

[View this email in your browser](#)

Media
Release

Friday 20 February 2015

Perth's growing hunger for arts and culture

With 1.4 million people flocking to Perth to be captivated by two Giants walking through the city streets, it shouldn't come as any surprise that West Australian's passion for the performing arts is outperforming the rest of Australia. So much so, that Perth is on track to become the country's performing arts capital.

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show that 56.3% of Western Australians aged 15 years or older went to a performing arts event in 2013-14. This compares to 52% of people in New South Wales, 55% of Victorians, 54.8% of South Australians and 48.5% of Queenslanders. Western Australia was only outperformed by the ACT with an attendance rate of 64.2%.

"West Australians have a growing appetite for arts and culture and are making the most of every opportunity they get. The statistics show that participation rates at performing arts events in WA are growing at a faster rate than anywhere else in Australia. So whether it's going to the Perth International Arts Festival, the Fringe Festival, live music or theatre or the art gallery, they're wanting to see it and be part of it.

"And word of mouth is a very powerful tool, if someone's had a great experience they tell their friends about it. The Fringe Festival is a good example of that, it's only being going for a few years but it's popularity has soared, this year its set a new record, with sales of 220,000 tickets worth \$5.5 million."

In 2009-10, 945,500 West Australians went to at least one performing arts event. In 2013-14, the figure rose to 1,130,400, an increase of 184,900 people, a growth of 2.6%, the highest in the nation.

The ABS figures showed that in WA, concerts had the highest attendance rate at 30.8%, theatre 16.8%, musicals 14.8% and other performing arts 17.6%. WA's art galleries and museums also performed well. Art gallery attendances increased from 22.7% in 2009-10 to 25.9% in 2013-14, while museum attendances grew from 23.9% to 27.7%.

"It really is a case of build it and they will come. There's no doubt that it helps having world-class venues like Perth Arena and the State Theatre Centre, people go there not only because they're great venues but also because they're able to attract quality performers and performances," added Mrs Fulker.

In 2013, the Committee for Perth commissioned a report that looked at Perth's performing arts infrastructure. It found that while the Perth and Peel regions currently have enough arts venues, particularly when it comes to large outdoor venues, as our population grows the number of performing arts venues will need to almost double to cope with demand.

"Planning decisions need to be made now to make sure we have a dynamic city where arts and cultural appreciation are part of everyday life. In particular the report found the need for a major lyric theatre and recital hall and contemporary music venues," said Mrs Fulker.

"What we're talking about is Perth in 40 to 50 years with a population of three and a half million or more and to cope with that, the region will need performing arts infrastructure that is comparable in size and quality to what Melbourne has now. This means that what Perth has slowly built over more than 100 years has to be reproduced in only 40."

-ends-

Media contact: Tony Monaghan, The Brand Agency 0428 280 593

Read our 2013 Examining Perth's Performing Arts Infrastructure report

The Committee for Perth is a member funded think tank focused on maintaining and improving the liveability of the Perth metropolitan region by ensuring its vibrancy, economic prosperity, cultural diversity and sustainability.

We currently have over 100 members representing a broad cross sector of the business community, civic institutions and local government and rely solely on our members' financial contribution to enable us to undertake the work, research and activities that we do.

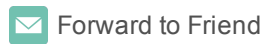
Further information about the Committee for Perth and our work can be obtained from our [website](#).

Our [research projects](#) would not be possible without the investment of our members who make an enduring contribution to ensuring Perth is a great region in which to live, work and invest.

We particularly acknowledge our Foundation Members:



[View a complete list of our members.](#)



Copyright © 2015 Committee for Perth, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)