
4. Indigenous Participation in the Arts

This chapter focuses on Indigenous Australians' participation in a range of Indigenous creative arts activities, such as music and visual arts, as well as attendance at Indigenous events (e.g. festivals and ceremonies) and other selected cultural venues (e.g. museums or art galleries). Information is also provided on the number of Indigenous people employed in cultural occupations.

INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN NT

According to the 2002 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 13% (36,178) of Australia's estimated Indigenous population aged 15 years and over lived in NT, with 83% living in remote areas of the state.

4.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT INDIGENOUS POPULATION(a), NT and Australia, Selected characteristics, 2002

	NT Number ('000)	Australia Number ('000)	Percentage in NT %
Remote	30.1	77.1	39.0
Non-Remote	6.1	205.1	3.0
15–34 years	19.9	146.5	13.6
35 years and over	16.3	135.7	12.0
Male	17.5	135.2	12.9
Female	18.7	147.0	12.7
Total	36.2	282.2	12.8

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

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

PARTICIPATION IN INDIGENOUS CREATIVE ARTS

The 2002 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey collected data on participation in Indigenous creative arts activities by Indigenous people aged 15 years and over.

Nearly one third (30%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over living in NT had participated in at least one Indigenous creative art activity. The most popular activities were art and craft activities (20%) and writing or telling stories (12%), whilst 9% had participated in music, dance or theatre. Most of these participated in the activity for payment, and were aged over 35 years.

4.2 PARTICIPATION BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS IN INDIGENOUS CREATIVE ART ACTIVITIES(a)(b), Selected characteristics, NT and Australia, 2002

	NT		Australia
	Number '000	Participation rate %	Participation rate %
Type of Indigenous activity			
Arts and crafts	7.1	19.7	16.2
Music, dance or theatre	3.4	9.4	8.3
Writing or telling stories	4.3	12.0	12.6
At least one of the activities(c)	11.0	30.3	27.4
Whether paid			
Paid	5.9	16.3	7.7
Not paid	5.1	14.0	19.7
Age group (years)			
15–34	5.3	26.9	14.5
35 years and over	5.6	34.6	12.9
Remoteness			
Remote	5.6	18.7	19.1
Non-remote	5.3	87.8	8.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

(b) In the 12 months before interview.

(c) Sum of activities does not add to total because some people were involved in more than one activity.

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

ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED INDIGENOUS EVENTS

In 2002, of the 36,178 Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in NT, 87% had been to at least one of the selected Indigenous events.

4.3 ATTENDANCE RATES OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS AT SELECTED INDIGENOUS EVENTS(a)(b), NT and Australia, 2002

	NT.....			Australia.....		
	Remote	Non-remote	Total	Remote	Non-remote	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Funeral	78.7	46.6	73.3	74.1	36.3	46.6
Ceremony	65.5	18.6	57.6	45	15.5	23.5
Sports carnival	53.7	19.3	47.9	52.8	21.2	29.8
Festival/carnival involving art, craft, music or dance	43.1	32.3	41.3	41.7	33.5	35.7
Involved with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	21.9	19.2	21.4	24.9	26.5	26.1
At least one selected event(c)	90.9	65.2	86.6	87.1	60.9	68.1

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

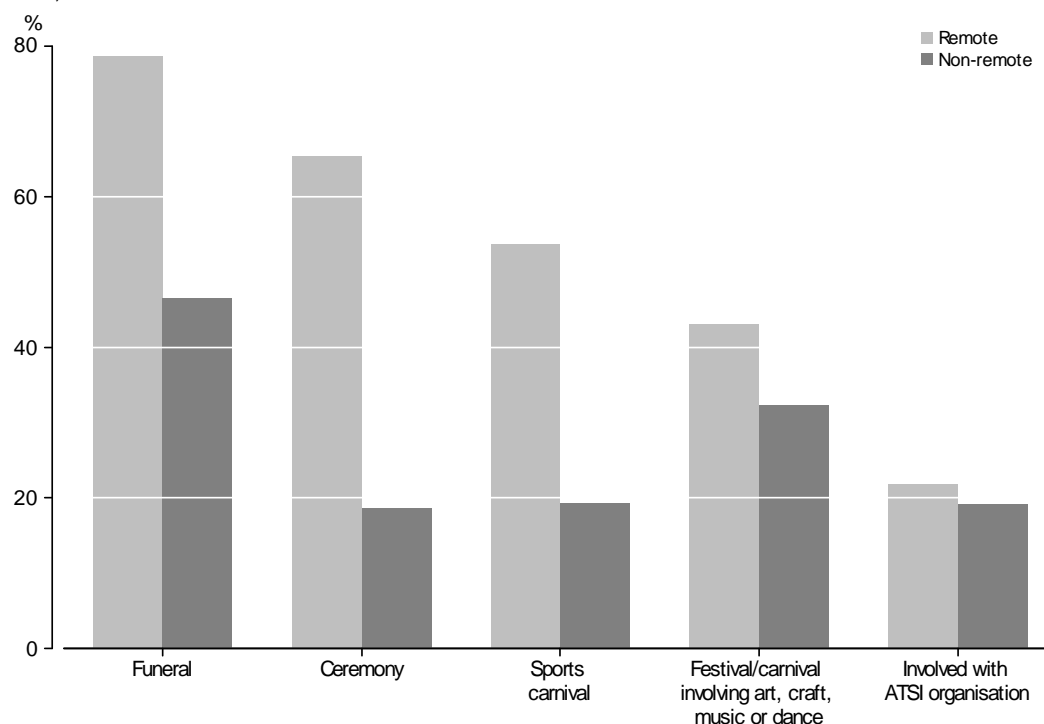
(b) In the 12 months before interview.

