



Australian Government

**Creative
Australia**



Western Australia factsheet

Creating Value

Results of the National Arts Participation Survey

Creating Value: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey is the first survey of its kind to be released by Creative Australia and the fifth survey in the landmark research series from the Australia Council, following iterations in 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2019.

The research series provides a comprehensive overview of Australians' evolving relationships with arts, culture and creativity. By examining our engagement with creativity – both through the lens of self-expression and engagement with arts and creative activities – this series builds the evidence base on participation in the arts in Australia.

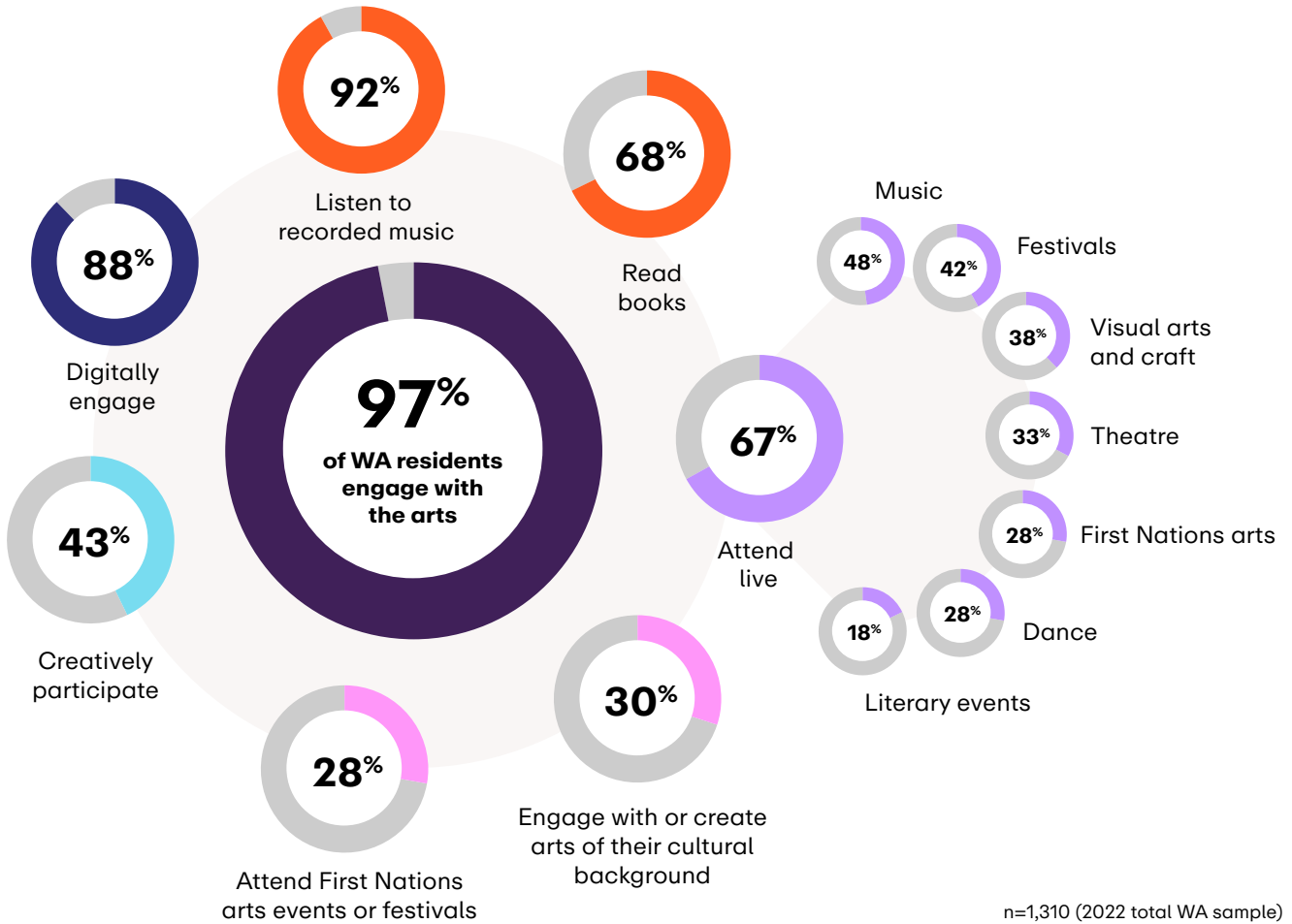
For the full report and online resources see: <https://creative.gov.au/advocacy-and-research/creating-value/>

This fact sheet provides an overview of results for Western Australia (WA).

