

INTRODUCTION

This brochure contains information from the report *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: Involvement in arts and culture* (cat. no. 4721.0). A range of ABS data sources was used to analyse various aspects of involvement in culture, the arts and cultural heritage by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. This includes:

- Participation in creative activities such as making Indigenous arts or crafts, performing Indigenous music, dance or theatre, or writing or telling Indigenous stories;
- Employment of Indigenous people in arts occupations; and
- Attendance at selected cultural venues and events.

Comparisons with other social activities are also provided.

KEY FINDINGS

- Over one-quarter of Indigenous people had participated in Indigenous creative arts during the previous 12-month period.
- Indigenous people earned, on average, less for their employment in the arts than non-Indigenous people.
- Indigenous people in remote areas were likely to be more reliant on Indigenous creative arts as a source of income.
- In non-remote areas, Indigenous adults were less likely to attend museums, libraries, cinemas, or theatres than non-Indigenous adults.
- Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to have attended a religious activity or a ceremony than those in non-remote areas.

THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The total estimated resident Indigenous population as at June 2001 was 458,500, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples making up 2.4% of the total Australian population.

The median age of the Indigenous population was 21 years compared with 36 years for the non-Indigenous population.

28% of the Indigenous population lived in remote areas compared with 2% for the non-Indigenous population.

Estimated resident population, Persons aged 15 years or over – 30 June 2001

	Indigenous persons(a)		Non-Indigenous persons	
	no.	%	no.	%
Male	135 758	48.5	7 450 522	49.2
Female	144 070	51.5	7 695 692	50.8
Age group (years)				
15–34	156 268	55.8	5 372 585	35.5
35–54	92 249	33.0	5 538 583	36.6
55 or over	31 311	11.2	4 235 046	28.0
Remoteness				
Non-remote	202 862	72.5	14 849 358	98.0
Remote	76 966	27.5	296 856	2.0
Total	279 828	100.0	15 146 214	100.0

(a) Estimates are experimental.

Source: *Estimated resident population, 2001, data available on request.*

CREATIVE PARTICIPATION IN ARTS

Creative participation in Indigenous arts

In 2002, over one-quarter (27%) of Indigenous people had participated in at least one of the selected Indigenous creative arts activities during the previous 12-month period. (This includes paid and unpaid involvement, and participation in hobby activities.)

The activity with highest participation was arts or crafts (16%), followed by writing or telling Indigenous stories (13%) and music, dance or theatre (8%).

CREATIVE ARTS PARTICIPATION(a) (b),
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over—2002



(a) In the last 12 months.

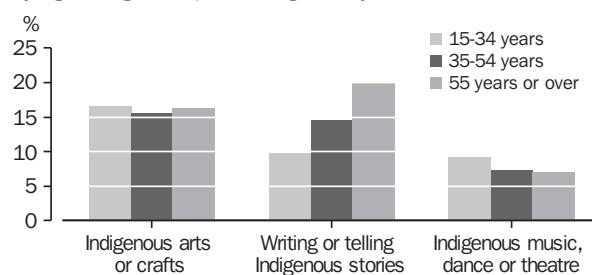
(b) People may have provided more than one response.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, data available on request.

Women and men had similar levels of participation in music, dance or theatre, and writing or telling stories. However, women recorded higher participation in making arts or crafts (19%) than men (13%).

Looking at different age groups, participation in writing or telling stories increased with age. There was little variation for performing music, dance or theatre, and making arts or crafts.

CREATIVE ARTS PARTICIPATION(a) (b),
By age, Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over—2002



(a) In the last 12 months.

(b) People may have provided more than one response.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, data available on request.

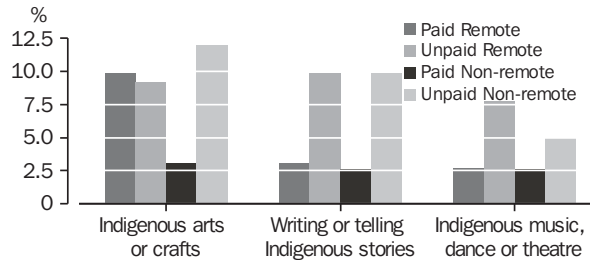
Paid participation

The majority of participation in the Indigenous creative arts was unpaid. In 2002, 28% of the 77,300 Indigenous people who participated in the selected Indigenous creative arts activities received payment for their involvement.

