

ARTS AND CULTURE MONITOR SURVEY

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.11 am]: I would like to inform the house of recent research undertaken by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries that highlights the high levels of attendance and participation and value for the arts within the Western Australian community. The arts and culture monitor survey is an annual survey conducted by the department that measures attendance at arts and cultural events and gathers public attitudes and values toward the arts in Western Australia. The results of the survey have shown strong levels of attendance and highly positive scores for public attitudes towards the role that arts and culture play in delivering outcomes to the Western Australian community.

Attendance at arts and cultural events remains strong, with 78 per cent of respondents attending or participating in an arts and cultural activity in the 12 months leading up to March 2018. The value that arts and culture plays in the community has remained high, with an index score of 75 out of 100 in 2018. This is the highest index score over the past 10 years and is up seven index points on the 2013 score of 68. The perceived value of arts and culture's contribution to the state's sense of community and identity increased from 2017 by three index points to 71. In households where someone is living with a disability or impairment, this perceived value was even higher. The survey demonstrates strong community support for the role of the arts across multiple policy areas, with 93 per cent agreeing that it is important for schoolchildren to have access to the arts in the school curriculum; 80 per cent agreeing that the Western Australian government should invest in arts and cultural activities to ensure they are available to the public; and 75 per cent agreeing that the arts have a positive impact on individual wellbeing. These results reflect the significant contribution that the arts make to our social, cultural and economic life, which will again be highlighted as we approach the summer festival period.

Western Australia's premier cultural festivals, Perth Festival and Fringe World Festival, have experienced growing and record attendance over the past years and once again offer programs that deliver considerable social and cultural benefits to Western Australians and make an important contribution to the Western Australian economy.

I encourage members, their families and all Western Australians to make the most of the events and activities on show through the festival period and engage fully in the arts and cultural riches that this state has on offer.