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# 1. Cultural Attendance and Participation

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People have a large range of activities with which to occupy their spare time. Cultural activities they can undertake range from turning on the TV, reading a book, listening to a pop concert or going to the theatre.

## ATTENDANCE RATES AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS

The 2005–06 ABS survey on Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events collected data on 12 selected cultural venues and events. Most people (88% or 1.4 million) aged 15 years and over in WA attended at least one of the cultural venues or events in the 12-month period, compared to 85% nationally.

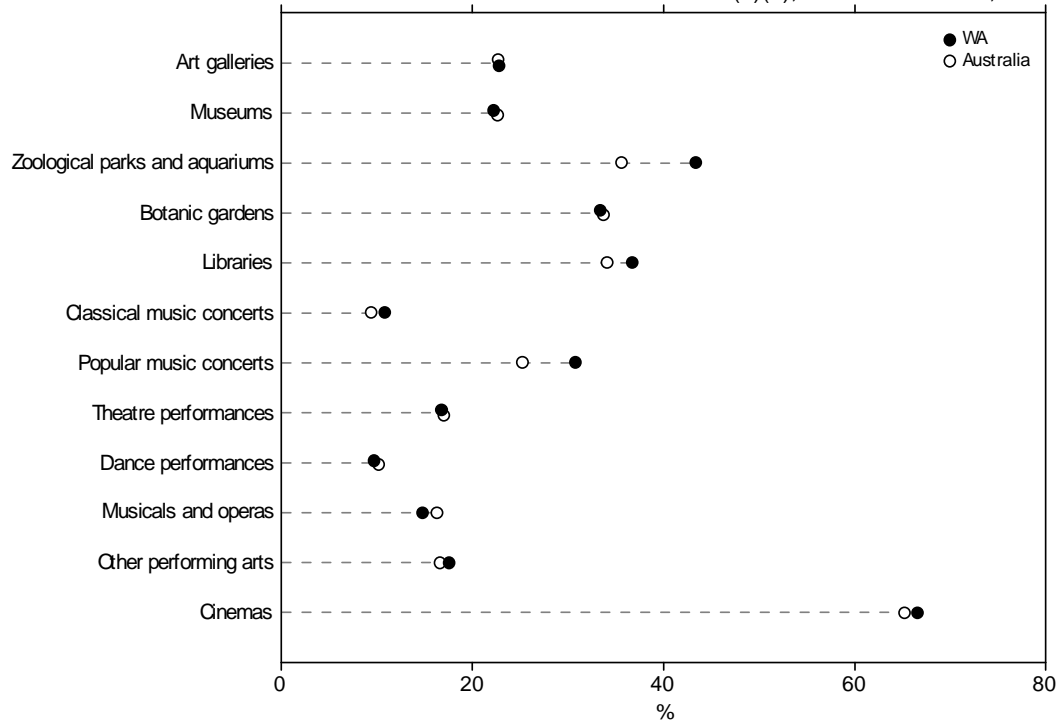
If you exclude zoological parks and aquariums and botanic gardens from these figures, then 84% of persons aged 15 years and over in WA (or 1.3 million) attended at least one of the cultural venues or events in the 12-month period, compared to 81% nationally.

In 2005–06, of people aged 15 years and over:

- 67% of people in WA attended cinemas compared with 65% of Australians
- 43% of people in WA attended zoological parks and aquariums compared with 36% of Australians
- 37% of people in WA attended libraries compared with 34% of Australians
- 33% of people in WA attended botanic gardens compared with 34% of Australians
- 31% of people in WA attended popular music concerts compared with 25% of Australians
- 23% of people in WA attended art galleries compared with 23% of Australians
- 22% of people in WA attended museums compared with 23% of Australians
- 17% of people in WA attended theatre performances compared with 17% of Australians
- 15% of people in WA attended musicals and operas compared with 16% of Australians
- 10% of people in WA attended dance performances compared with 10% of Australians
- 11% of people in WA attended classical musical concerts compared with 9% of Australians
- 18% of people in WA attended other performing arts events compared with 17% of Australians

WA had similar attendance rates at most of the selected cultural venues and events to the national average, except at zoological parks and aquariums and popular music concerts where WA attendance rate was higher.

