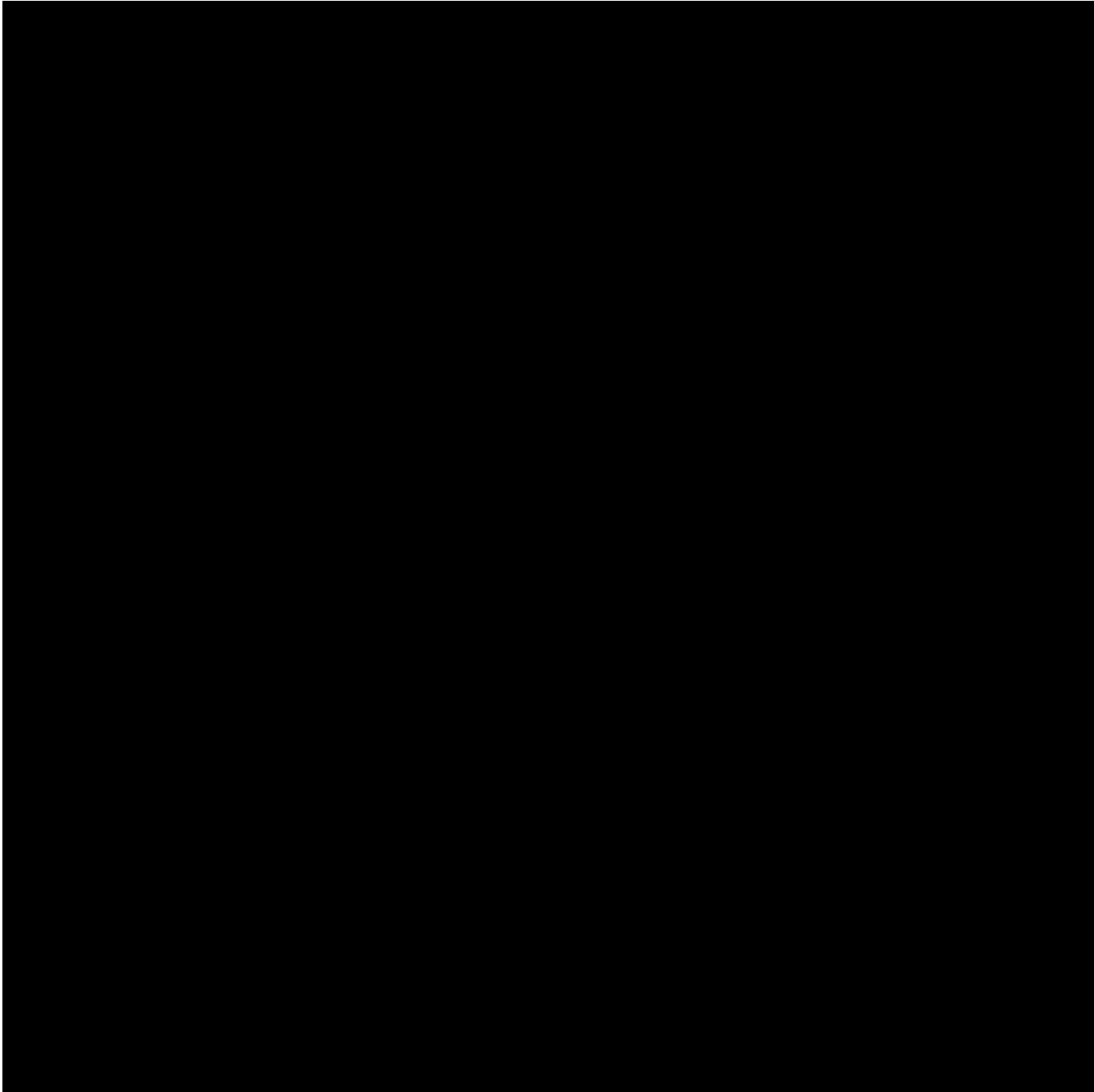
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The National Growth Areas Alliance is hosted by the City of Casey, Victoria

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ww.ngaa.org.au

Cover Image: ArtRise Precinct, Jacksons Hill, City of Hume, Victoria

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands across Australia on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognise their rich culture and their enduring connection to Country and the role this plays in shaping thriving and resilient communities.

A National Cultural Policy for a new Australia

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Government's consultation on the next National Cultural Policy. This submission draws on NGAA research and member evidence and expert advice from the NGAA National Cultural Policy Workshop held on 23 April 2026.

NGAA represents Australia's fastest-growing local government areas (LGAs) located on the outer-metropolitan and peri-urban regions of our capital cities. These 29 LGAs, referred to in this submission as 'Growth Areas' make up only 5 per cent of all Australia's LGAs but are home to over 6 million people - 22 per cent of Australia's population - where young families are raising one quarter of the nation's children.

NGAA strongly supports the foundations established under *Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place* and welcomes the Government's commitment to consecutive national cultural policies.

The NGAA argues that outer metropolitan Growth Areas are nationally significant regions, with untapped cultural and creative potential among their young and diverse communities. Our Growth Areas should be clearly identified, valued and equitably resourced in the new National Cultural Policy to fully realise their unique contribution to Australian culture and our national story.

Our submission is grounded in the view that there are untapped potential and opportunities to strengthen the five pillars of Australia's cultural and creative expression in growth area communities. Local government remains underutilised in its capacity to shape the wellbeing of its communities. With short-term, inconsistent and insufficient funding, councils cannot fully meet their responsibilities as stewards of the people and place.

This submission positions local government as fundamental to the equitable delivery of national priorities. From this foundation, we outline the essential role our member councils are playing in Australia's housing shortages and make the case for sustained investment in community-building facilities, cultural infrastructure, services and programs to support this growth.

Australia's fastest growing new communities

There is a growing awareness of the importance of the contribution of arts and culture for wellbeing, social cohesion and resilience, both locally and nationally. These opportunities are vitally important for the newest and fast-growing communities. And while the priorities of the Australian Government remain front of mind (housing, climate, productivity and cost of living), Australians are also embracing new ways of experiencing and expressing culture, identity and community through creative practice.

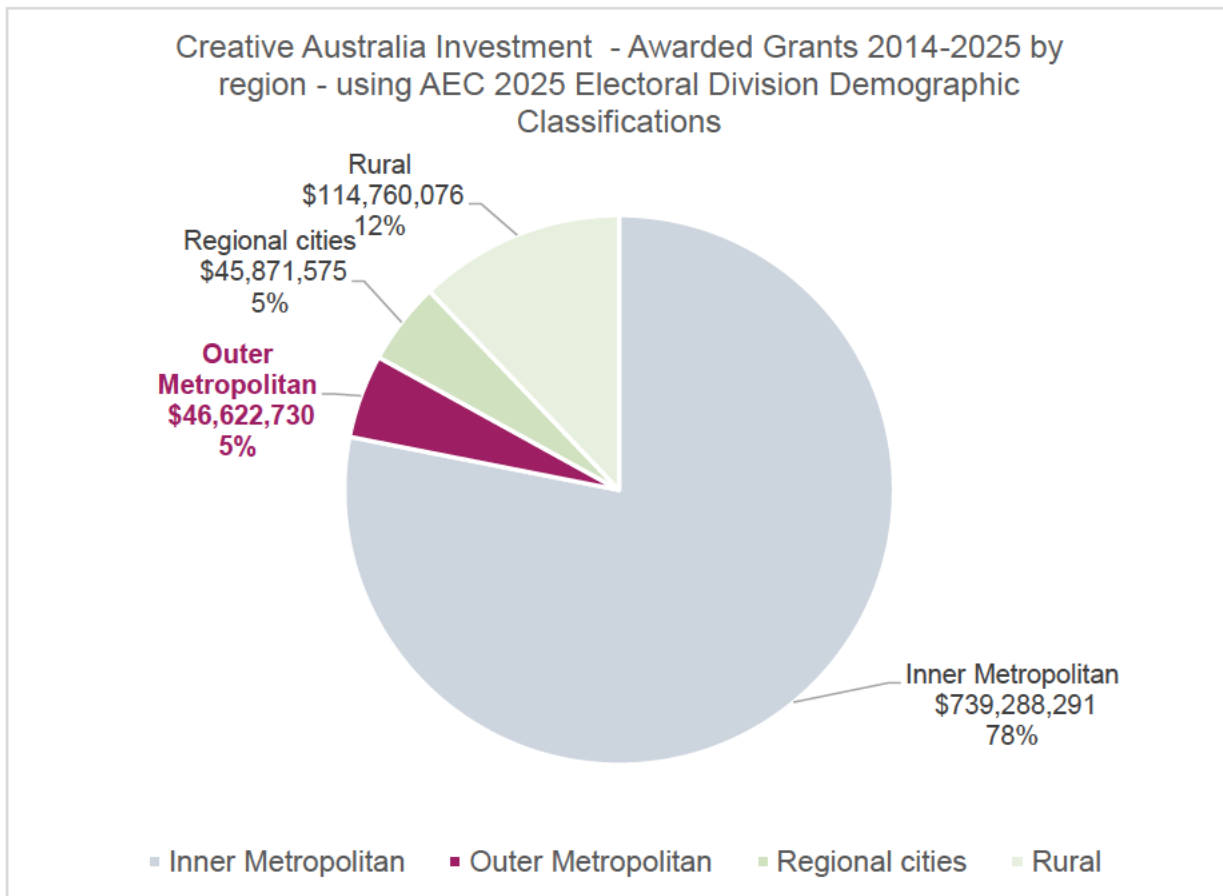
Growth Areas communities are young, diverse and creative, with high numbers of First Nations people living in tandem with people from a multitude of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who have chosen these areas to meet their aspirations. When new suburbs grow quickly and large numbers of residents arrive to begin their lives in new neighbourhoods, deliberate effort and investment is required to ensure a positive and cohesive community identity can form. Long-term inequitable infrastructure funding in Growth Areas continues to place our communities at risk of disadvantage and their potential unfilled.

The current investment in arts and culture is not aligned to population growth

Our capital cities have continued to expand geographically, yet investment priorities remain focused on established city centres where national cultural institutions are based. Cultural infrastructure and program funding is too coarsely segmented into metropolitan and regional categories. Regional areas have designated cultural funding programs, but Growth Areas do not. This has meant that funding, touring and other initiatives have tended to leapfrog new communities in Growth Areas, and are concentrated either in inner city locations in capital cities and/or regional centres. These patterns persist despite the clear demographic and economic importance of Growth Area communities.

The leading think tank for arts and culture, A New Approach (ANA), has highlighted that Government expenditure in arts and culture is not keeping pace with population growth¹. This is especially true for Growth Areas. In the last five years Growth Areas’ population grew by more than 650,000 - 43% of Australia’s growth. Yet outer metropolitan areas received only an average of 5% awarded grants over that time.

Figure 1 Creative Australia Awarded Grants by regions



Source: Creative Australia, Awarded Grants 2014-2025² and Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Federal Electoral Division Demographic Classifications³, data compiled by NGAA.

The population growth trajectory is set to continue. **Growth areas have been earmarked to deliver over one quarter of the 1.2 million dwellings under National Housing Accord by 2029.** In 2024-25 alone, growth area councils recorded 64,335 dwelling approvals - almost half of all dwelling approvals across Australia’s capital cities.⁴ As a result, over 7 million people are projected to be living in Growth Areas by 2031.