Indigenous people were more likely to be paid for making Indigenous arts or crafts, than for performing Indigenous music, dance or theatre, or for writing or telling Indigenous stories.

The proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over who received payment for participation in Indigenous creative arts was higher in remote areas (12%) than in non-remote areas (6%).

CREATIVE ARTS PARTICIPATION(a)(b)(c),
By remoteness by payment—2002



(a) In the last 12 months.

(b) People may have provided more than one response.

(c) Includes Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over.

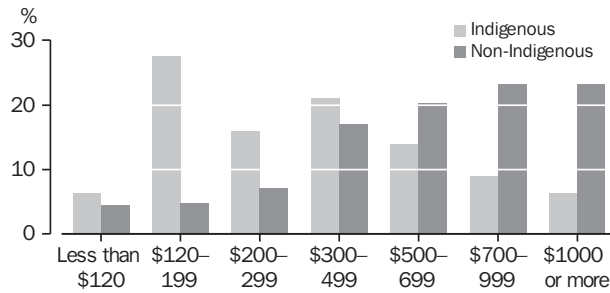
Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, data available on request.

Where payment was received for Indigenous creative arts, this was usually not as part of the person's main job. According to the 2001 Census, around 1.5% (or 1,500 people) of the Indigenous workforce were employed in creative arts occupations as their main job. These included painters, sculptors, actors, musicians, writers and other creative artists.

As with other occupations, Indigenous people earned less for their employment in the arts than non-Indigenous people. In 2001, 71% of Indigenous people employed in creative arts occupations received less than \$500 per week compared with 33% of non-Indigenous people.

Paid participation *continued*

**DISTRIBUTION OF GROSS INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY INCOME(a),
Employed in creative arts occupation as their main job — 2001**



(a) Includes all sources of income.

(b) Persons aged 15 years or over.

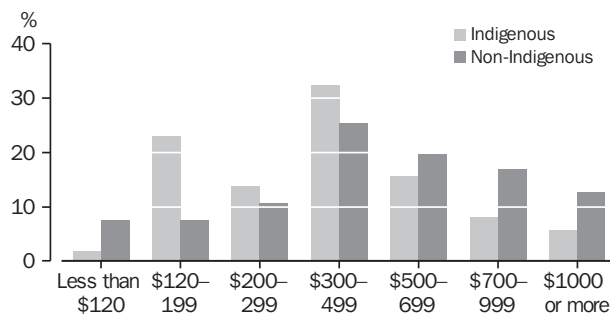
Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 2001, data available on request.*

Indigenous people are more likely to be employed in visual arts and crafts occupations (e.g. painters, sculptors and potters) whereas non-Indigenous people are more likely to be employed in relatively higher income creative arts occupations such as graphic designers and architects.

There were almost twice as many Indigenous females as males employed in visual arts and crafts occupations (502 compared with 284).

Within each creative arts occupation Indigenous people earned, on average, less than non-Indigenous people. For example, 71% of Indigenous people employed full-time in visual arts and crafts occupations in 2001 received less than \$500 a week compared with 51% of non-Indigenous people. A similar pattern was found for the other creative arts occupations.

PERSONS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS OCCUPATIONS(a)—2001



(a) Full-time refers to persons working 35 hours or more a week.