Overview of engagement with the arts and creative activities and events

The 2022 National Arts Participation Survey found that the arts have a place in the lives of almost all Australians living in WA (97%), a similar proportion to engagement levels before COVID-19.

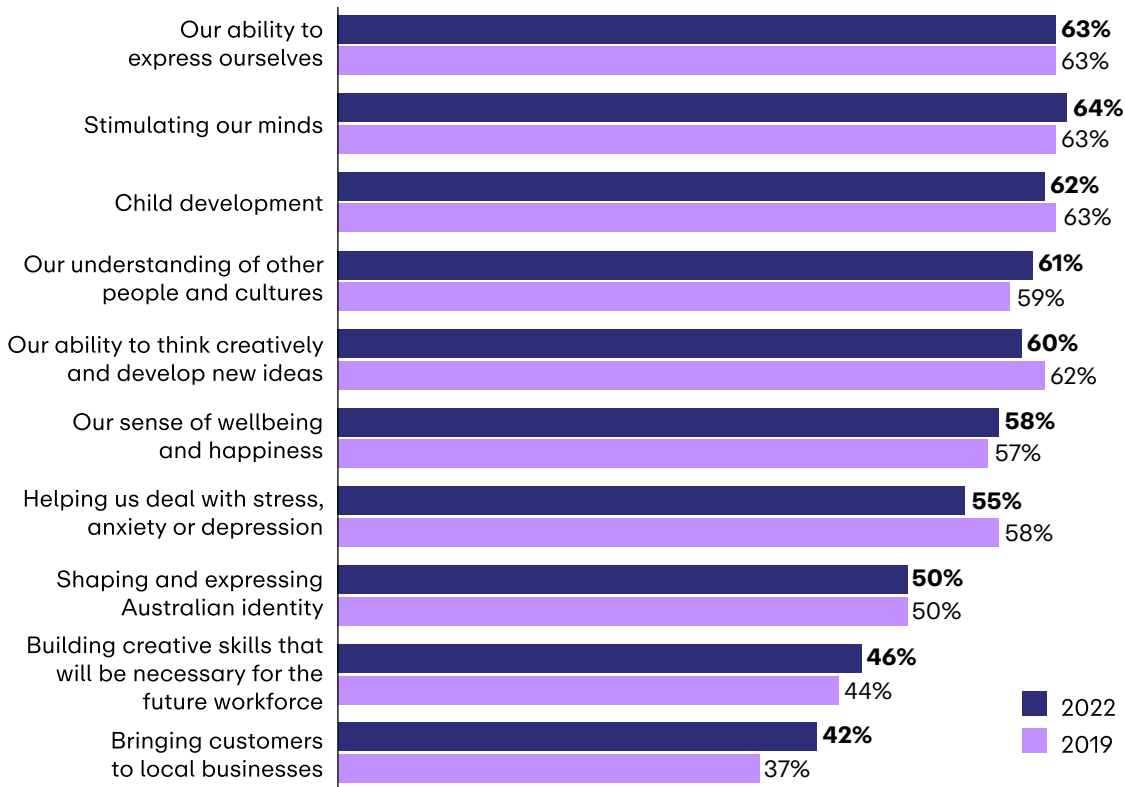
Figure 1: WA residents' overall engagement in creative and artistic activities and events in 2022



Valuing arts engagement

In 2022, 85% of Australians living in WA acknowledged the **significant positive impact of the arts on individuals, communities and the economy**. This is a slight increase from 84% in 2019 but consistent with the overall Australian data (84% both in 2022 and 2019).