Access to cultural infrastructure is lower in Growth Areas than inner-city areas

There is a vast and widening gap between population growth and investment in arts and culture in Growth Areas, despite significant investment by their own councils. While the rate of population growth in Growth Areas is around twice the national average, the level of access to cultural infrastructure which includes, facilities like libraries, art galleries and museums, theatres and cinemas is almost half that of inner-city areas.

ANA argue that 'this data indicates that governments should pursue strategic and structural change to maximise government investment in Australia's arts and culture system⁵⁷. The NGAA believes that Australia's arts and culture system will be strengthened by recognising and investing in the untapped creative and cultural potential of growth area communities.

The NGAA recommends that a new national cultural policy that better reflects Australia's contemporary society is necessary. This objective can be achieved with three key reforms to Australia's cultural ecosystem:

1. A new geographical classification for Growth Areas

Apply a new geographical standard that identifies Growth Areas as a distinct metropolitan region within their capital cities, based on population growth, housing and location.

This classification would pave the way for Federal and State Government investment and policies to be planned and reported on in line with metropolitan geography and re-balance programming to match population growth.

2. Place-based infrastructure investment and program resourcing

This review is another opportunity to make the case for place-based investment and program resourcing in cultural infrastructure in Growth Areas, to both fill the deficit and create equitable access for current and future populations. This is particularly timely given that Growth Areas will accommodate 26% of the Federal Government Housing Accord target of 1.2 million new homes by 2029.

3. Closer collaboration with local government

Our member councils' research, strategies and advocacy priorities show the vibrancy and diversity of cultural practice in Growth Areas. Councils constantly engage with their communities about their needs and aspirations while planning and programming a vast array of cultural and creative initiatives, responding to community and private sector-led activities and identifying the need for places/infrastructure to allow for creative practice and cultural expression.

The new National Cultural Policy should include separately identified and dedicated policy initiatives that support equitable access to arts and cultural opportunities in Growth Areas.

With the development of a new National Cultural Policy there is the opportunity to direct a more equitable share of arts and culture funding for infrastructure and projects and programs to where Australia's population and creative potential is growing fastest.

A positive example of Australian Government support for Growth Areas is the national Telecommunications in New Developments (TIND) policy. The TIND policy objectives for the provision of telecommunications in new developments aim to provide people moving into new developments with ready access to modern fixed and mobile telecommunications services, including broadband and voice and fosters efficiency, innovation and choice.

A new National Cultural Policy in the 2026-27 Budget

The Australian Government has included a \$1.1 billion arts and culture package in the 2026–27 Federal Budget, with increased funding for Creative Australia, targeted support for national collecting institutions and new investment in cultural infrastructure projects across the country. Budget papers show arts and cultural spending will total \$4.6 billion over the forward estimates, with major commitments directed toward museums, archives, screen production and First Nations initiatives⁶.

The NGAA recommends that Growth Areas are prioritised for new cultural initiatives within the budget to support Australia's newest, youngest and most diverse communities.

Why Growth Areas matter to National Cultural Policy

The 2025 Population Statement and Centre for Population data show that capital cities make up over two-thirds (68% or 18,752,600 people) of Australia's population. Capital cities are expected to grow nearly twice as fast as other areas, accounting for 80% of the projected increase of more than 2.7 million people by 2035-36.

These trends underscore the need to adjust government policy and programs to reflect and respond to variations *within* cities.

Growth Areas are distinct in terms of their population growth rates, location on the outer metropolitan periphery of our capital cities, significant greenfield development, long term lags in strategic and social infrastructure delivery resulting in lower access to community facilities and services for their diverse and growing communities. These differences have significant implications for planning, funding, and ultimately, equity and social cohesion.

There is untapped potential for enhancing Australia's arts and cultural practice in growth areas. This potential can only be fully realised if policy and programming firstly acknowledge growth areas as distinct *metropolitan regions* and address their unique challenges and opportunities in collaboration with their local government as they help shape Australia's newest communities and places.

Growth Areas are nationally significant metropolitan regions

Growth areas are defined by rapid population growth that consistently outpaces the delivery of social, cultural and civic infrastructure. They experience higher proportions of children and young people, significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and high levels of cultural and linguistic diversity.

In the last five years Growth Areas population grew by more than 650,000 - 43% of Australia's growth over that time. Higher birth rates than the national average mean one in four Australian children already live in Growth Areas. This trajectory is set to continue, with over 7 million people projected to be living in Growth Areas by 2031.

Growth Areas generate \$713.5 billion in annual economic output, with the manufacturing sector making the greatest contribution. Even with a local jobs shortfall relative to resident workers, Growth Areas support 1.6 million jobs, including 10% of Australia's arts and recreational sector workforce.

Growth Area councils are the major funder for arts and culture in their areas

Local government is the primary funder and facilitator of arts and culture in growth areas, contributing to cultural infrastructure, programming, support for local and emerging artists and audience access. Local governments in growth areas invest millions each year in library services,

arts programs, maintaining cultural infrastructure, arts grants, public art and heritage sites meeting the demands of our diverse communities, artists and creative businesses. There are many examples of innovative multi-purpose centres being delivered that combine arts, cultural and creative expression with community social services that are helping our communities thrive.

Councils are the primary source of funding for local arts and culture - Bunjil Place, City of Casey, Victoria

The City of Casey is one of Australia's most populated growth areas. Home to 414,929 residents in Melbourne's southeast growth corridor, it is located 40 kilometres from Melbourne's Arts Precinct and the CBD. The City of Casey invests \$19 million per annum in arts and culture and is renowned for its iconic arts and entertainment hub, [Bunjil Place](#).

Almost all (92%) of the \$125 million cost of this unique community, arts, and civic precinct was financed by Council, with \$10 million from the Australian Government's Stronger Regions Fund and a grant from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Fund for the regional library.

Bunjil Place brings together an outstanding mix of facilities including an outdoor community plaza, theatre, multipurpose studio, function centre, library, gallery and City of Casey Customer Service Centre, all in one award winning place that welcomes over one million visitors annually.⁷



Figure 2 Bunjil Place, City of Casey, Victoria

Australia has untapped cultural experiences and creative potential in Growth Areas

Growth Area populations are growing at twice the rate of population growth than the Australian average

First Nations

- 136,508 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in Growth Areas
- 2.6% of the Growth Area population - a higher proportion than the 5 greater capital city average (1.8%) and higher than in each of the five capital cities.

Places

- 29 LGAs in outer metropolitan areas in five capital cities covering 20,629 hectares of a wide variety of landscapes and land uses

Artists

- 20,000 employees in arts and recreational services, 10% of the sector

Infrastructure

- Access to arts and cultural facilities is 44% lower than non-growth areas

Audience

- 6.02 million residents (in 2025), 22% of Australian population

Creative arts and cultural potential

- 1 in 4 Australian children
- 1.5 million residents (28%) who speak a language other than English at home

Growth Areas communities need better access to cultural infrastructure and opportunities

Funding does not match population growth

- Outer metropolitan areas where 22% of the population live, receive only 5% of cultural funding

Distance is greater from Growth Areas to cultural institutions and educational opportunities

- Growth Area communities are located on the urban periphery, often more than 50 kilometres and as far as 70 kilometres from their capital city CBD based cultural institutions and educational opportunities, with limited public transport options

Access is lower in Growth Areas to cultural infrastructure (see Appendix 2)

- **Access to cultural infrastructure is 44% less in Growth Areas** than non-growth areas
- **44% of households in Growth Areas have good access to a library** compared to 70% of households in non-growth areas
- **23% of households in Growth Areas have good access have access to a cinema or theatre** compared to 41% of households in non-growth areas.
- **4% of households in Growth Areas have good access to a museum or art gallery** compared to 22% of households in non-growth areas.

Reform 1. Define Growth Areas in the new National Cultural Policy

Despite representing Australia's demographic future, Growth Areas are largely invisible in national cultural policy and funding frameworks. National investment remains concentrated in inner-city precincts, flagship institutions and established cultural economies. A persistent barrier to equitable funding is the absence of a formal national growth area classification.

NGAA recommends a standardised growth area geographic classification be applied to cultural policy, programs and funding to enable transparent investment tracking and targeted policy design.

Apply a standard geographical classification for Growth Areas

Differences in settlement patterns across regional Australia have long been understood using the nationally accepted Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) in terms of four remoteness regions: inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas. Because Growth Areas are classified within capital cities, they are often excluded from funding and touring programs, with funding for cultural activities 'leapfrogging' from inner city institutions to regional areas.

Government policy recognition that people living in regional Australia have less access to arts and cultural initiatives has led to dedicated funding through the Regional Arts grants. Creative Australia invests 90% of its budget in arts and creativity through various programs, partnerships and initiatives. In 2024-25 Creative Australia made a total of \$285.8 million investment in the sector. Of this investment, \$39 million or 13.6% funded artists, organisations and initiatives where the applicant was based in regional Australia.

An additional \$9.1 million was invested in touring from non-regionally based applicants to regional Australia via specific initiatives including Playing Australia, the Contemporary Music Touring Program and the Contemporary Touring Initiative. This brings the total investment in regional Australia to \$48.1 million or 17% of the total sector investment.

A new fund, the Creative Futures Fund was established with \$7.8 million in investment to support 20 ambitious, large-scale creative projects, from across every state and territory and aiming to deliver greater impact. Of the 20 projects funded, two projects were identifiably based in Growth Areas, amounting to less than 3% of the total sector investment⁸.

There is no equivalent cultural funding program dedicated specifically for growth regions within major cities.

The lack of a definitive and transparent methodology to distinguish Growth Areas within Greater Capital Cities, limits the recognition of these distinct metropolitan regions in state and federal government policy and programs, contributing to spatial inequities that impact their communities.

Developing a new geographical classification for National Growth Areas

The NGAA is partnering with the University of Adelaide's Australian Centre for Housing Research (ACHR) to develop a transparent methodology, and trialling a new, robust and repeatable classification of Growth Areas: see [A new geographical classification for National Growth Areas](#)⁹.

This classification will be based on robust, repeatable ABS data, available at the key spatial scales aligned with the Australian Standard Geographical Structure, to improve planning and deliver better targeted resource allocation across all portfolios.

Reform 2. Place-based investment is needed in Growth Areas to strengthen the five pillars of Australia's Cultural Policy

Growth areas present unique opportunities for enhancing each of the five pillars of cultural policy. At the same time, councils and communities in Growth Areas face significant challenges in cultivating and preserving the stories of their peoples and places. These challenges and opportunities must be specifically addressed in the new national cultural policy in a coordinated manner with states and in close collaboration with growth area councils to enhance Australia's cultural expression, experiences and participation.

NGAA recommends that the Australian government establishes a strategic place-based investment framework with a greater focus on facilitating equitable access to arts and cultural opportunities in Growth Areas to strengthen Australia's broader national arts and culture eco-system.

Pillar 1: First Nations First - Leadership in Growing Communities

Growth areas are increasingly important places for First Nations cultural leadership, truth-telling and intergenerational knowledge transmission. In 2021 there were 136,508 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Growth Areas an increase of 41% since 2016.