1.1 ATTENDANCE RATES AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a)(b), WA and Australia, 2005–06



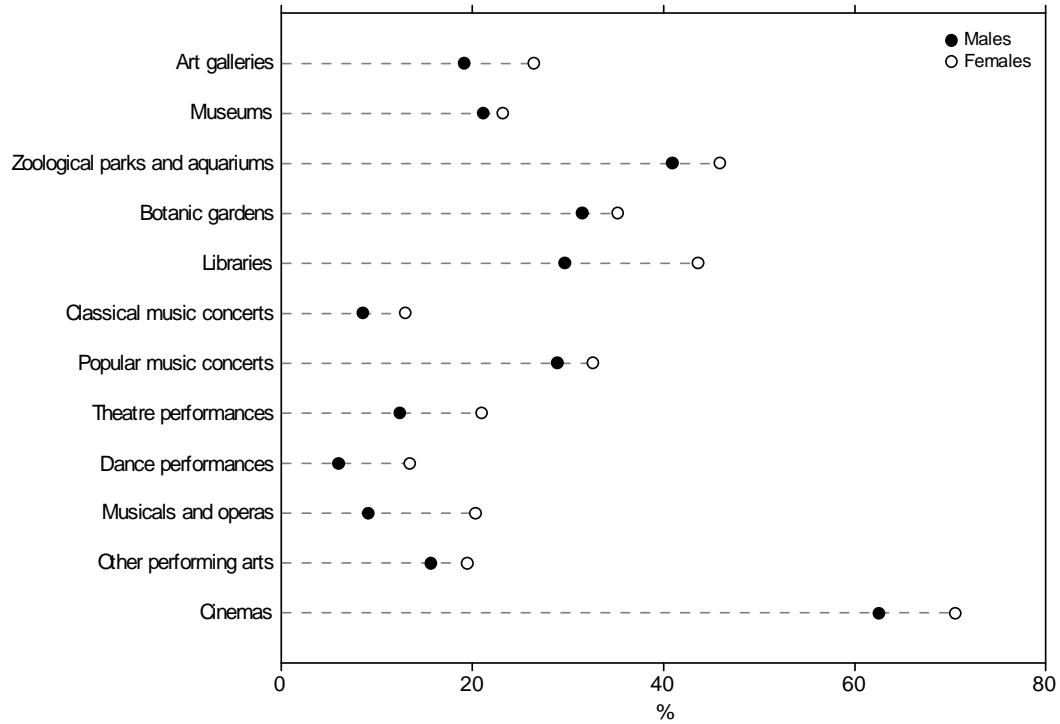
(a) In the 12 months before interview.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2005–06* (cat. no. 4114.0) and data available on request.

Overall, a higher proportion of females than males attended cultural venues and events in WA. The largest difference between male and female attendance was at libraries with 44% of females attending compared to 30% of males.

1.2 ATTENDANCE RATES AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a)(b), WA, By sex, 2005–06



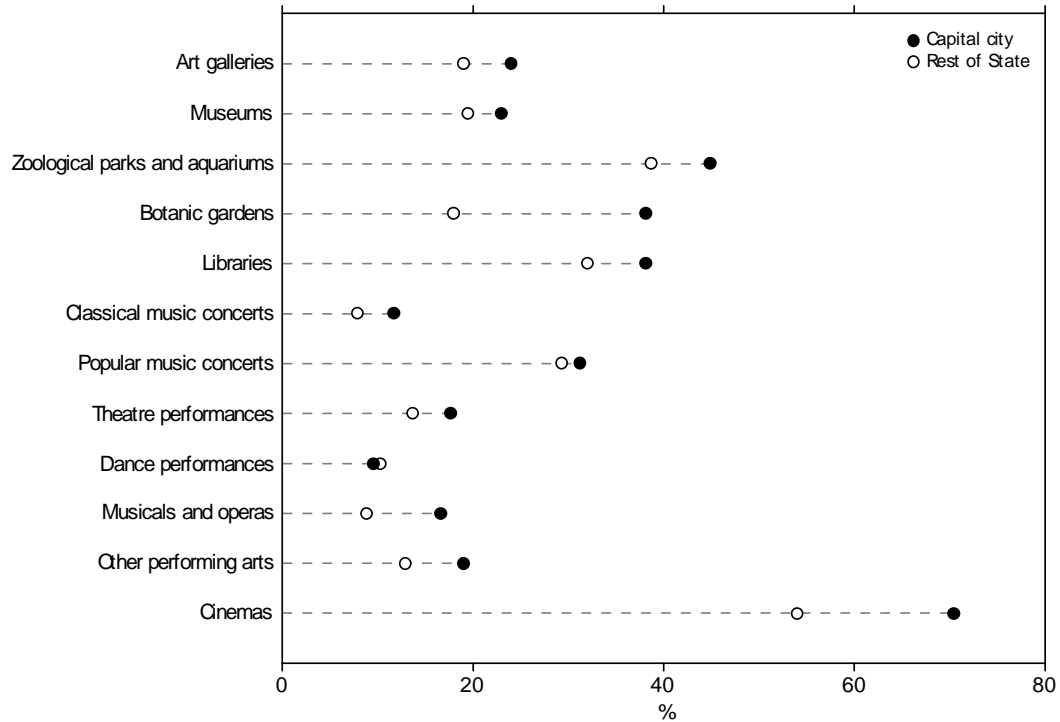
(a) In the 12 months before interview.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

