

# Arts Nation

## An Overview of Australian Arts

Arts Nation is a new report which provides evidence as a catalyst for informed discussion about the arts.

March 2015

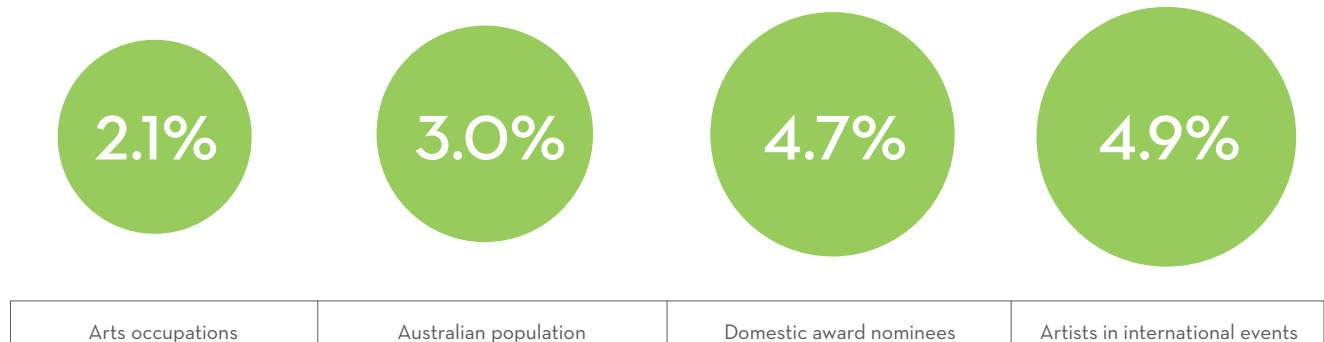
## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTS

### INDIGENOUS ARTS ARE CHERISHED AT HOME AND ABROAD

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts are an expression of culture and are highly regarded in Australia and overseas. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists are proportionally more likely to be nominated for a major Australian art award or participate in an international arts event.

#### Indigenous Australians in the arts

% of each group who are Indigenous



Cultural knowledge leads to jobs and income based on artistic activity, connections to country and cultural experiences. Cultural tourism is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing tourism markets. Australia is uniquely placed as home to the world's oldest continuous living culture.

The Indigenous visual arts sector is a major economic contributor to the arts economy and responsible for some of Australia's most valuable works of art.



**737,000**

international tourists engaged with Indigenous arts activities in 2013-14

In 2013-14 more international tourists in Australia took part in Indigenous arts activities than went to wineries or organised sport. The most popular activities were viewing an Indigenous art, craft or cultural display and attending a dance or theatre performance.

**\$53 MILLION**

in art sales generated by remote Indigenous arts centres between 2008 and 2012



**\$30 MILLION**

paid to remote Indigenous artists

## KEEPING CULTURE STRONG

28%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people creatively participate in Indigenous arts

As an expression of culture, arts are an important part of daily life for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. In 2008 over one in four participated creatively in Indigenous arts activities such as writing, telling stories, Indigenous arts and crafts, music, dance or theatre.

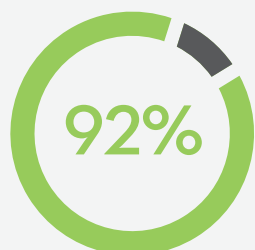
*'...we need to figure out how we look after our own traditions, and that includes storytelling'*

Alexis Wright

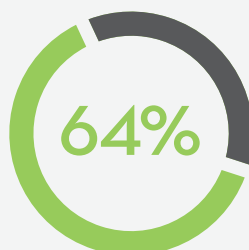
Writer and Research Fellow at the University of Western Sydney

## AUSTRALIANS AND INDIGENOUS ARTS

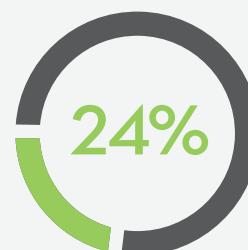
Almost all Australians agree that Indigenous arts are an important part of Australia's culture and two in three Australians have a strong or growing interest in Indigenous arts. While only around one in four engaged with Indigenous arts in 2013, this is up from 17% in 2009.



92% of Australians agree that Indigenous arts are an important part of Australia's culture



64% of Australians have a strong or growing interest in Indigenous arts



24% of Australians attended Indigenous arts in the previous year

## FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH ARTS NATION REPORT THEME:

- Australians Experiencing the Arts
- Artists and the Arts
- Australian Arts Internationally
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts
- The Cultural Economy