

ARTS IN DAILY LIFE

DECEMBER 2014

PARTICIPATION ACROSS STATES AND TERRITORIES

The Arts in Daily Life: Australian Participation in the Arts research contains detailed information on how Australians participate in the arts. This factsheet looks at how findings vary for each State and Territory.

Engagement with the arts - what are Australians doing?

Overall, the levels of arts engagement for each state and territory are the same as the national levels.

Over nine in 10 Australians, across all states and territories, are receptively engaging with the arts by attending arts events or reading.

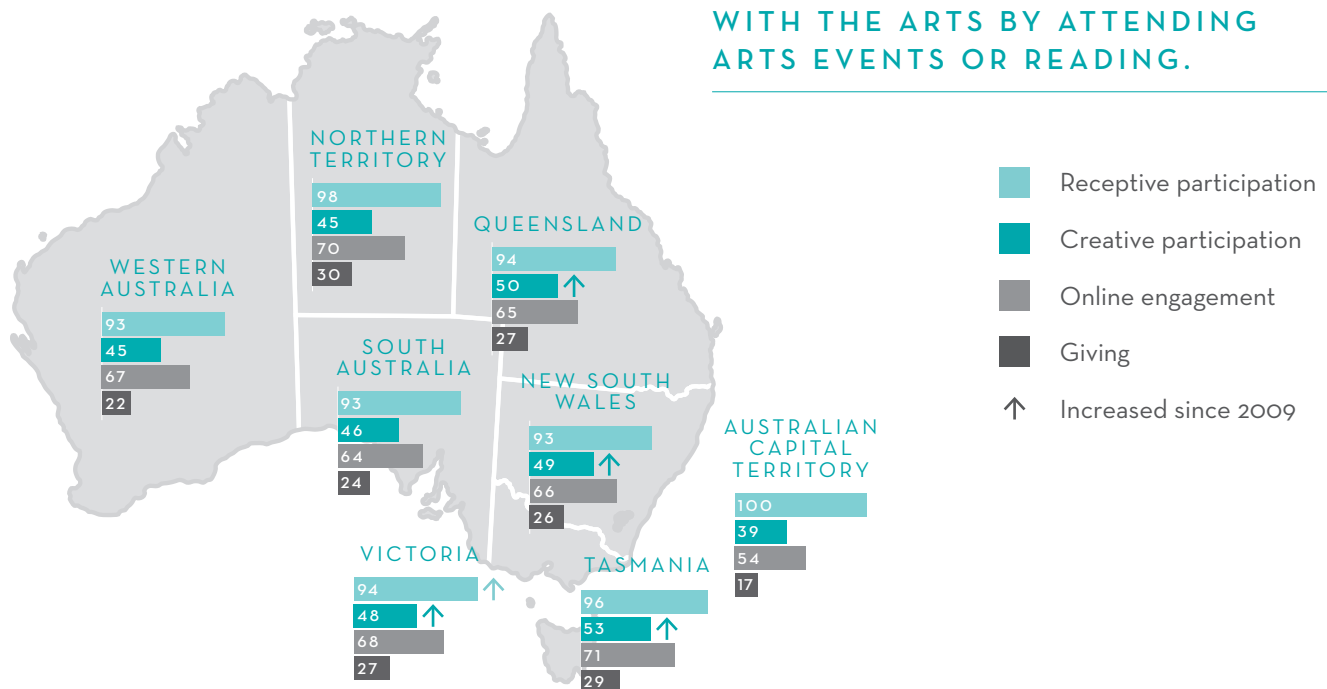
Almost half are creating art themselves, with no statistically significant differences between states and territories. This creative participation has increased in New South Wales (from 40 percent in 2009 to 49 percent in 2013), Victoria (from 39 to 48 percent) and Queensland (from 42 to 50 percent).

About two thirds of Australians across all states and territories are using the internet to engage with the arts.

Australians are also engaging with the arts by donating their time or money. Around one quarter of Australians give to the arts. A slightly smaller proportion of people in Western Australia said that they donated time or money to the arts in 2013 than the national average.

FIGURE 1

Engagement with the arts across Australian states and territories in 2013 (out of 100%)



OVER NINE IN 10 AUSTRALIANS, ACROSS ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES, ARE RECEPTIVELY ENGAGING WITH THE ARTS BY ATTENDING ARTS EVENTS OR READING.

Attitudes to the arts - what do Australians think?

Australian states and territories are generally becoming more positive about the arts and their impact, in line with the national trends.

More people in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland agree that 'the arts make for a richer and more meaningful life', in 2013 than in 2009.

Across most states and territories, significantly fewer agree that 'the arts are not really for people like me', highlighting the growing inclusiveness of the arts. There have been some significant changes in inclusiveness for some states. For example, about half as many Tasmanians think that 'the arts are too expensive' and that they 'attract people who are somewhat elitist' as in 2009.

More people in Queensland agree that there are 'plenty of opportunities for me to get involved in the arts', and that 'the arts should be an important part of the education of every Australian' in 2013, compared to 2009.

There are some differences between states. For example Victorians are more likely to agree that there are 'plenty of opportunities for me to get involved with the arts' than Australians in general. South Australians are more likely to agree that 'Indigenous arts are an important part of Australia's culture', compared to nationally. People living in WA are more likely to agree that 'Indigenous arts are well represented', compared to nationally.

Overall, most of the states and territories highlighted the same key areas where the arts have a big impact - child development; our ability to express ourselves; our ability to think creatively and develop new ideas; helping us deal with stress, anxiety or depression and; our sense of wellbeing and happiness.

