

Australia

<p>A. National Policies</p>	<p>The Australian Government has a range of policies and programs in the field of culture across government and whilst they do not specifically address gender equality they do support the representation of women.</p> <p>The Australian Government Office for Women advises on and supports the delivery of policies that will provide positive benefits for women and all Australians. The Office for Women consults across government and with a wide range of stakeholders (including business, academic and civil society organisations) to address these priorities and deliver better outcomes for women.</p> <p>Statistics gathered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) through general civil surveys identify a strong participation of women in all aspects of culture¹.</p>
<p>B. National implementation strategies of UNESCO Culture Conventions</p>	<p>The Australian Government's range of policies and programs support the implementation of UNESCO conventions to which Australia is a party, but don't specifically target gender.</p>
<p>C. Access to decision-making</p>	<p>The Australian Government is committed to improving women's participation in senior leadership and decision-making positions in the community, and in the private and public sectors. The Government is continuing the gender diversity target of a minimum of 40 per cent women and 40 per cent men on Australian Government boards, including boards related to arts and culture, in the 2013-14 financial year.</p>
<p>D. Education, Capacity-Building and Training</p>	<p>The Australian Government's approach to the Australian education curriculum is gender inclusive, not gender targeted.</p>
<p>E. Access to credit and financial resources allocation</p>	<p>The Australian Government does not have specific policies, practices or measures in place relating to female cultural entrepreneurs, but women are able to access a range of services for entrepreneurs more generally. Some examples are included below for information.</p> <p>Together the state and territory governments and the Australian Government through Austrade support women entrepreneurs through the Women in Global Business program. This programme aims to increase female participation in international trade and deliver greater economic benefits and job creation. To women in business it offers a central source of information and resources, support and connection. The programme also delivers training modules on access to finance to women SME-owners (Small and-Mid Size Enterprises), both in person and on-line in urban, rural and regional areas. To deliver this training, partnerships have been formed with the banking and finance sectors and other public sector agencies.</p> <p>Additionally, the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme funded by the Department of Employment helps eligible job seekers to start new small businesses through accredited small business training, mentoring and support. There were 5674 business start-ups under the scheme in 2012-13, of which approximately 49 per cent were established by women.</p> <p>The Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds (SEDIF) initiative funded by the Department of Employment improves access to seed and growth capital for social enterprises, with funding from Government and private investment. SEDIF funds managers provide capital in the form of equity and loan investments to social enterprises, allowing enterprises to become more financially sustainable, develop new products and services, grow and increase the impact of their work in their communities.</p>

	The Office for Women notes that businesses owned and operated by women are one of the fastest growing business segments in Australia with more than 700,000 women business operators in Australia.
F. Visibility and awareness-raising	Women are well-represented in cultural life and their contributions are recognised and celebrated. Therefore, the Australian Government is not currently engaged in the implementation of special measures to promote female artists in public media or education curricula.
G. Statistics and Indicators	<p>When considering issues of gender equity and participation in arts and culture, the Australian Government refers to statistics gathered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) through general civil surveys. The ABS collects this information through a range of surveys including the national census and specific surveys around attendance at selected cultural venues and events, participation in arts and culture, and employment in culture. These surveys can be found on the ABS website under the topic of Industry – Culture and Leisureⁱⁱ.</p> <p>Some examples of findings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally more females than males participated in cultural activities (2010-11) • The 15 to 24 years age group showed the highest number of participants for both males and females. (2010-11) • The most significant difference between male and female participation is in people aged over 55 years, with 409,800 males versus 740,700 females participating in cultural activities. (2010-11) • Women were more likely to participate in art and craft and men were more likely to participate in song-writing, composing music and digital media related activity. (2010-11) • 53.2 per cent of people employed in cultural occupations were men and 46.8 per cent women.(2011) • Fine arts was the most common visual arts qualification and students were predominately female (85 per cent) (2009)

ⁱ <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ViewContent?readform&view=ProductsbyTopic&Action=Expand&Num=3.5>

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