Attendance rates at each of the cultural venues and events were noticeably higher in the capital city, except for dance performances where the attendance rates were similar.

1.3 ATTENDANCE RATES AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a)(b), WA, By region, 2005–06



(a) In the 12 months before interview.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

A higher proportion of persons in the 15–17 year age group in WA (97%) attended a cultural venue and events, compared to the other age groups surveyed.

#### 1.4 ATTENDANCE RATES AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a), WA, By age, 2005–06

	15–17 years %	18–24 years %	25–34 years %	35–44 years %	45–54 years %	55–64 years %	65–74 years %	75 years and over %	Total %
Art galleries	*17.9	15.9	23.1	22.9	26.3	30.5	21.0	14.8	22.8
Museums	*23.1	11.6	24.1	27.6	23.7	25.9	17.2	14.1	22.2
Zoological parks and aquariums	39.4	49.8	51.7	54.1	40.4	36.9	32.3	16.7	43.4
Botanic gardens	*21.0	23.2	34.7	37.0	39.8	37.0	32.6	24.5	33.4
Libraries	37.6	32.2	35.0	42.5	32.0	39.2	39.6	36.0	36.7
Classical music concerts	**2.4	*5.7	6.4	10.0	15.1	17.6	15.3	*9.4	10.8
Popular music concerts	37.7	46.8	34.7	33.1	31.2	25.6	16.2	*4.1	30.8
Theatre performances	*22.3	13.3	17.5	20.0	15.5	17.7	13.6	12.5	16.8
Dance performances	*11.9	8.6	7.0	13.1	11.5	10.9	7.4	*2.4	9.7
Musicals and operas	*11.6	16.2	12.3	18.3	13.6	18.8	11.8	9.0	14.8
Other performing arts	*11.3	16.1	20.1	20.7	18.5	20.8	12.3	7.1	17.6
Cinemas	90.8	84.1	74.5	72.2	63.4	57.7	44.6	29.0	66.6
At least one venue or event	97.1	93.0	93.0	92.8	87.2	81.3	76.0	68.8	87.6

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) In the 12 months before interview.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

## FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS

As the frequency of attendance at libraries and cinemas is higher than the other cultural venues and events, these data are presented in a separate table.

In the previous 12 months, almost half (49%) of those who went to the cinema went more than six times, and around two thirds (65%) of those who went to the library, attended more than six times.

#### 1.5 FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT CINEMAS AND LIBRARIES(a)(b), WA, 2005–06

	1–5 times	6–15 times	16 times or more	Total who attended
Number ('000)				
Cinema	534.0	420.6	84.4	1 039.0
Library	200.8	208.2	163.4	572.5
Attendance rate (%)				
Cinema	51.4	40.5	8.1	100.0
Library	35.1	36.4	28.5	100.0

(a) In the 12 months before interview.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

Most participants who attended dance performance, musicals and operas, zoological parks and aquariums and museums went only once in the 12 month period. However, of those who attended art galleries, classical music concerts, popular music concerts, botanic gardens and theatre performances, most people attended more than once in the 12 month period.

#### 1.6 FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES AND EVENTS(a)(b), WA, 2005–06

	Once	2–4 times	5 times or more	Total who attended
	Number ('000)			
Art gallery	138.5	165.8	51.5	355.8
Museum	170.0	142.2	33.6	345.7
Zoological parks and aquariums	294.1	306.6	76.9	677.6
Botanic gardens	162.2	251.4	107.1	520.8
Popular music concert	68.9	71.0	28.2	168.2
Classical music concert	162.5	240.5	77.0	479.9
Theatre performance	111.7	129.0	20.9	261.6
Dance performance	87.8	54.2	*10.1	152.1
Musicals and operas	125.6	91.3	*13.4	230.4
Other performing arts	199.2	70.0	*5.4	274.7
	Attendance rate (%)			
Art gallery	38.9	46.6	14.5	100.0
Museum	49.2	41.1	9.7	100.0
Zoological parks and aquariums	43.4	45.2	11.3	100.0
Botanic gardens	31.1	48.3	20.6	100.0
Popular music concert	41.0	42.2	16.8	100.0
Classical music concert	33.9	50.1	16.0	100.0
Theatre performance	42.7	49.3	8.0	100.0
Dance performance	57.7	35.6	*6.6	100.0
Musicals and operas	54.5	39.6	*5.8	100.0
Other performing arts	72.5	25.5	*2.0	100.0