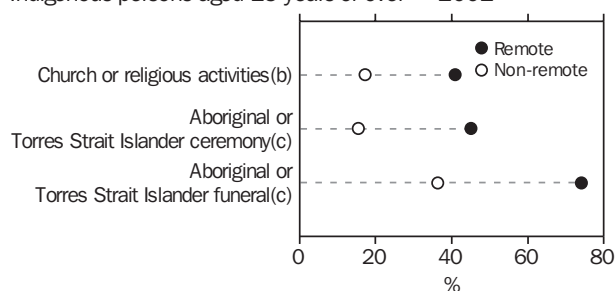
Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 2001, data available on request.*

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Involvement in Indigenous cultural activities

In 2002, about 24% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over had attended an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ceremony in the last 12 months, while almost half (47%) had been to an Indigenous funeral. Around 24% had been to church or religious activities in the last 3 months. Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to have attended a church or religious activity in the last three months (41%) or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ceremony in the last 12 months (45%) than those in non-remote areas (17% and 16% respectively).

ATTENDANCE AT OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS(a),
Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over — 2002



(a) People may have provided more than one response.

(b) In the last three months.

(c) In the last 12 months.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, data available on request.

Indigenous women recorded higher attendance rates for church and religious activities than men (28% compared with 20%).

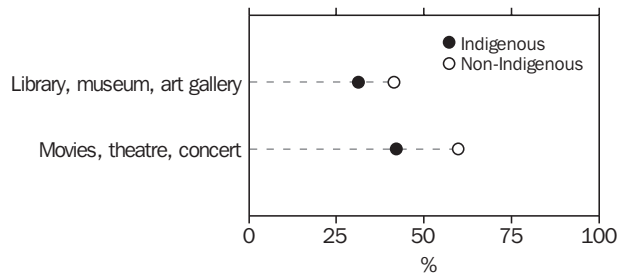
Attendance at Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ceremonies were similar for all age groups. However, involvement with church or religious activities increased with age (up from 23% for people aged 15-34 years to 31% for those aged 55 or over).

In 2002, 26% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over attended an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander festival or carnival involving arts, craft, music or dance during a 12-month period.

Attendance at selected cultural events and activities

In non-remote areas, Indigenous adults were less likely to attend libraries, museums or art galleries, and movies, theatres or concerts than non-Indigenous adults. 42% of Indigenous people aged 18 years or over in non-remote areas had attended a movie, theatre or concert in the last three months, and 31% had visited a library, museum or art gallery. This compares with non-Indigenous attendance of 61% and 42% respectively.

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL EVENTS & VENUES(a)(b), Persons aged 18 years or over in non-remote areas — 2002



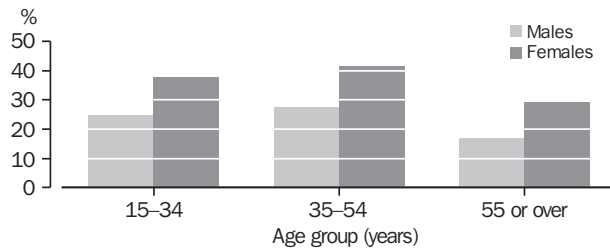
- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have provided more than one response.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and General Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.

Attendance rates at libraries, museums or art galleries, and movies, theatres or concerts were higher for Indigenous women than men.

In non-remote areas, 38% of Indigenous women aged 15 years or over had visited a library, museum or art gallery in the last three months compared with 25% of Indigenous men.

ATTENDANCE AT LIBRARY, MUSEUM, ART GALLERY(a)(b), Indigenous persons(c) in non-remote areas — 2002



- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have attended more than one venue or event.
- (c) Aged 15 years or over.

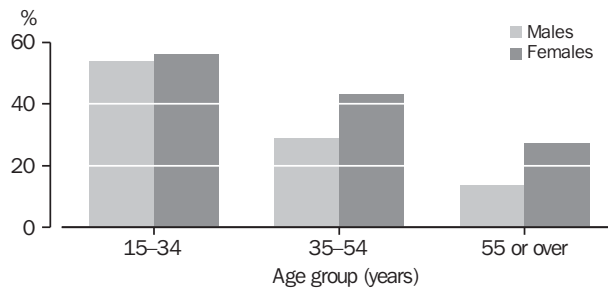
Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.

Attendance at selected cultural events and activities *continued*

Similarly, 48% of Indigenous women aged 15 years or over and 41% of Indigenous men living in non-remote areas had attended a movie, theatre or concert during this time.