Figure 2: Proportion who felt the arts had a ‘big’ or ‘very big’ impact on various areas 2019 and 2022



Q54. How much impact do you think creativity and the arts have in the following areas? Base: 2019 WA data (n= 1390) // 2022 WA data (n=1310)

Attitudes towards arts, culture and creativity

Agreement is highest for the following five statements, with at least seven in ten WA residents strongly agreeing or agreeing:

- **artists should have freedom of expression** (74%, consistent with 74% in 2019)
- **cultural and creative experiences should be an important part of education** (73%, down from 76% in 2019)
- **artists make an important contribution to Australian society** (72%, consistent with 70% in 2019)
- **cultural and creative experiences help you to understand perspectives that are different to your own** (71%, consistent with 73% in 2019)
- **cultural and creative experiences make for a richer and more meaningful life** (69%, consistent with 70% in 2019).

Agreement is lowest for the following three statements:

- ***cultural and creative experiences allow me to connect with others*** (55% up from 52% in 2019)
- ***there are plenty of opportunities for me to get involved in cultural and creative experiences*** (44%, consistent with 45% in 2019).

There has been no change in the proportion of Western Australians that feel disconnected from the arts, with more than a quarter agreeing that cultural and creative experiences are not really for people like me (26%, consistent with 26% in 2019).

Investment in arts, culture and creativity

Australians have clear priorities for investment in the arts. For those living in WA, priorities for public arts funding in order of importance are:

1. ***Ensuring free of low-cost events are available*** (71% ranked in top 3).
2. ***Ensuring children and young people have access to art and creative experiences to support learning and development*** (67% ranked in top 3).
3. ***Ensuring art and creative experiences are available to support people's health and wellbeing*** (47% ranked in top 3).
4. ***Funding art in public spaces*** (37% ranked in top 3).
5. ***Investing in the making of art so it can be widely shared and experienced*** (34% ranked in top 3)
6. ***Ensuring there is more access to creative activities and experiences online*** (23% ranked in top 3)
7. ***Supporting art that pushes boundaries and drives innovation*** (21% ranked in top 3).

The high value that Australians place on the arts is reflected in the **time and money** they give to support artists, arts organisations and arts projects.

In 2022, 23% of Australians living in WA gave back to the arts. This is consistent with the 2022 national average (23%) and the proportion of WA residents who gave to the arts in 2019 (23%).

The leading ways WA residents gave time or money to the arts include **unpaid work** such as helping artists or community groups with arts activities (9%, consistent with 9% in 2019) and **donating money to the arts** (10%, consistent with 10% in 2019).

Our cultural connections

Attitudes towards First Nations arts

In 2022, there was widespread agreement among WA residents that **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts are an important part of Australia's culture**, with 72% agreeing. Agreement has decreased since 2019 (76%).

However, less than half of Australians living in WA believe that **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts are well represented in Australia** (47%). This is slightly down from 50% in 2019.

In 2022, 37% of Western Australians were **interested in First Nations arts** (consistent with 36% in 2019). Among those interested, 46% reported a **growing interest in First Nations arts** in 2022 (up from 39% in 2019).

Cultural diversity and arts engagement

In 2022, three in ten of WA residents **engaged with their own cultural background, language group or community by attending events or festivals, or creating art** (30%, down from 33% 2019).

In 2022, one in four Western Australians **attended cultural and artistic events focused on their own cultural background, language group or community** (25%). This is a slight decrease from 29% in 2019. **Music** is the main form of arts event attended (14%), followed by **visual arts and craft and festivals or celebrations** (both 9%).

Live attendance

Creating Value shows that attendance is returning to pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, 68% of the Australian population **attended arts events or festivals**, consistent with 2019. Amongst people living in WA, attendance was at 67% in 2022, consistent with 65% in 2019.