Growth areas in every state have a higher percentage of First Nations residents compared to their greater metropolitan area averages¹⁰

Table 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as a proportion of resident population

Capital city	Growth Areas %	Greater capital city %
Greater Sydney	2.8	1.6
Greater Melbourne	0.9	0.7
Greater Brisbane	3.8	2.8
Greater Adelaide	3.2	1.6
Greater Perth	2.5	1.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2021 (Usual residence). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

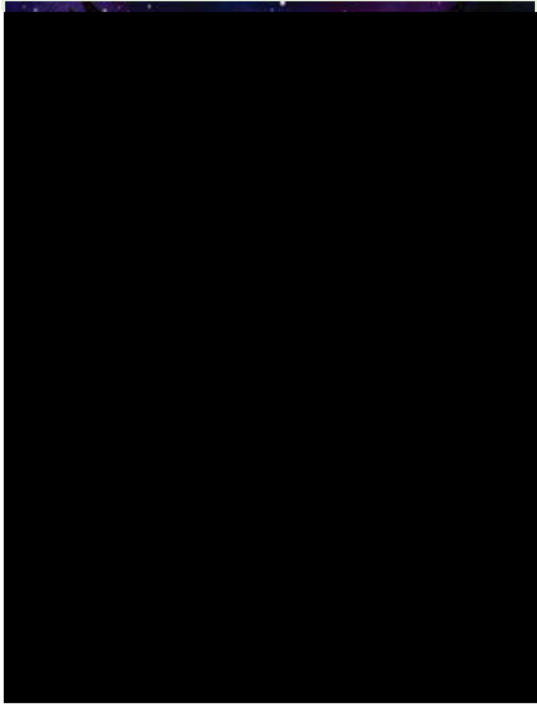
What's working well?

Growth area councils generally have strong ongoing collaboration with Aboriginal Development Units, arts teams and their First Nations communities and their organisations. Our members support First Nations-led festivals, public art, culturally safe programming, artist residencies and interpretive projects. They are also active in supporting the development and curation of dedicated spaces for First Nations communities as well as places for interaction.

Dedicated funding for community-led initiatives, like Victoria's [Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program](#) have helped create 14 Aboriginal Gathering Places, across Victoria. These Aboriginal Gathering Places are settings in which people practice and learn about local Aboriginal culture, history and place and have been found to support cultural learning but also create an environment for strengthening identity, improving health and building resilience¹¹.

Aboriginal Gathering Place, City of Whittlesea, Victoria

A newly created regional Aboriginal Gathering Place has been completed at *bunjil nganga* Parkland Quarry Hills, in the City of Whittlesea, Victoria.



It is an inclusive and culturally safe space where all First Peoples and their allies in broader community are welcome. Built on a site of living cultural heritage and historical significance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, determined and designed in collaboration and consultation with the Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group, the City of Whittlesea's Aboriginal Gathering Place celebrates First Nations culture through storytelling, knowledge sharing, cultural events and structured programming.

The Aboriginal Gathering Place is also a place of art making. In partnership with NBN Co, a public art series showcasing works from four First Nations artists. The art pieces, done in connection with Aboriginal Gathering Place, will be located across NBN node sites throughout the municipality.

This artwork is an example of the art created for the NBN Infrastructure. It represents Wurundjeri culture, healing and protection incorporating a beautiful image of Bunjil the wedge-tail eagle. The work is located near the Stables Shopping Centre in Mill Park.

Where are the gaps?

Much of the work with First Nations people in Growth Areas is funded through Council funds, advocacy, short-term grants and goodwill. In contrast to the Community Infrastructure Program in Victoria, there are currently no nationally consistent programs to support First Nations leadership and engagement within growth communities. This makes long-term financial planning difficult, as community needs often shift and many of these spaces require more secure, ongoing, operational funding to remain fully autonomous and sustainable¹².

NGAA member councils note that First Nations cultural engagement should sit **across arts, planning, community development and urban design**, not in isolation. Our members report that having dedicated roles, advisory bodies, gathering places and partnerships with First Nations organisations are critical enablers, alongside grant funding and culturally safe spaces.

What's needed now?

The new National Cultural Policy must

- embed long-term investment in First Nations cultural infrastructure within Growth Areas and recognise these communities as priority locations.
- ensure the nationally funded First Nations-led organisations and training institutions are funded to deliver programs in Growth Areas

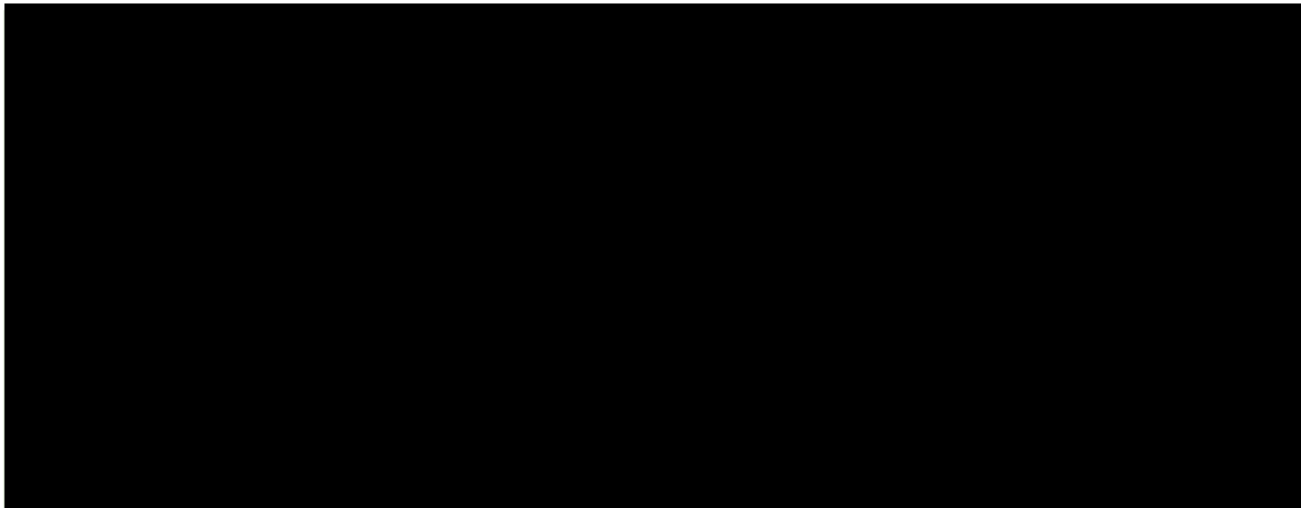


Figure 4 The Champion Centre, City of Armadale, Western Australia

Funding for First Nations community initiatives is needed in Growth Areas

In 2017 the City of Armadale sought funding to extend and upgrade the Champion Centre, the Seville Grove Community facility, and the outdoor community areas to provide effective and culturally appropriate community services for their First Nations communities as well as connecting the community with the natural environment. Following a comprehensive feasibility study and extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community, the project received a grant of \$4,060,000 from Lotterywest, to upgrade the Champion centre and library.

The redeveloped facility aimed to encourage collaboration between the centre's organisations and to provide a streamlined, comprehensive response to the complex needs of vulnerable families. Outdoor spaces were also planned to be enhanced to form an interconnected community hub across the eight facilities within the reserve. This included a 'yarning circle', Aboriginal art installations, rehabilitation of bushland, an outdoor classroom and nature play areas to help the community reconnect with the natural environment. The fully completed project is estimated to cost around \$29 million and the City of Armadale continues to seek funding to support the upgrade of these culturally significant facilities.

Pillar 2: A Place for Every Story - Place-Based Culture and Everyday Participation

Cultural participation in Growth Areas is highly place-based and adaptive. In the absence of purpose-built facilities, cultural participation occurs across a diverse mix of formal and informal settings including libraries, community halls, museums, galleries and performing arts centres, as well as parks, botanic gardens, sporting facilities and streets. In some Growth Areas however, residents have to travel significant distances with significantly less access to public transport to other local government areas to access and participate in cultural activities.

What's working well?

Growth areas communities are innovative in their use of informal and non-traditional settings for cultural engagement, such as pubs, wineries, industrial spaces, places of worship, heritage sites and outdoor public art trails and homes. Schools play a major role in cultural participation, particularly in Growth Areas. Public and private schools with theatres and halls often fill the gap in newly constructed communities.

There is a high demand for shared spaces and an increasing importance placed on flexible, non-traditional venues.

Parks and recreational areas become venues for community festivals, events and concerts. "Outdoor" gallery spaces including light boxes outside community facilities, outdoor murals and public art.

Where are the gaps?

While informal spaces are vital for many community initiatives and innovative cultural experiences, they are not substitutes for fit-for-purpose cultural infrastructure such as galleries, performing arts venues, rehearsal spaces maker spaces.

Community facilities and halls are extremely sought after by a wide variety of groups, and often cultural initiatives are competing for availability with health, sporting, social and business groups.

[Riff Raff ARI](#), for example, is a Penrith-based arts organisation that runs various programs focused on providing connection and professional development opportunities for local artists. They have been unable to secure a suitable maker space, so hold their artist monthly meet ups at the park

Growth areas also hold rich First Nations, migrant and settlement histories that require funding support for preservation and storytelling. Member councils raised concerns that national cultural policy over-emphasises contemporary creativity while overlooking:

- Local history
- Early settlement stories
- First Nations truth-telling
- Migrant narratives in Growth Areas

These should be incorporated into the policy as place-based cultural experiences.

What's needed now?

The new National Cultural Policy must:

- Establish a dedicated place-based funding programs to support Growth Areas councils to enable
 - Community-led and community-engaged arts and cultural activity by established and emerging creative practitioners
 - Cultural preservation and storytelling by growth area communities.

Pillar 3: Centrality of the Artist - Local Government's Role

Growth area councils are important supporters of local artists, providing grants, commissions, paid opportunities and professional development.

What's working well?

Most councils provide a mix of small grants, commissions, subsidised spaces, exhibitions, festivals, paid gigs, artist residencies and professional development programs. Some councils contribute substantial funding for annual arts and cultural events included art prizes, open-mic events, creative hubs, recording studios, markets, public art commissions and acquisitions of local artists' work.

These council-led initiatives and funding provide a platform for local professional and emerging artists and create opportunities for community engagement with arts and creative practice. For

example, Cardinia Shire Council, in Victoria, provides regular opportunities for emerging and professional artists throughout the year to create, make, exhibit and perform, at the Cardinia Cultural Centre and beyond. The Cardinia Cultural Centre also pays artist fees for exhibitions of their work.