Attendance rates at movies, theatre and concerts declined with age, i.e. Indigenous people aged 15 to 54 years were more likely to have attended than those aged 55 or over.

ATTENDANCE AT MOVIES, THEATRE, CONCERT(a) (b),
Indigenous persons(c) in non-remote areas — 2002



(a) In the last three months.

(b) People may have attended more than one venue or event.

(c) Aged 15 years or over.

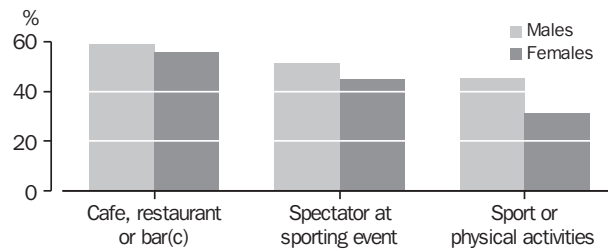
Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002*, data available on request.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social activities most commonly reported by Indigenous people aged 15 years or over were going out to a cafe, restaurant or bar (57%), attending a sporting event as a spectator (48%), and involvement in sport or physical activities (38%).

A higher proportion of Indigenous males than females took part in these social activities, especially with involvement in sport or physical activities (with 45% of males and 31% of females taking part).

PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b), Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over — 2002

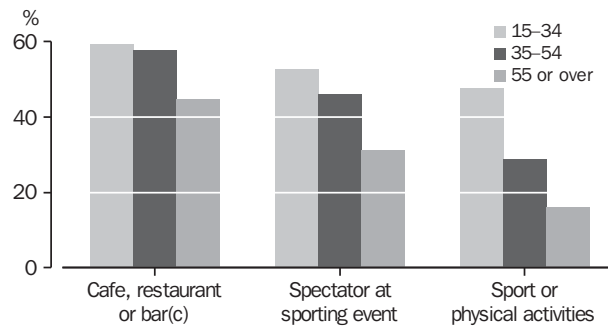


- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have provided more than one response.
- (c) Includes pubs, hotels and canteens.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.

Participation in these social activities decreased with age. Involvement in sport or physical activities fell from 48% for the 15–34 age group to 16% for those aged 55 or over.

PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b), Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over — 2002



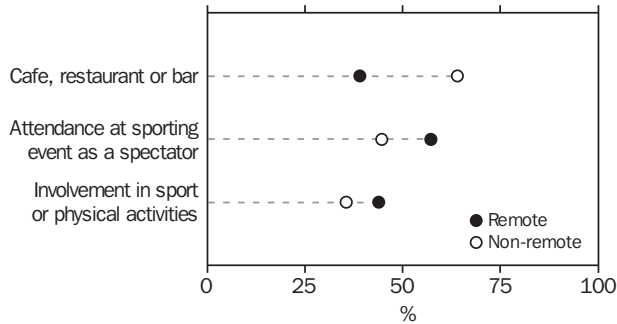
- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have provided more than one response.
- (c) Includes pubs, hotels and canteens.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES *continued*

Attendance at sporting events and involvement in sport or physical activities were greater in remote areas (57% and 44% respectively) than non-remote areas (45% and 36%).

PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b),
By remoteness, Indigenous persons(c) — 2002

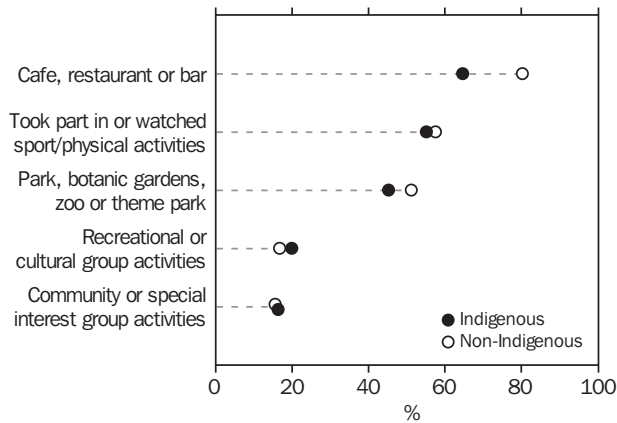


- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have provided more than one response.
- (c) Aged 15 years or over.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.*

For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 18 years or over in non-remote areas, the three most commonly reported social activities were going out to a cafe, restaurant or bar (65% and 81% respectively); taking part in, or attending a sporting event (55% and 58%); and visiting a park, botanic gardens, zoo or theme park (45% and 52%).

PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES(a)(b),
Persons aged 18 years or over in non-remote areas — 2002



- (a) In the last three months.
- (b) People may have provided more than one response.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and General Social Survey, 2002, data available on request.*

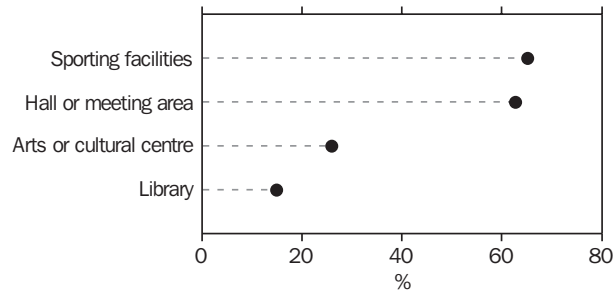
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES *continued*

Indigenous Australians were more likely to participate in sport than the arts. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey showed that about half (49%) of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over had participated in sport or physical recreation activities in the last 12 months whereas 27% had participated in the selected Indigenous creative arts activities.

CULTURAL FACILITIES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

A 2001 survey of 327 discrete Indigenous communities (with 50 or more residents) showed most had access to sporting facilities (65%) or halls or meeting areas (63%) but only around one-quarter (26%) of these communities had an arts or cultural centre, and 15% had access to a library.

CULTURAL FACILITIES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES(a)—
2001



(a) Discrete Indigenous communities with a population of 50 or more people.

Source: *Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey, 2001*, data available on request.

Cultural facilities were more likely to exist in communities with a population of 200 or more persons. Of these larger communities, 39% had an arts or cultural centre and 26% had a library, however sporting facilities were still more commonly available (88%). Among smaller communities, with populations of 50–99 people, just 4% had a library and 10% had an arts or cultural centre while 34% of these communities had sporting facilities.

CULTURAL MINISTERS COUNCIL

The Cultural Ministers Council was established in 1984 to provide a forum for the exchange of views on issues affecting cultural activities in Australia. It comprises Australian, state and territory, and New Zealand government Ministers responsible for arts and cultural heritage. Further information about the Council can be accessed on the web site: <www.dcita.gov.au/cmcc>.

STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

The Cultural Ministers Council established a statistics advisory body, now known as the Statistics Working Group, in November 1985. The group liaises with the ABS on cultural statistics, monitors the need for the development, collection and dissemination of culture and leisure statistics, commissions studies, and provides advice to the Cultural Ministers Council on statistical matters.

Information regarding the Statistics Working Group or its activities can be obtained by contacting the Secretariat, Cultural Ministers Council Statistics Working Group, c/o The Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601 (telephone 02 6271 1051, fax 02 6271 1697) or visit the web site: <www.dcita.gov.au/swg>.

ABOUT THE DATA

This brochure contains information from the report *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: Involvement in arts and culture* (cat. no. 4721.0). A range of ABS data sources was used to analyse various aspects of involvement in culture, the arts and cultural heritage by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The following data sources were referred to in the report:

- *General Social Survey, 2002* (cat. no. 4159.0)
- *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (cat. no. 4704.0)
- *Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4710.0)
- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0)
- *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4713.0)
- *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4705.0)
- *Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2004* (cat. no. 6281.0)

Readers are referred to *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: Involvement in arts and culture* and the source publications for more comprehensive information. These publications are available from the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. Additional information on a range of culture and leisure statistics can be obtained from the ABS website or the ABS National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, GPO Box 2272, Adelaide SA 5001 (telephone 08 8237 7449).

The breadth and quality of information collected from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is dependent on the high level of cooperation received from Indigenous Australians and their communities. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the range and quality of statistical information published by ABS would not be possible.