A greater proportion of New South Wales residents felt that the arts had a big or very big impact on our lives and society, compared to Australians overall.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts - how are Australians engaging with Indigenous arts?

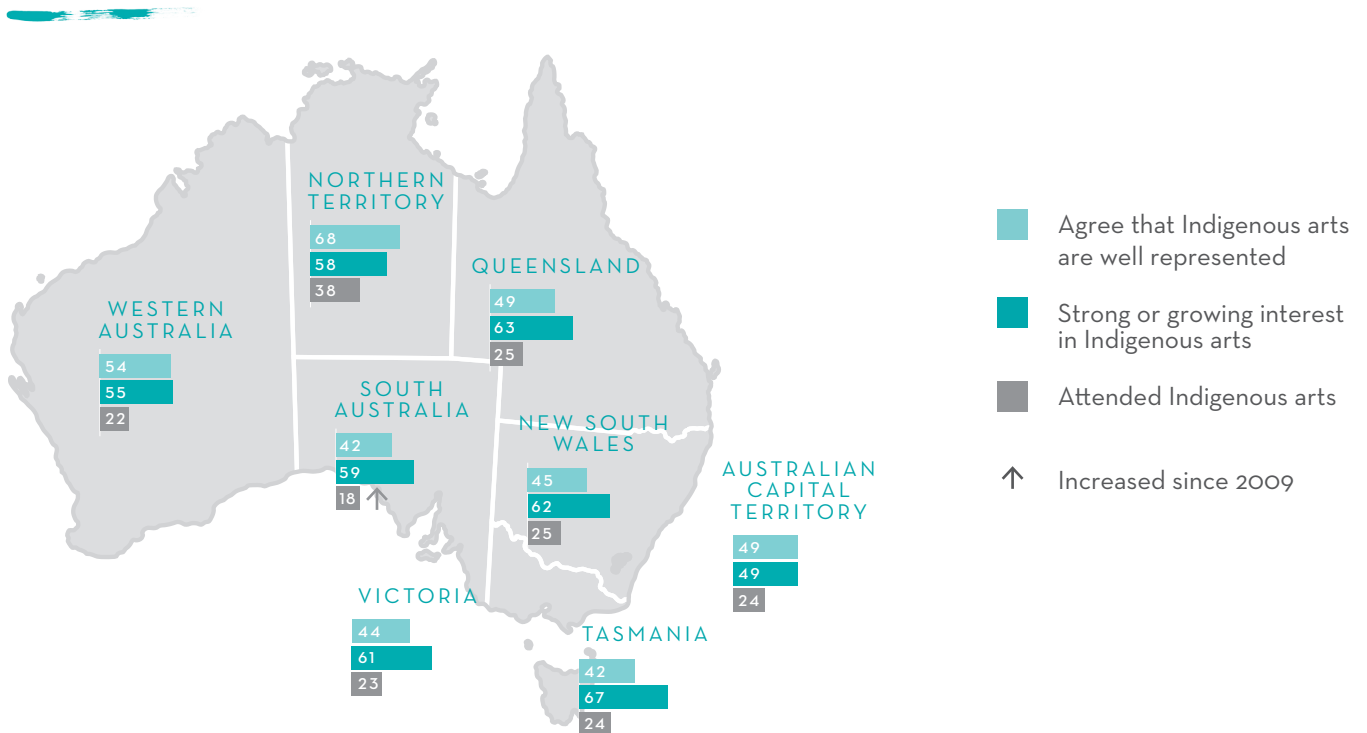
Most states have seen increases in those agreeing that 'Indigenous arts are an important part of Australia's culture', and increases in attendance at Indigenous arts, in line with national trends. South Australia has a slightly lower proportion of people who have attended Indigenous arts than the national average.

The proportion of people with a strong or growing interest in Indigenous arts has mostly remained stable. However, there are still many people that are interested in Indigenous arts but are not attending.

Only about half of people agree that Indigenous arts are well represented in Australia. This figure is slightly higher in Western Australia, but it remains an area for further development across all states.

FIGURE 2

Engagement with Indigenous arts across states and territories in 2013 (out of 100%)



Methodology

State and Territory art agencies were given the opportunity to financially partner with the Australia Council on the *Arts in Daily Life: Australian Participation in the Arts* research. Arts NSW, Arts Victoria, Arts Queensland and the Department of Culture and the Arts, Western Australia (DCA WA) contributed towards the project, commissioned additional respondents in their state (booster sample), and an individual state report from the research contractor Instinct and Reason.

The findings presented in this factsheet and workbook are based on:

- surveys with 3004 Australians, representative by age, gender and location
- surveys with additional participants from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia (booster samples).

As the booster samples were not representative of each state, findings for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia have been weighted to be representative. Findings for South Australia, Tasmania, ACT and Northern Territory are presented unweighted, in line with the 2009 research report.

Differences over time and between states and the national findings were tested for statistical significance at the 95% confidence level. Due to the small sample sizes for the Northern Territory and ACT, their findings should be read with caution.

For detailed findings for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, please refer to their individual state reports.

Glossary

These key terms are used in this report:

- **Attendance** is attendance at live events/art galleries only.
- **Receptive participation** is attendance at live events/art galleries, plus reading literature.
- **Creative participation** is actively making art or doing an arts activity oneself.

This Fact Sheet has been produced by the Australia Council for the Arts as part of our research project *Arts in Daily Life: Australian Participation in the Arts*.

For more information on our research and to view other fact sheets and resources, visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au