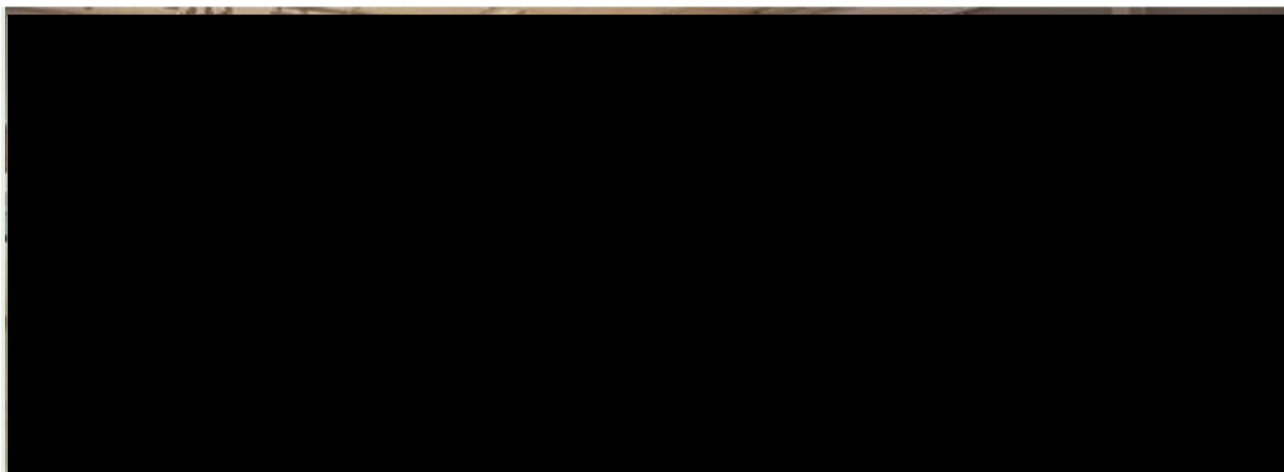


Figure 5 Wanneroo Regional Gallery, City of Wanneroo, Western Australia

Local governments provide direct support for artists, City of Wanneroo, Western Australia

Located in Perth's fastest-growing northern corridors, the City of Wanneroo makes substantial investments in both visual arts and local heritage, supporting local artists to help create a thriving and dynamic artistic hub for residents and the wider community. Wanneroo Regional Gallery partners with major global institutions, such as the British Museum, to bring high-calibre international and local exhibitions to the northern suburbs. Wanneroo Community Art Awards & Public Art, provided since 2001, have showcased the diversity of Western Australian artistic talent. Their Art Works Initiative, hosted at the Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre, allows local creative talent to exhibit and sell works directly to the public. The City also curates a large scale outdoor public art collection spanning from Girrawheen to Yanchep.

Where are the gaps?

Local governments in Growth Areas offer a range of opportunities for artists outside inner-city economies, yet councils often have to compete with artists for grants within the same limited funding pools.

While councils often support young and emerging artists, there are few educational and professional pathways for young artists to pursue their careers in Growth Areas. Tertiary education courses in creative and performing arts are limited to relatively few institutions nationwide and even fewer of these opportunities are offered in Growth Areas. A reinstatement of arts education programs is needed to expand the opportunities for the next generation of creative practitioners.

What's needed now?

National cultural policy must

- recognise councils as legitimate funders and enablers within the arts ecosystem
- create a separate funding program for local government for initiatives to bolster their support for local professional and emerging artists, leveraging their expertise and their ability to engage and support artists at the grass roots, especially young people artists with disability, First Nations and artists from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Pillar 4: Strong Cultural Infrastructure – Addressing the deficits in Growth Areas

Participation in creative and cultural activities enriches people's lives and can also have broader positive social and economic impacts. Access to cultural infrastructure enables cultural participation. As noted by Infrastructure Australia, arts and cultural infrastructure, promotes social cohesion in our communities by facilitating shared experiences, promoting a sense of place and providing insight into our local and national identities¹³. Yet there are no national benchmarks for the provision of cultural infrastructure, no consistent auditing of provision and limited data sources for assessing cultural infrastructure needs against demand. NGAA members consistently identify cultural infrastructure gaps as the most significant barrier to opportunities for their communities to engage in arts and culture

What's working well?

Despite existing inequities in access to cultural infrastructure, growth area councils are innovators in utilising community facilities for multiple community purposes and for facilitating creative activities to connect communities to other services that support health and wellbeing. Libraries and community centres are important social infrastructure for new communities but are rarely funded to be built in time to align with the population growth.

Where are the gaps?

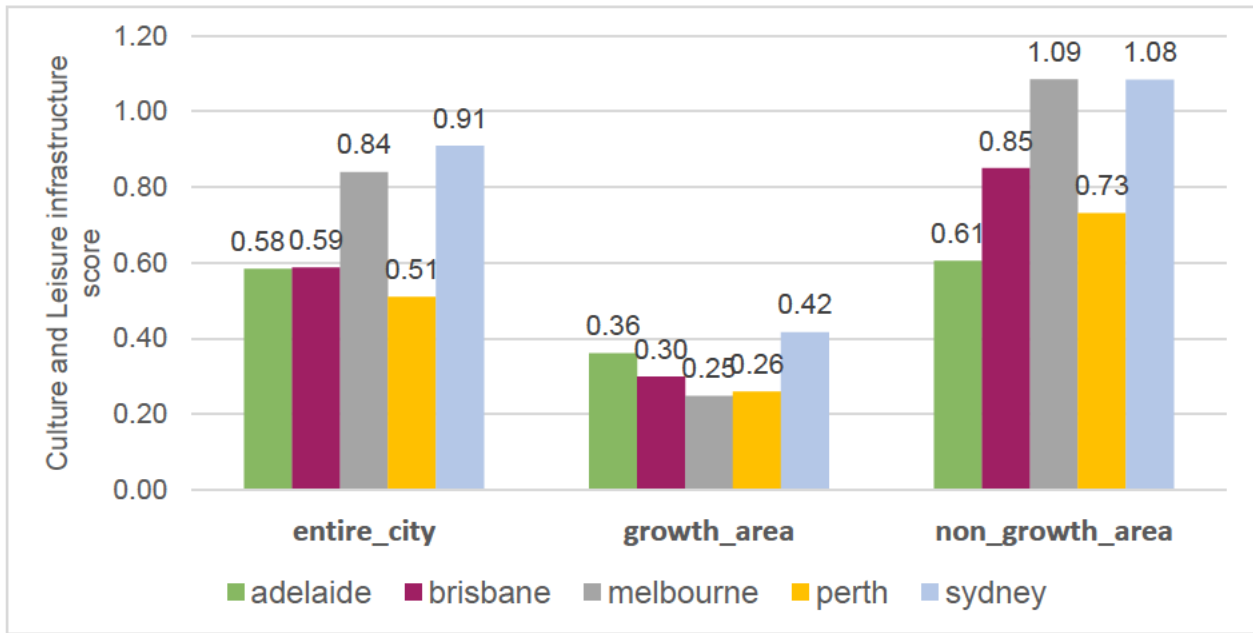
Growth areas lack population-scaled performing arts centres, galleries and creative workspaces. Where facilities exist, they are often undersized or inaccessible. In small and emerging Growth Areas, like Mount Barker, South Australia, and Serpentine Jarrahdale, Western Australia, councils have far fewer resources to match the needs of rapidly growing communities. They rely on existing small halls that historically served small rural townships.

In 2024 the NGAA engaged RMIT's Australian Urban Observatory (AUO) to analyse the distribution of 10 key indicators of liveability for Growth Areas, including access to cultural infrastructure. The AUO Cultural infrastructure indicator measures access to libraries, museums/art galleries, cinemas/theatres.

Analysis of AUO's liveability indicators shows **that access to cultural infrastructure is 44% less in Growth Areas** than non-growth areas in each of their five capital cities¹⁴.

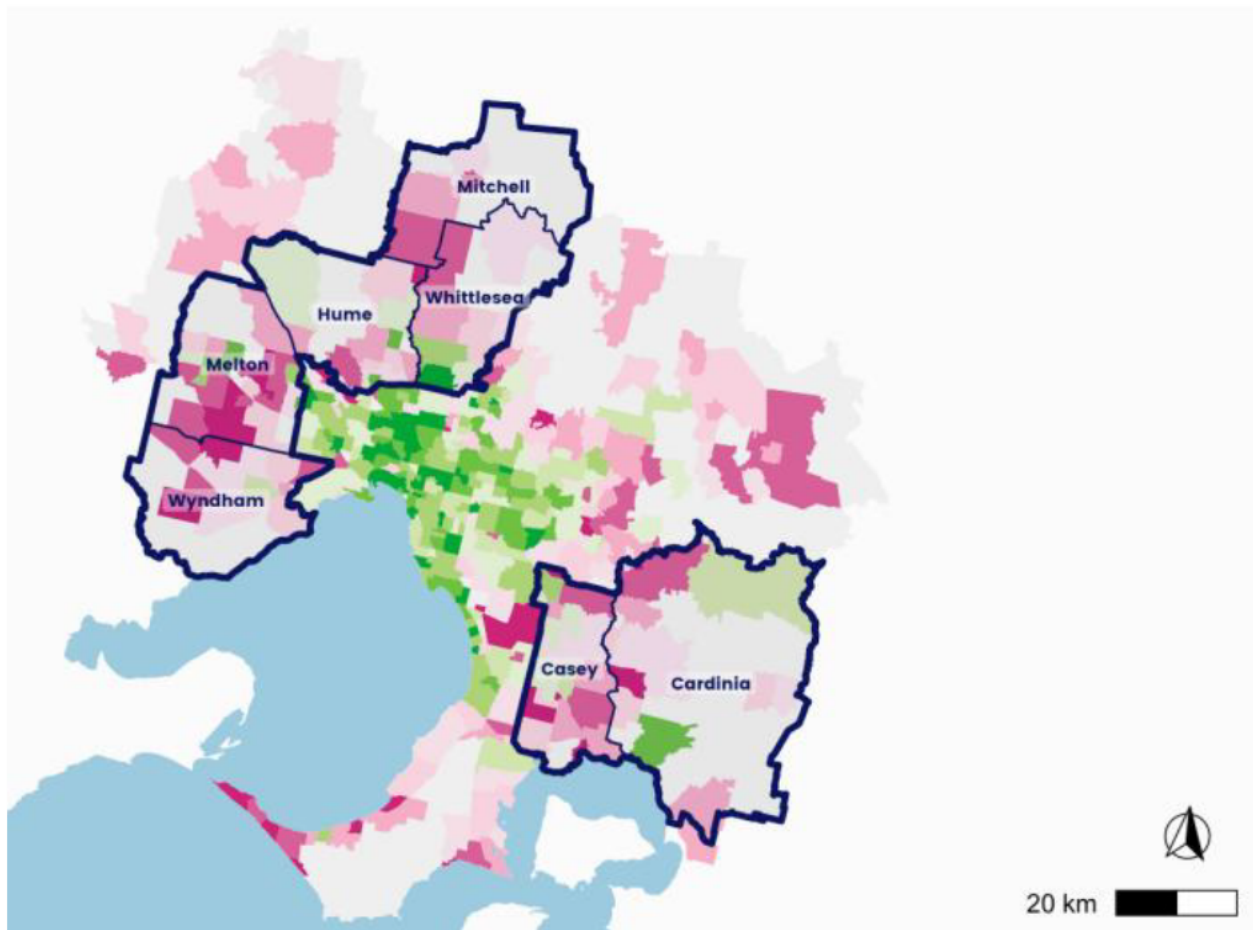
These differences in access to cultural infrastructure are repeated in each city and for each type of cultural infrastructure as shown in the **maps in Appendix 2**.

Figure 6 Access to cultural infrastructure: Liveability scores for five capital cities and their metropolitan regions



Source: Australia Urban Observatory [Liveability Scorecards for Growth Areas](#)

Figure 7 Figure 5 Access to cultural and leisure infrastructure for Melbourne at suburb level highlighting Growth Area Local Government Areas.



Source: Australia Urban Observatory [Liveability Scorecards for Growth Areas](#)

This inequity persists despite strong demand and participation.

The most acute gaps identified were affordable making and rehearsal spaces, dedicated galleries, artist studios, mid-sized performance venues and large, accessible outdoor event spaces. Many Growth Areas lack central creative hubs and rely heavily on schools or ageing halls. Digital infrastructure for collections, renewal funding and flexible venues suitable for contemporary music and community use were also recurring needs.

A paucity of data masks the present inequities in the distribution of access to cultural infrastructure.