(c) Sum of activities does not add to total because some people were involved in more than one activity.

Source: ABS, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 (cat. nos. 4714.1.55.001 and 4714.0.55.001).

At each of the selected Indigenous events, the attendance was higher in remote areas.

4.4 INDIGENOUS ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED INDIGENOUS EVENTS(a)(b), NT, By remoteness area, 2002



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) In 12 months before interview.

Source: ABS, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 (cat. no. 4714.1.55.001).

INDIGENOUS ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL VENUES

The 2002 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey also collected data on attendance at selected cultural venues by Indigenous people living in non-remote areas of Australia.

Nearly half (46%) of Indigenous people living in non-remote areas of NT had attended movies, theatres or concerts in the previous three months, and 37% had visited a library, museum or art gallery. Attendance rates for males were higher at movies, theatres or concerts, while females had higher attendance rates at libraries, museums or art galleries.

4.5 ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS(a)(b), NT, 2002

	Males	Females	Persons
	Number ('000)		
Visited library, museum or art gallery	*1.0	*1.3	2.2
Attended movies, theatres or concerts	*1.5	*1.3	2.8
At least one venue or event(c)	*1.8	*1.9	3.7
	Attendance rate (%)		
Visited library, museum or art gallery	*34.6	*38.4	36.6
Attended movies, theatres or concerts	*52.0	*41.3	46.3
At least one venue or event(c)	*64.8	*58.0	61.2

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

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over living in non-remote areas.

(b) In the three months before interview.

(c) Sum of activities does not add to total because some people were involved in more than one activity.

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

CULTURAL FACILITIES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey found that there were 641 discrete Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Of these, 70 had a hall or meeting area while 18 had a library, and 39 had an arts or cultural centre. By comparison, 84 of these communities had sporting facilities.

INDIGENOUS PERSONS EMPLOYED IN CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS

The 2006 Census showed that 493 Indigenous people in NT were employed in a cultural occupation as their main job. For detailed occupation level data see Table 1 in Appendix 1. Table 4.6 below provides data at a broad occupation level.

Of the 11,659 employed Indigenous people in NT in 2006, 4.2% were employed in a cultural occupation.

4.6 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS AS MAIN JOB(a)(b), NT and Australia, 2006

	NT	Australia	Percentage in NT
Cultural occupation	no.	no.	%
Heritage collections			
Built, Collectable and Environmental Heritage Workers	135	405	33.3
Library and Archive Workers	31	230	13.5
Other Heritage Workers	–	5	–
<i>Total Heritage Workers</i>	165	636	25.9
Arts			
Writers and Print Media Workers	10	99	10.1
Performing Artists and Music Composers	40	320	12.5
Performing Arts Support Workers (other than Equipment Operators)	14	113	12.4
Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals	171	692	24.7
Architects and Urban Planners	3	54	5.6
Design Workers	8	206	3.9
Broadcasting, Film and Recorded Media Equipment Operators	8	61	13.1
Printing Workers	14	229	6.1
Other Arts Support Workers	16	159	10.1
Other Arts Workers	12	119	10.1
<i>Total Arts Workers</i>	278	2 061	13.5
Other Cultural Workers	47	349	13.5
Total employed in cultural occupations	493	3 054	16.1

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Occupations considered as 'cultural' based on inclusion in the Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications.

(b) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, 2006, data available on request.*