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) In the 12 months before interview.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, 2005–06*, data available on request.

## READING FOR PLEASURE

A survey conducted by ACNielsen for the Australian Government book promotion, *Books Alive*, in June 2001, found that 78% of people aged 18 years and over in Australia read for pleasure every day or on most days of the week. The report *A National Survey of Reading, Buying and Borrowing Books for Pleasure* is available at [http://www.ozco.gov.au/arts\\_resources/publications/a\\_national\\_survey\\_of\\_reading\\_buying\\_and\\_borrowing\\_books/](http://www.ozco.gov.au/arts_resources/publications/a_national_survey_of_reading_buying_and_borrowing_books/). However, there is no state level data provided.

ABS data collected on children's reading is available in Chapter 3 of this report, 'Children, Young People and the Arts'.

## USE OF FREE TIME

How people spend their time was the subject of an ABS survey conducted in 2006. People aged 15 years and over were asked to record what they did during a two-day period. Information was recorded on necessary activities such as eating and sleeping, and the usual activities such as paid work, study, housework and unpaid community work.

The time left in the day after these activities have been accounted for is considered free time, and it is under the broad heading of free time that most culture and recreation activities appear.

Many free time activities can be undertaken simultaneously with another activity (e.g. watching TV while eating a meal, or listening to the radio while doing housework). The information presented below shows the time spent by participants on each activity, regardless of whether it was the main activity being undertaken at the time or whether it was a secondary activity being undertaken simultaneously.

It is perhaps not too surprising that watching TV was found to be the activity which took up most people's leisure time. On a daily basis 87% of Australians watched TV for an average of just less than 3 hours (179 minutes), down slightly from the 1997 figure of 182 minutes. This means that in 2006, Australians aged 15 years and over spent a total of 42 million hours watching TV each day.

Other activities on which Australians spent a large amount of time included listening to the radio and reading.

The Time Use Survey found that visiting entertainment and cultural venues attracted about 4% of the population who spent on average about two hours when they attended. The total time spent by all Australians on visiting entertainment and cultural venues (1.3 million person hours per day) was similar to the time spent on religious activities and listening to CDs, records and tapes (1.3 million person hours per day and 1.1 million person hours per day respectively).

### 1.7 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON SELECTED CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES(a)(b), 2006

	Participants average	Participation rate	Total time spent by all Australians	Average % of day spent on activity by all Australians
	minutes per day	%	Million person hours per day	%
Visiting entertainment and cultural venues	114	4.3	1.3	0.3
Attendance at sports event	127	1.6	0.5	0.1
Religious activities/ritual ceremonies	91	5.3	1.3	0.3
Sport and outdoor activity	88	25.6	6.2	1.5
Games/hobbies/arts/crafts	100	17.7	4.9	1.2
Reading	76	43.7	8.9	2.3
TV watching/listening	179	87.4	42	10.8
Video/DVD watching	109	8.3	2.4	0.6
Listening to radio	123	47.9	15.9	4.1
Listening to records/tapes/CDs and other audio media	71	5.6	1.1	0.3
Attendance at courses (excluding school and university)	113	0.6	0.2	0
Audio/visual media nec(c)	83	22.7	5.8	1.3

(a) Includes only those that have taken part in the activity.

(b) Includes cultural activities that were undertaken as a secondary activity.

(c) Computer and internet use, other than for games.

Source: ABS, *How Australians Use Their Time* (cat. no. 4153.0), data available on request.

## **CULTURAL TOURISM**

The report *Cultural Tourism in Regions of Australia* prepared by Tourism Research Australia for the Cultural Ministers Council provides information on both domestic and international cultural visitors. The report is available from the Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group website at <[http://www.culturaldata.gov.au/publications/statistics\\_working\\_group](http://www.culturaldata.gov.au/publications/statistics_working_group)>.