As noted by Infrastructure Australia in their 2019 Infrastructure Audit, ‘the lack of consolidated, national data on existing infrastructure facilities limits our ability to determine gaps in the arts and culture infrastructure network’¹⁵. The lack of regular data gathering, reporting and evaluation

This lack of data hinders governments at all levels in their planning and decision-making for cultural activities, and grant assessment processes.

What’s needed now?

The new National Cultural Policy must:

- undertake a national audit of existing government and non-government cultural infrastructure. Assess current and projected population growth and accessibility issues to understand critical cultural infrastructure gaps and priorities
- resource the Australian Bureau of Statistics to regularly produce and publish statistics on cultural participation and funding for cultural activities disaggregated at the local government level
- fund research and analysis to establish minimum service levels (such as provision ratios per population) within regions and for a range of infrastructures that support creative participation and production
- establish national benchmarks for cultural infrastructure provision and a dedicated growth area investment stream aligned with housing and precinct development.

Pillar 5: Engaging the Audience - Access, Audiences and Cost-of-Living Pressures

Councils play a critical role in removing cost barriers to participation through free and low-cost programs, festivals and culturally responsive engagement. Growth areas communities uniquely represent Australia’s youthful and multicultural audience. With one in four children growing up in Growth Areas and nearly 29% of residents speaking a language other than English at home, well above the national average of 22%.

The cultural diversity found in Growth Areas has distinct characteristics: 5% of all residents in Growth Areas were born in India, a proportion almost twice that of Australia’s population overall (2.6%). There are also higher percentages of residents born in New Zealand and the Philippines compared to Australia as a whole. Punjabi, Arabic, Filipino or Tagalog and Hindi far more commonly spoken in Growth Areas than other areas. There are untapped potential and opportunity to enliven Australia’s cultural eco-system with targeted investment directed to young people and culturally diverse communities in Growth Areas.

What's working well?

Audience engagement strategies by Growth Areas councils commonly focus on providing free or low-cost programming, place-based and community-led events, partnerships with schools and local businesses, and diverse, inclusive programming.

Member councils provide a wide variety of creative events throughout the year – such as poetry slams, live music events, multi-cultural events and performances, arts markets, and small festivals. These community events are mostly free. These access points are essential for children, young people, new migrants and families experiencing cost-of-living pressures.

Because local government develop local Disability and Inclusion Action Plans in line with the state and national legislation, councils hold much local knowledge and expertise in identifying and removing physical, attitudinal, and systemic barriers for people with disabilities.

NGAA Member councils use a range of strategies to ensure their cultural activities are inclusive and meet the range of needs and abilities of their diverse communities including audience segmentation, targeted marketing, multilingual promotion, education programs, add-on experiences (such as workshops and talks), and accessibility initiatives including low-sensory spaces to broaden participation.

Where are the gaps?

Creative Australia's report *Next Generation Now*¹⁶, highlights findings from research on children and young people's arts engagement that underscores that arts participation supports mental health, resilience, skills development and cultural citizenship. Investing in arts and culture offers exceptional value, providing widespread opportunities for children from all backgrounds at a relatively low cost with significant benefits.

However, when distribution of cultural grants funding was assessed across diversity groups, Creative Australia's report *Towards Equity 2*¹⁷, shows where further effort is needed-including a continued focus on disability, regional communities, **and children and young people**.

The NGAA supports the view of arts and culture think tank A New Approach (ANA) that 'creativity and imagination are skills that are essential to our collective ability to adapt and flourish' and therefore, that children, young people and education should be at the heart of the next national cultural policy. The NGAA believes that Growth Areas should be prioritised for new cultural initiatives to engage children and young people. Between 2021 and 2024, 228,320 **babies** were born in Growth Areas contributing to 43% of Australia's natural increase.

Growth areas are where one in four children in Australia are growing up. That's 1.8 million children and young people living in Growth Areas but

- a higher proportion of children in Growth Areas compared to Capital City averages are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains¹⁸
- a higher proportion, (11%) of 15- to 24-year-olds in Growth Areas are disengaged from employment and education, compared to the Australian average (9%). That's 71,752 disengaged young people.

Fewer than half of households in Growth Areas have good access to cultural venues like libraries, cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries. The analysis of RMIT's Australian Urban Observatory liveability indicators in five capital cities shows that, on average, around 44% of households in Growth Areas have good access to a library compared to 70% of households in non-

Growth Areas. The proportion of households within accessible distances to museum or art gallery in Growth Areas is less than one fifth of that for non-Growth Areas.

Table 2 Percentage of dwellings within accessible distance (3,200 metres) to selected cultural venues in city regions*

City region	Cultural venues		
	Library (%)	Cinema or Theatre (%)	Museum or Art Gallery (%)
Growth Areas	44	22	4
Non-growth areas	70	40	22

*City regions combine five capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide

Source: Australian Urban Observatory, Liveability indicators 2024¹⁹

While nationally, we know that 80% of children aged 5 to 14 years attended at least one cultural venue or event outside of school hours during 2021-22²⁰, there is no available data to show the difference in attendance at cultural venues across local government areas within cities. The lack of reliable data means that these differences remain hidden, and any adverse impacts of inequitable access to arts and cultural opportunities cannot be redressed.

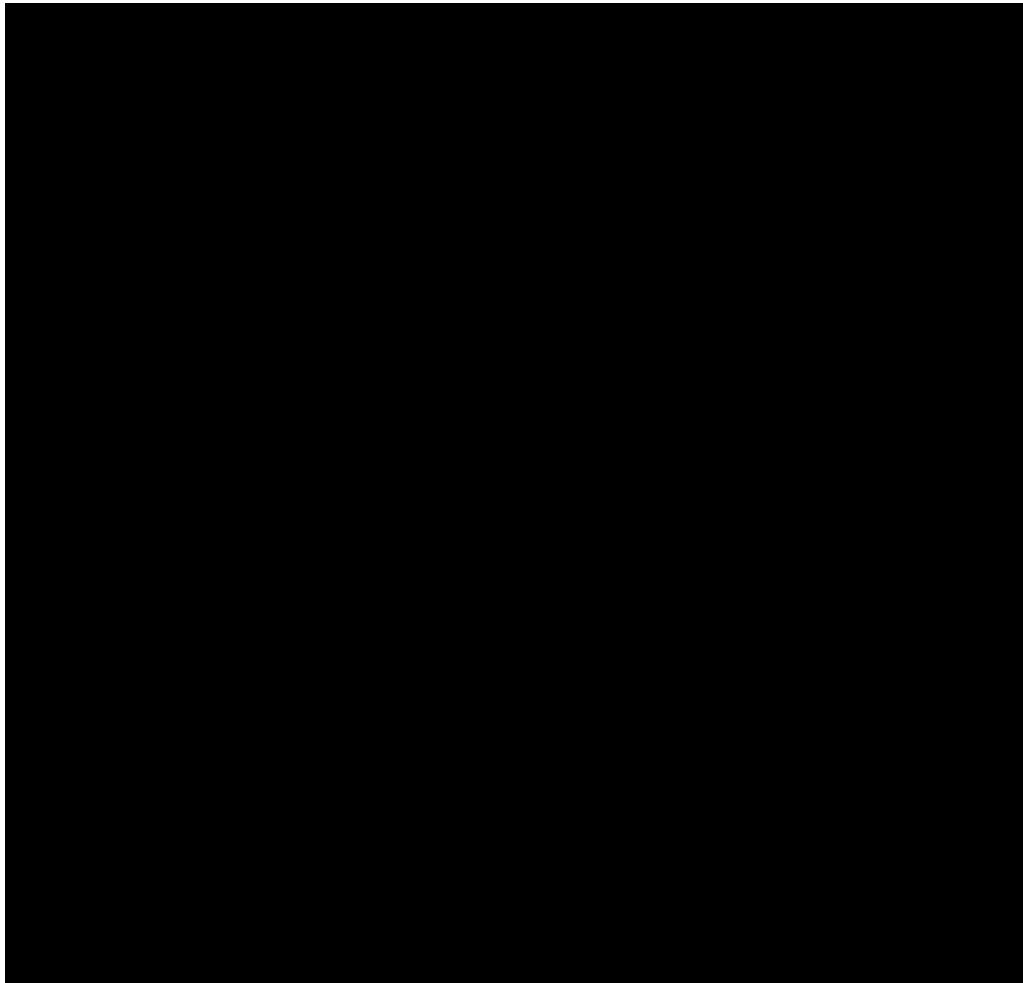
Growth Areas are some of Australia's most diverse communities, and many residents struggle to form a sense of belonging. Language barriers, unfamiliar local norms and a lack of low-cost places to meet make everyday connection harder than necessary. Engaging audiences from diverse communities requires local government to support to bring communities together, as explained in more detail under **Reform 3: Collaboration with local government.**

What's needed now?

The new National Cultural Policy must:

- Program cultural initiatives to better reflect and engage with culturally diverse communities in Growth Areas
- Collaborate with councils to enhance inclusion and accessibility for people of all ages and abilities with a concerted effort to ensure access to creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people in Growth Areas.
- Resource the ABS to ensure there is regular data collection on participation, attendance and funding of cultural activities is made available at the local government area level for effective program monitoring and evaluation.

The NGAA supports the call by arts and culture think tank A New Approach (ANA) for a sixth pillar for the new national cultural policy called '**Creative Learning for Every Child**' and argues that Growth Areas should be prioritised when programming and resourcing cultural initiatives to engage children and young people.



Reform 3. Collaboration with local government is key to building social cohesion

The [Public Consultation paper](#) notes that ‘culture connects people and builds resilience. Participation in culture is linked to stronger communities, better mental health and higher civic trust. From local libraries and choirs to major festivals, culture fosters belonging and strengthens community resilience.’

As some of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia, Growth Area councils are uniquely positioned to lead engagement with communities and support their cultural participation, Growth Area councils support multicultural exchange and interaction to build social cohesion and resilience.

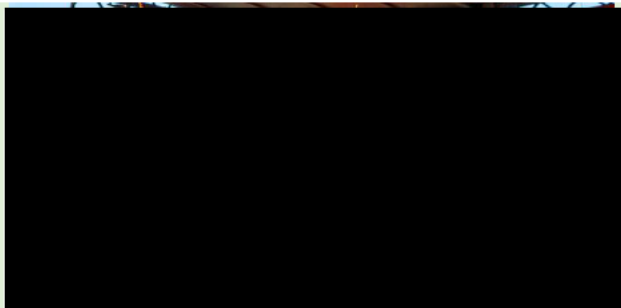
The estimate of expenditure funded by all Local government in 2023–24 for cultural activities was **\$2,157.8m**, an increase of 18% on previous year. This represented **25%** of the total government funded expenditure on cultural activities²¹. **There are no readily available data on state or federal cultural funding and expenditure at the local government level.**

Council-led whole of community events and festivals

Bolstering Growth Area Councils’ capacity to engage all cultural groups across the community is a fast, effective and proven way to build cohesion. Funding allocated to individual ethnic and cultural groups is worthwhile, but Councils invariably assist with delivery without being a formal event partner. The extent to which these groups can then fully participate in broader arts and culture ecosystem then becomes dependent on the resources available to councils to support these groups.

Growth Area Councils have proven they can run successful events and festivals, and in a time where impact is needed quickly, bolstering local governments’ resources in this field will deliver the best return on investment.

