

How do the arts affect me?

Australians are becoming more positive about the arts and the role of the arts in their lives. Almost nine in 10 agree that the arts make life richer and more meaningful – up from seven in 10 in 1999. Over half of people think that the arts have a big impact on our health and wellbeing, and that they can help us deal with negative emotional experiences like stress, anxiety or depression.

The arts are also important for our creativity. Around six in 10 people think that the arts have a big impact on our creative thinking and help us to develop new ideas. They are also an important way of expressing ourselves. The arts are more than their dollar value – only 22 percent of people thought the arts had a big impact on the economy. Instead, Australians see the importance of the arts in what they give to us personally.



How do the arts affect society?

The arts play a valued role in Australian society. Nine in ten people value the contributions that artists make to society and have a sense of pride when they do well overseas. Almost half of Australians think that the arts have a big impact on shaping our identity as Australians and our community identity and pride.

	1999	2009	2013
Attitudes to the arts	Strongly agree + agree %	Strongly agree + agree %	Strongly agree + agree %
Artists make an important contribution to Australian society	-	-	90
The arts should be an important part of the education of every Australian	85	90	89
I feel proud when Australian artists do well overseas	-	-	88
The arts make for a more richer and meaningful life	71	80	85
There are plenty of opportunities for me to get involved in the arts	56	70	72
The arts are too expensive	54	39	36
The arts tend to attract people who are somewhat elitist or pretentious	51	34	30
The arts are not really for people like me	35	20	13

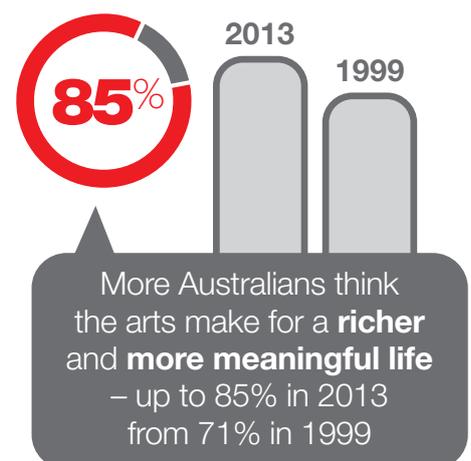
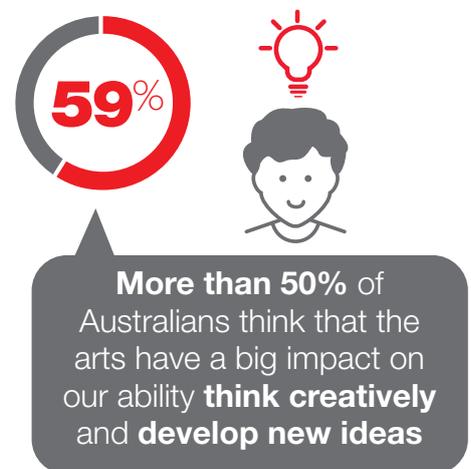
Note: Red figures indicate statistically significant differences from 2009 to 2013 at 95% confidence.

Impact of the arts	Big impact + Very big impact %
Our ability to express ourselves	61
Our ability to think creatively and develop new ideas	59
Helping us deal with stress, anxiety or depression	56
Our sense of wellbeing and happiness	52
The economy	22

Are the arts accessible?

Australians are finding it easier than ever to engage with the arts. The arts are becoming more affordable, with only one in three finding them too expensive in 2013, down from 39 percent in 2009 and 54 percent in 1999. This trend may reflect the increase in free large-scale public art events over the last few years. Also, only 13 percent of Australians now say that the arts is not really for them, down from 20 percent in 2009 and 35 percent in 1999.

Around seven in 10 people feel that there are plenty of opportunities for them to be involved in the arts. While this is a positive result overall, there are still about 5 million Australians that don't feel they have many opportunities to get involved in the arts. There is still potential to increase the public's connections to the arts.



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