In 2022:

- almost half of WA residents attended **live music** (48%, consistent with 48% in 2019)
- 41% WA residents attended arts festivals (up from 39% in 2019), including **music festivals** (24%), **performing arts festivals** (15%) and **visual art festivals or fairs** (15%)
- almost two in five WA residents attended **visual arts and crafts events** (38%, consistent with 36% in 2019)
- one third of WA residents attended **theatre performances** (33%, consistent with 34% in 2019)
- three in ten WA residents attended **First Nations arts or festivals** (28%, consistent with 30% in 2019) and **dance events** (28%, consistent with 28% in 2019)
- one in five WA residents attended **literary events** (18%, consistent with 20% in 2019).

Creative participation

In 2022, 43% of Australians living in WA **created, produced or collaborated in the making of art** (consistent with 45% in 2019).

- One in four Australians living in WA created **visual arts and craft**, including to engage with their own cultural background (25%, consistent with 25% in 2019).
- One in six WA residents created music, including to engage with their own cultural background (15%, consistent with 17% in 2019) and participated in **community choir or community theatre** (15%, consistent with 13% in 2019).
- One in seven WA residents produced **creative writing**, including to engage with their own cultural background (14%, consistent with 16% in 2019).
- One in ten WA residents were involved in **community arts and cultural development** (9%, consistent with 11% in 2019) and creatively participated in dance, including to engage with their own cultural background (9%, consistent with 9% in 2019).
- 6% of WA residents creatively participated in **theatre**, including to engage with their own cultural background (similar to 2019 at 7%).

Listening to recorded music

In 2022, 92% of Western Australians **listened to recorded music**. This remains relatively consistent with 93% in 2019.

- More than two thirds of WA residents listen to music on **radio or television** (68%).
- Over half of WA residents listen to music through **paid subscriptions** (52%, up from 37% in 2019).
- Three in five WA residents listen to music they **stream for free** (eg, YouTube) (60%).
- One quarter of WA residents listen to **purchased music** (either downloaded or a physical copy, eg, CDs/vinyl) (25%, down from 39% in 2019).

Reading

In 2022, 68% of Australians living in WA **read at least one printed book, e-book or listened to an audio book** for non-work and study purposes. This is consistent with 71% in 2019.

The most popular types of reading material are **novels or short stories** (46%), followed by **instructional non-fiction** such as guidebooks or cookbooks (32%) and **creative non-fiction** such as biographies or history books (29%).

Print books are still by far the most popular format, read by 66% of the WA population in the last year. One in three WA residents read a print book **at least once a week** (31%), with 10% reading in this format daily. In the past 12 months, two in five Australians living in WA read an **ebook** (39%) and one third listened to an **audio book** (33%), consistent with 40% and 32% in 2019 respectively.

Digital engagement

Most Australians in WA engage with the arts **online or through digital platforms** (88%). More than three quarters listen to streamed music (77%), and a smaller proportion **use a digital platform to engage with the arts** (73%).

Just over two in five WA residents use the internet to **watch live or recorded performances, or view virtual exhibits and museums** (42%), and almost one third use the internet to **follow, interact or research artists or art communities** (32%). Just under one in five Australians in WA **create art or learn to create art online** (19%).

Research approach

The 2022 National Arts Participation Survey was conducted in September–October 2022 and the results are based on a nationally representative sample of 9,396 people. The survey sample included 1,310 WA residents.

The previous National Arts Participation Survey was conducted in 2019, prior to the disruptions of COVID-19 and provided a benchmark of Australians' arts engagement before the pandemic. The 2022 survey results, in comparison, provide an update on arts engagement in the wake of COVID-19.

The 2022 survey results provide critical insights into how Australians' arts engagement might be changing following the disruptions felt by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to the role of the arts for our individual and collective wellbeing. The 2022 survey closely examined Australians' relationship with the arts throughout lockdown periods, providing insights into the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and wellbeing. It asked participants to reflect on their digital arts engagement throughout this time and to share their own perceptions of how their engagement might have changed.

Where a one or two percentage point difference is statistically significant, it has been reported as a change since 2019. However, if the same percentage point difference is not statistically significant (based on the sample size), this is reported as unchanged, or consistent with 2019.