Events and Festivals run by Growth Area Councils can easily be replicated, expanded and delivered more often with Federal Government support. Examples include:



Feast of Nations is a three-night cultural festival delivered by Campbelltown City Council in south-west Sydney that transforms the city centre into a shared civic space celebrating the LGA’s three largest cultural communities, Pasifika, South Asian and Southeast Asian, through food, performance, arts and hands on cultural exchange. The project’s success is attributed to its relational, co designed model, with Council working alongside community leaders from inception through delivery to ensure cultural authenticity, shared ownership and accessibility, including multilingual signage and inclusive communications. In 2024 the festival attracted approximately 10,000 attendees and generated an estimated \$300,000 to \$600,000 in direct economic impact for local traders, with evaluation data recording 91% overall satisfaction and 96% of attendees feeling welcome and included.

Melton Night Markets is a culturally themed night market series delivered by Melton City Council in Melbourne's west in 2024 and 2025 to boost the nighttime economy while strengthening connections with culturally and linguistically diverse communities through food, performance and place activation. The project was successful due to its data informed design, aligning themed markets with the City's demographic profile and significant cultural dates such as Chinese New Year, and through active partnerships with local community organisations, performers and businesses who were embedded in both planning and delivery. Across three events the markets attracted over 10,000 residents and visitors, achieving a reported 12% increase in business spend.

Fusion Food and Culture Festival

The *Fusion Food and Culture* Festival is an annual multicultural community event held in Gosnells, WA.

Welcoming 50,000 people each year to celebrate the region's vibrant cultural diversity, it is a demonstration that diversity is celebrated and all cultures are welcome.

With more than 40% of residents in the City of Gosnells born overseas, and over a third speaking a language other than English at home, Fusion is a vibrant showcase of the City's rich cultural diversity.

The event won the 2025 National Awards for Local Government, recognising the event for its role in building a stronger, more connected community through arts and culture.

Resourcing Social Connection in new suburbs

The Housing Accord is creating large new communities at speed, and while this growth is essential, it also brings responsibility. As new suburbs take shape, we must support and nurture emerging communities so that connection, trust and belonging grow alongside new homes, ensuring Australia remains cohesive, resilient and confident in the face of uncertainty.

Swinburne University's [Activating Social Connection](#) project, funded through an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant) has identified **seven evidence-based keys to building belonging, inclusion and resilience in fast-growing suburbs**. These findings outline practical steps needed to support communities experiencing rapid growth. All of these principles can be incorporated into, and be supported by, arts and cultural initiatives.

Growth Area councils are already applying these principles, but limited resources prevent delivery at scale. Federal investment is now required to roll out social-connection training and programs across all new suburbs, ensuring Australia can translate leading research into stronger, more resilient and connected local communities.

7 Keys to Local Social Connection						
Places to meet	Connector People	Groups that foster belonging	Problem-solving sessions	Food sharing events	Social media and digital tools	Accessible communication
						

What's needed now?

The new National Cultural Policy must

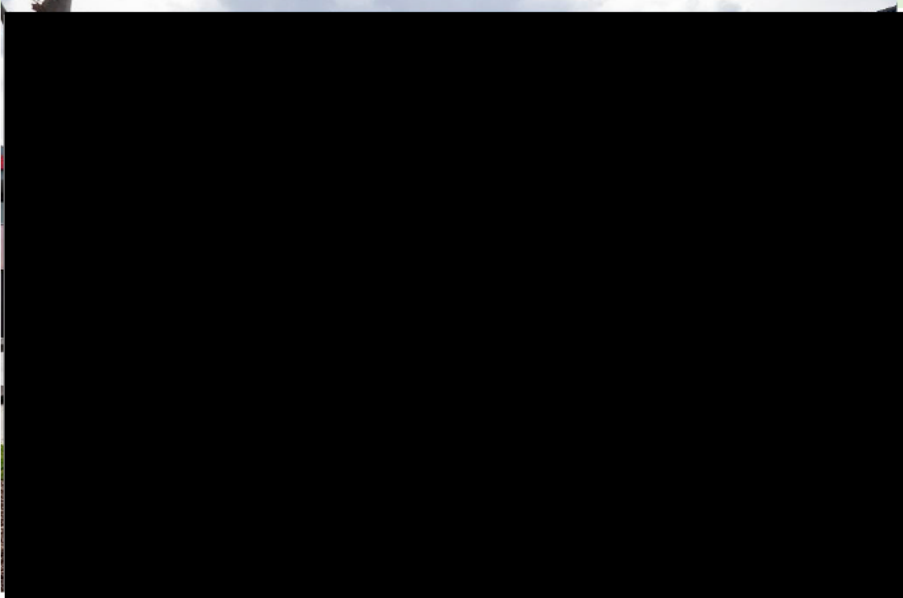
- Support growth area council arts and cultural activities and initiatives that explicitly respond to the needs of new communities for social connection through events and activities that build resilience, inclusion and a sense of belonging.

Local government commissions Public Art, Wyndham City Council, Victoria

Local government are the primary curators of public art. Public Art is artistic works designed or created by an artist/s and situated in an accessible place for the public. Public Art aims to enrich the community by evoking meaning in the public realm and by creating a sense of pride-of-place where residents live, work and play.

Wyndham City has a dynamic, contemporary, and growing public art collection funded through their annual Capital Works budget. Wyndham City formally adopted their ten-year, Wyndham Public Art Plan 2022-2032 which aims to support the development of an ambitious world class public art program and collection for the coming decade.

Public art is central to the ongoing development of Wyndham City as a vibrant, creative, and engaged city.



A recently commissioned public artwork is the mural titled 'Wings Over Saltwater Wetlands' created in 2023 by local artist Sasha Heath, also known as Hellotomato. The artwork spans two large walls on the west-facing façade at Saltwater Swim School, Point Cook.

'Wings Over Saltwater Wetlands' captures the vibrant colours and unique features of the local wetlands, highlighting the common sight of ibis in flight. By introducing greenery and natural elements, Sasha's design transforms this blank canvas into a serene and inviting space.

By introducing greenery and natural elements, Sasha's design transforms this blank canvas into a serene and inviting space.

Conclusion

Arts and culture are essential infrastructure in Growth Areas, supporting belonging, resilience and identity. The new National Cultural Policy presents an opportunity to address structural inequities faced by Australia's fastest-growing communities. NGAA urges the Australian Government to explicitly recognise Growth Areas, embed local government as a partner, and invest accordingly.

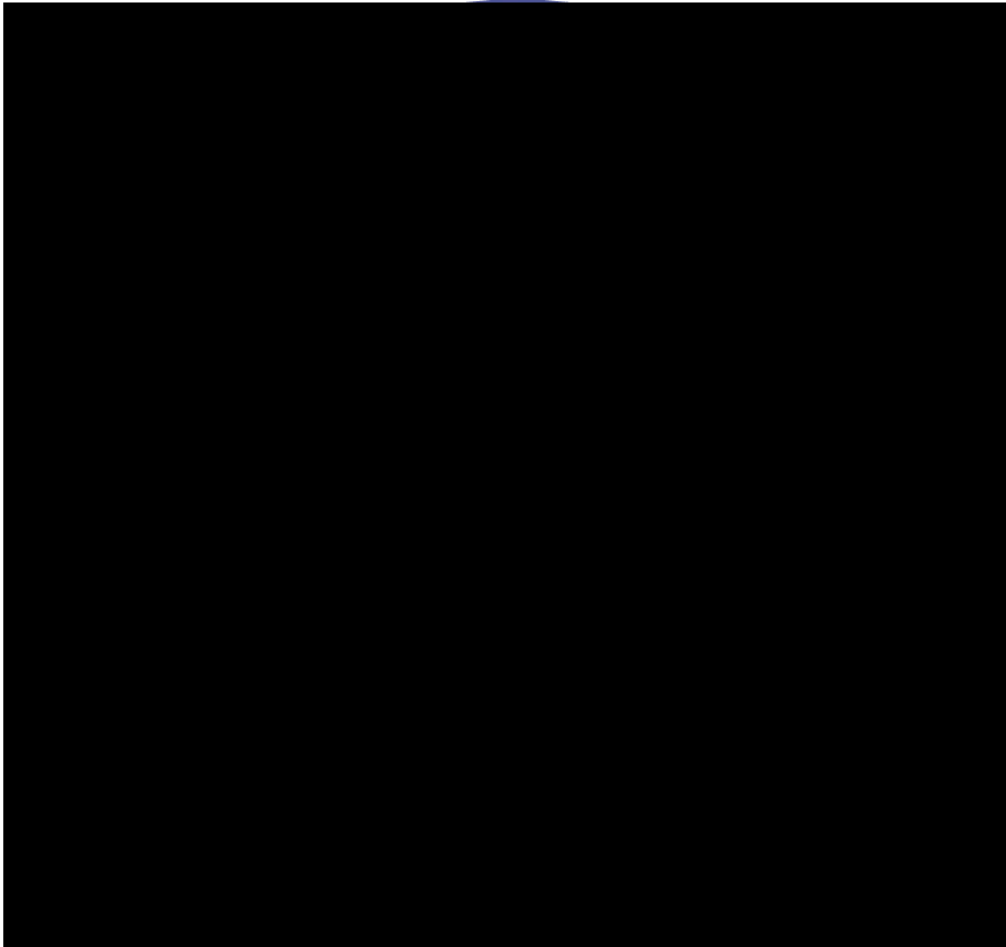
Australia's Growth Areas are already doing the heavy lifting in housing delivery, their economic contribution and population growth, yet they continue to be constrained by outdated policy frameworks and chronic underinvestment in the infrastructure that makes communities function.

This submission makes clear that Growth Areas are not peripheral to Australia's cities. They are nationally significant metropolitan regions in their own right, home to more than 6 million people and central to meeting national Housing Accord targets and national priorities.

Recognising Growth Areas through a consistent national geography and aligning funding accordingly is a practical and cost-effective reform that would immediately improve decision making across government.

The new National Cultural Policy is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to provide leadership that matches the reality on the ground. By shifting from ad hoc, competitive grants to coordinated, long term, place-based investment in Growth Areas, the Australian Government can strengthen all five pillars of Australia's future creative and cultural experiences, lift productivity and strengthen social cohesion in Australia's fastest growing communities.

Local governments in Growth Areas are ready to partner in this task and have demonstrated their capacity to deliver. What is needed now is certainty, coordination and commitment from the Commonwealth to invest strategically and equitably, so that growth delivers not just more homes, but stronger, more connected and resilient communities enabled to fully participate in, and contribute to, a flourishing arts and culture ecosystem across Australia.



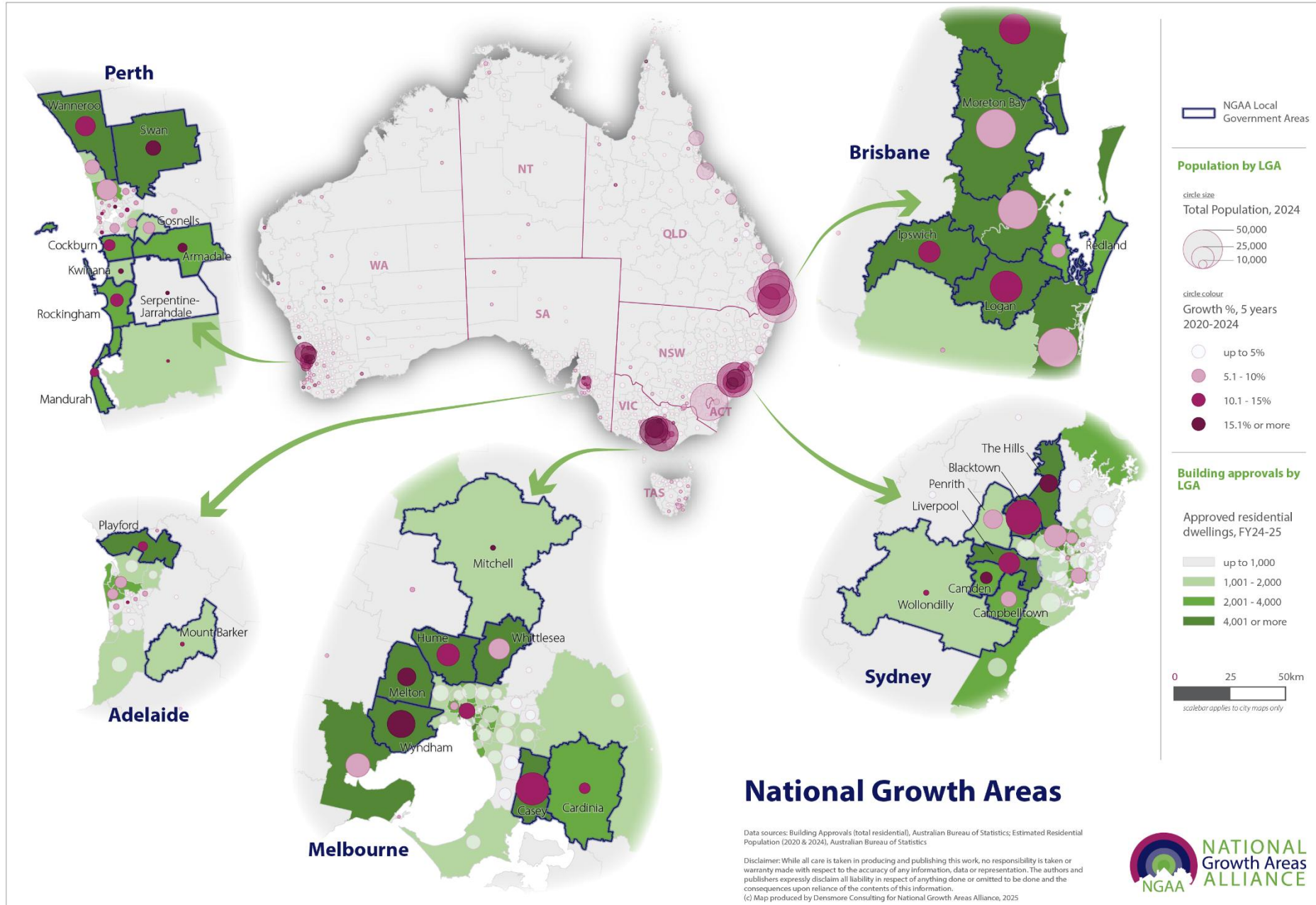
Night Markets, City of Melton, Victoria

Recommendations

NGAA Recommendation	Implementation
1. Classify Growth Areas in the New Cultural policy as distinct metropolitan regions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply a new geographical standard that identifies Growth Areas as a distinct metropolitan region within their capital cities, based on population growth, housing and location.
2. Establish a place-based infrastructure investment and program resourcing framework for equitable access to cultural infrastructure and opportunities in Growth Areas	
Pillar 1 First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embed long-term investment in First Nations cultural infrastructure within Growth Areas and recognise these communities as priority locations. • ensure the nationally funded First Nations-led organisations and training institutions are funded to deliver programs in Growth Areas
Pillar 2 A place for every story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support Growth Areas councils to enable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community-led and community-engaged arts and cultural activity by established and emerging creative practitioners ○ Cultural preservation and storytelling by growth area communities.
Pillar 3 Centrality of the Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resource councils in cultural policy as legitimate funders and enablers within the arts ecosystem • create a separate funding program for local government for initiatives to bolster their support for local professional and emerging artists, leveraging their expertise and their ability to engage and support artists at the grass roots, especially young people, artists with disability, First Nations and artists from culturally diverse backgrounds.
Pillar 4 Strong Cultural Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake a national audit of existing government and non-government cultural infrastructure. Assess current and projected population growth and accessibility issues to understand critical cultural infrastructure gaps and priorities • resource the Australian Bureau of Statistics to regularly produce and publish statistics on cultural participation and funding for cultural activities disaggregated at the local government level

NGAA Recommendation	Implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fund research and analysis to establish minimum service levels (such as provision ratios per population) within regions and for a range of infrastructures that support creative participation and production • establish national benchmarks for cultural infrastructure provision and a dedicated growth area investment stream aligned with housing and precinct development.
Pillar 5 Engaging the Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program cultural initiatives to better reflect and engage with culturally diverse communities in Growth Areas • Collaborate with councils to enhance inclusion and accessibility for children and young people in creative and cultural opportunities in Growth Areas
3. Collaborate with Local government to build cohesion and resilience through arts and cultural initiatives	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth area council arts and cultural activities and initiatives that explicitly respond to the needs of new communities for social connection through events and activities that build resilience, inclusion and a sense of belonging.

Australia's 29 Growth Area LGAs are the epicentres of population growth



Appendix 1 - About the National Growth Areas Alliance

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) is the peak body for local governments in Australia's outer-metropolitan Growth Areas - home to more than 6 million people. United by growth rates double the national average and long-term under-investment in vital infrastructure, NGAA advocates to state and federal governments for equitable strategic infrastructure investment and national policy reform.

Growth areas need national policy leadership to reimagine outer-metropolitan development as integral to sustainable capital-city growth, supported by long-term funding for urban-standard infrastructure and improved federal and state services in the outer suburbs.

Our platform centres on social, environmental and economic resilience - the foundation of liveable, thriving places and the capacity to respond to shocks such as climate-driven extremes, economic change and rising living costs.

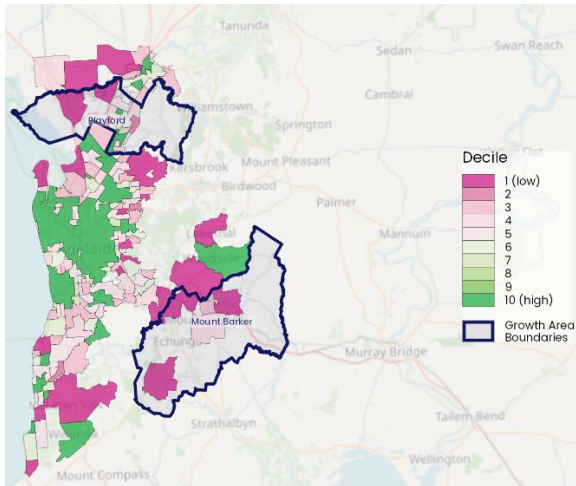
National Growth Areas Alliance Member councils



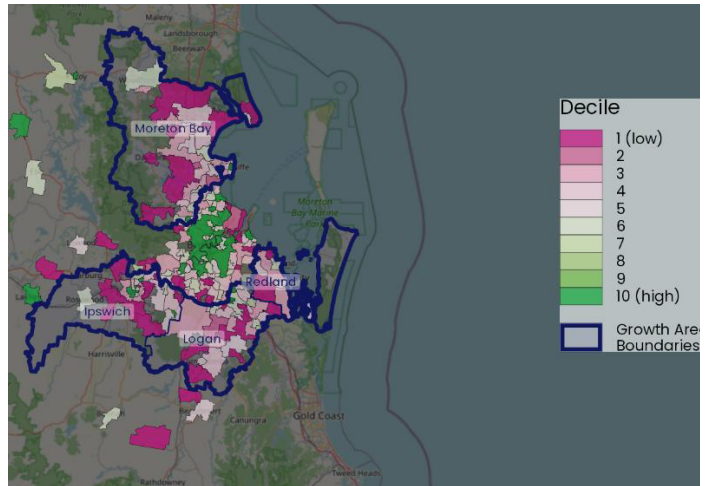
Appendix 2 - Access to cultural infrastructure in five capital cities

Access to a Library

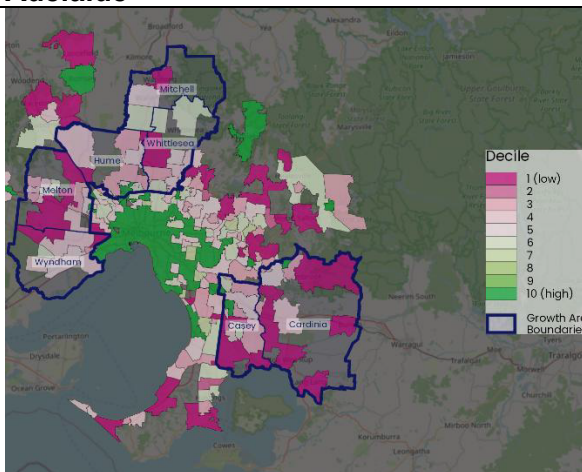
Proportion of dwellings within 3200 metres of a Library



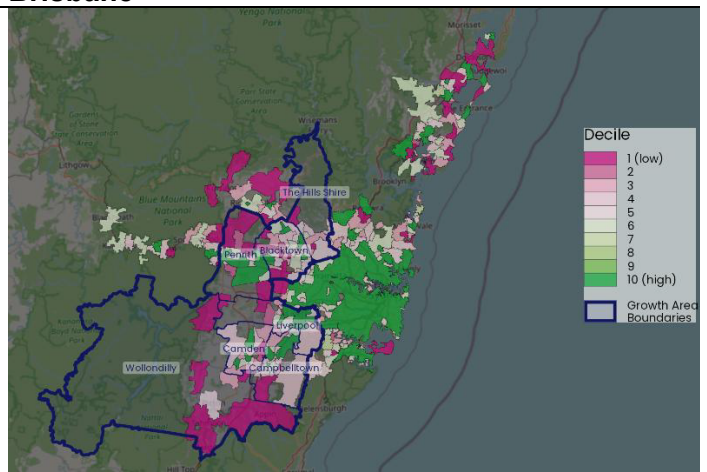
Adelaide



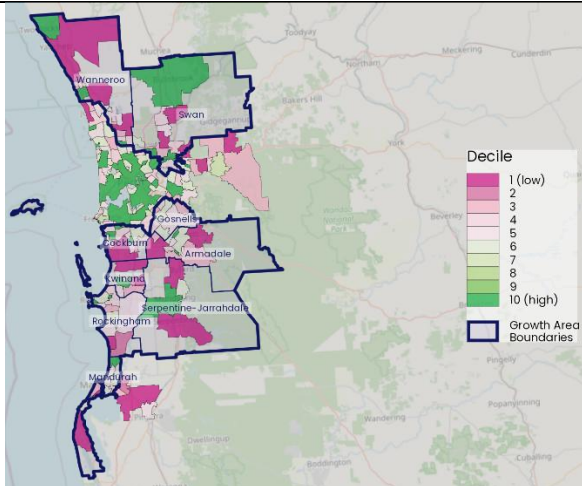
Brisbane



Melbourne



Sydney



Perth

Cultural Social Infrastructure Indicator Results for Growth Areas

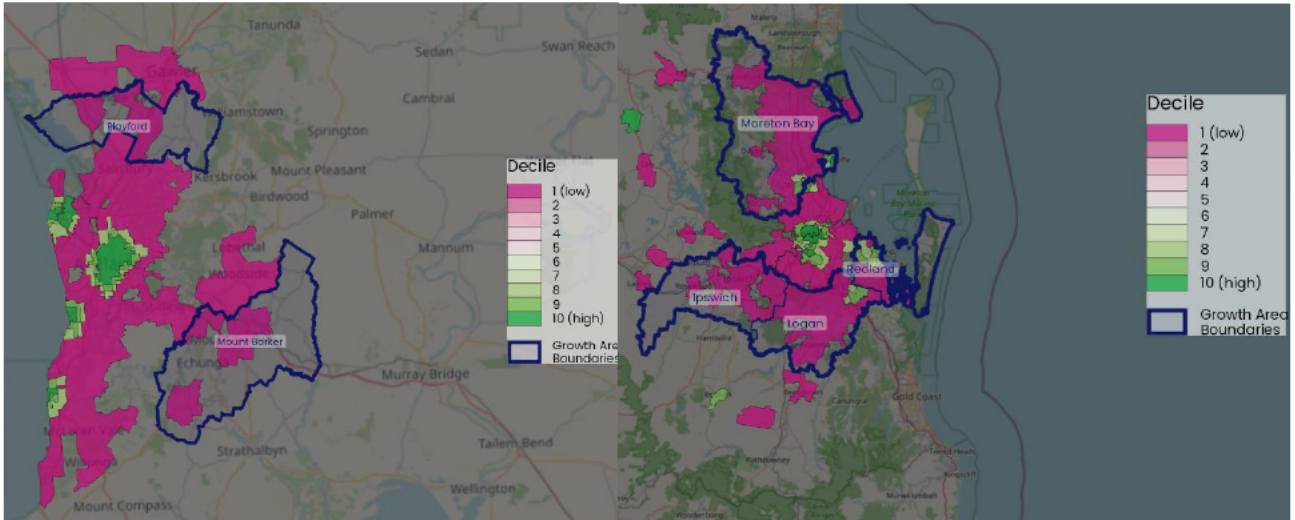
Prepared by the Australian Urban Observatory, May 2026.

More information is available in the AUO at <https://auo.org.au/portal/metadata/social-infrastructure-mix-index/>.

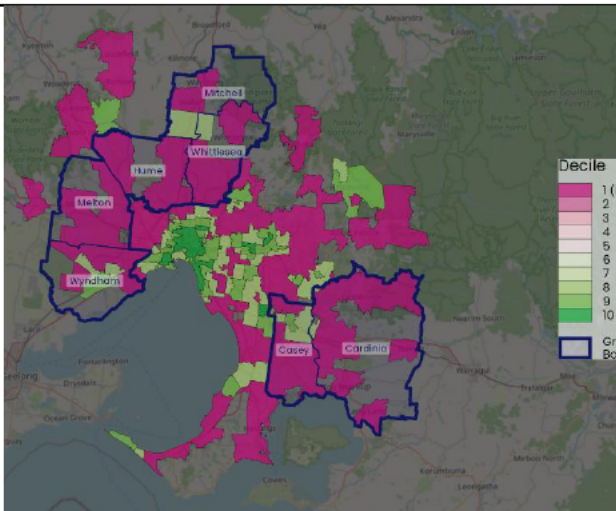


Access to a Museum/Art Gallery

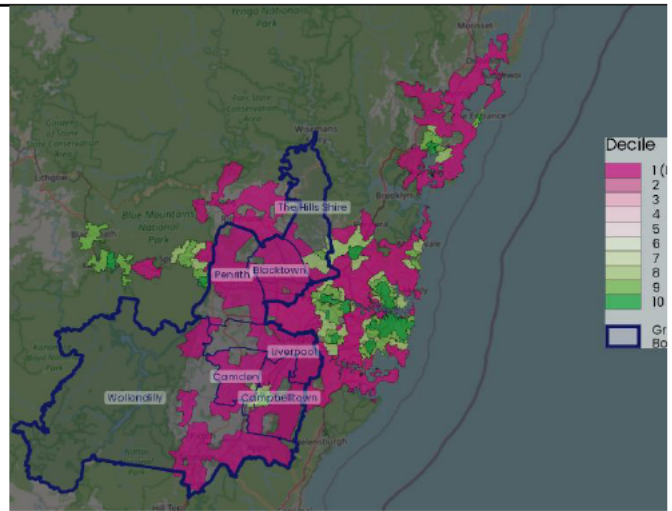
Proportion of dwellings within 3200 metres of a Museum/Gallery



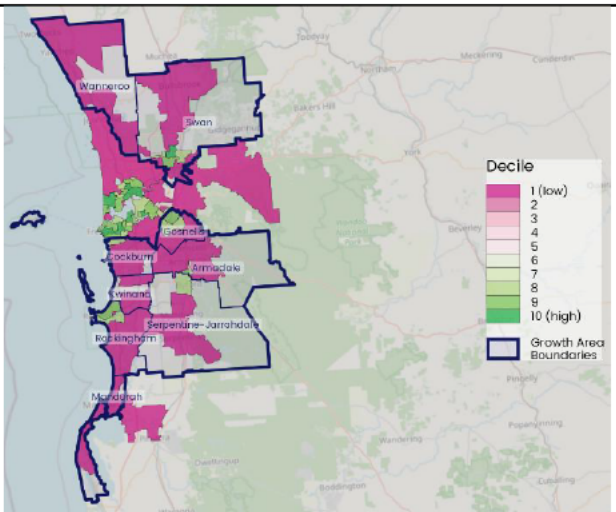
Adelaide



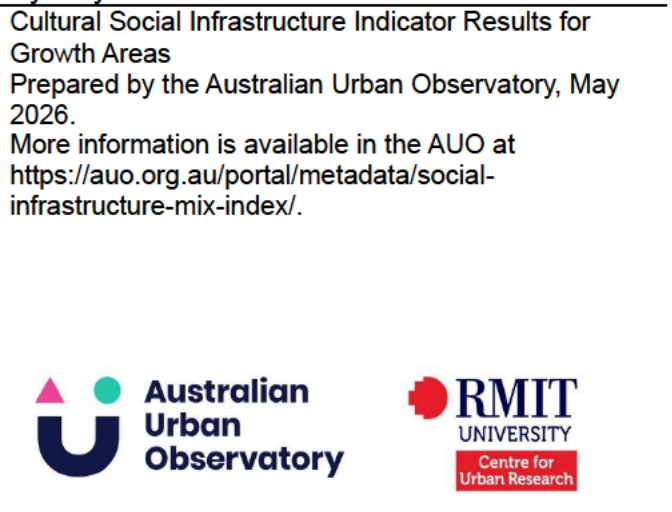
Brisbane



Melbourne



Sydney



Perth

Cultural Social Infrastructure Indicator Results for Growth Areas
 Prepared by the Australian Urban Observatory, May 2026.
 More information is available in the AUO at <https://auo.org.au/portal/metadata/social-infrastructure-mix-index/>.



Endnotes

- ¹ A New Approach (ANA) 2026 [Opportunity to action: The Big Picture](#), Policy Action Brief, April 2026, <https://newapproach.org.au/>
- ² Creative Australia, [Awarded Grants, 2024-2025](#), <https://creative.gov.au/investments-opportunities/awarded-grants>
- ³ Australian Electoral Commission, Maps and Spatial Data, [Demographic Classification of Electoral Divisions](#) <https://www.aec.gov.au/electorates/maps.htm#demographic>
- ⁴ [National Growth Areas Alliance Housing and Property Market Insights | Number of approvals, Approvals | REMPLAN](#), accessed 16/01/2026
- ⁵ A New Approach (ANA) 2026 [Opportunity to action: The Big Picture](#), Policy Action Brief, April 2026, <https://newapproach.org.au/>
- ⁶ Blake, J 2026, [Federal Budget 2026-27 and the arts](#), *Limelight*, 13 May, 2026
- ⁷ Bunjil Place was a \$125m investment in cultural infrastructure with City of Casey contributing 91.4% of the capital investment of together with Federal Government contributing 8% and Victorian Government contributing 0.6%
- ⁸ Creative Australia [Annual Report 2024-25](#),
- ⁹ Page, K and Baker, E, 2025, [A New Geographical Classification for National Growth Areas: NGA25](#), Discussion paper for consultation, National Growth Areas Alliance and Australian Centre for Housing Research, University of Adelaide, <https://www.ngaa.org.au/resources/a-new-geographical-classification-for-national-growth-areas-nga25>
- ¹⁰ ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021, [Ancestry | National Growth Areas Alliance | Community profile](#), compiled by .id.
- ¹¹ Kingsley, J, Munro-Harrison, E, Jenkins, A, Thorpe, A, 2018, “Here we are part of a living culture”: Understanding the cultural determinants of health in Aboriginal gathering places in Victoria, Australia *Health and Place*, DOI: [10.1016/j.healthplace.2018.10.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2018.10.001)
- ¹² Jesuit Social Services 2023, An ‘open-door’, place-based approach for First Nations people, 31 May 2023, <https://jss.org.au/news-and-media/our-thinking/open-door-place-based-approach-facilitates-culturally-safe-space-for-first-nations-people/>
- ¹³ [Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019](#), 6. Social infrastructure – Arts and culture, page 441. Infrastructure Australia.
- ¹⁴ National Growth Areas Alliance 2024 [From deficit to equity](#) and Australian Urban Observatory, 2024 [Growth Areas Liveability Scorecards](#)
- ¹⁵ [Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019](#), 6. Social infrastructure – Arts and culture, page 443. Infrastructure Australia.
- ¹⁶ Creative Australia 2025 **Next Generation Now: Benefits of the arts for children and young people** <https://creative.gov.au/research/next-generation-now-benefits-arts-children-and-young-people>
- ¹⁷ Creative Australia 2025, **Towards Equity 2 Creative Australia’s diversity data report** <https://creative.gov.au/news-events/news/creative-australia-publishes-latest-equity-and-diversity-data>
- ¹⁸ [Australian Early Development Census](#), <https://www.aedc.gov.au/>
- ¹⁹ Cultural infrastructure data included in these analyses are based on the social infrastructure index included in the AUO with detailed information on the index’s development described here: Davern M, Gunn L, Whitzman C, Higgs C, Giles-Corti B, Simons K, Villanueva K, Mavoa S, Roberts R, Badland H. (2018). Using spatial measures to test a conceptual model of social infrastructure that supports health and wellbeing; *Cities and Health*. vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 194-209 <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2018.1443620>. Cultural social infrastructure is a sub-category of the AUO social infrastructure index and includes access to a museum/art gallery within 3200m; a cinema/theatre within 3200m; and a library within 1000m. More information is also available in the AUO at <https://auo.org.au/portal/metadata/social-infrastructure-mix-index/> .
- ²⁰ ABS 2023, [Cultural and creative activities](#), Statistics about participation in and attendance at selected cultural and creative activities, for adults and children (aged 5-14 years), 2021-22 financial year.
- ²¹ Australian Government, Cultural data online, **Cultural funding and participation—National overview**, accessed 16 April 2026 <https://www.arts.gov.au/cultural-data-online/government-cultural-funding-and-participation/cultural-funding-and-participation-national-overview>



Growth Areas are Australia's fastest growing outer metropolitan regions like Cardinia Shire Council, Victoria

