



# Jon Stanhope MLA

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## CANBERRA REMAINS AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

Latest research from the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirms ACT residents are the most culturally active in Australia, Chief Minister and Minister for the Arts and Heritage, Jon Stanhope said today.

*Perspectives on Culture*, a national survey of attendance at cultural facilities, found more people in the ACT attended cinemas, art galleries and museums during 2010 than in any other jurisdiction.

According to the research three out of four Canberrans (76 per cent) attended the cinema compared to two out of three (67 per cent) nationally, while almost half of all Canberrans (46 per cent) attended an art gallery or museum compared to a quarter (26 per cent) of the population nationally.

Canberrans also led the country in library attendance at 38 per cent compared to 34 per cent nationally, and archive attendance at 16 per cent compared to 4 per cent nationally.

Mr Stanhope said the results reflected the quality of the ACT's cultural venues.

"These great results reflect the fantastic facilities and venues on offer in the ACT and the Canberra community's enthusiasm for quality exhibitions and productions," Mr Stanhope said.

Canberrans' passion for culture is also backed up by recent research from ACT Government owned theatres.

Statistics show more ACT-based organisations hired the Canberra Theatre, The Playhouse and The Courtyard Studio for local productions in 2010 compared to previous years, with almost 60 per cent of events produced locally – up 11 per cent from 2009.

Mr Stanhope said initiatives such as the Canberra Theatre's Centre's social investment program and services for people with disabilities were helping to keep attendance at local venues high. The Centre manages The Canberra Theatre, The Playhouse and The Courtyard Studio on behalf of the Government.

"Last year the Canberra Theatre Centre provided more than 1,200 tickets to members of the community who might otherwise be unable to attend the theatre," Mr Stanhope said. "The increasing use of services for people who are hearing or vision impaired is also helping to attract a broader cross section of our community to the theatre."

To view the *Perspectives on Culture* report visit [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4172.0.55.001](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4172.0.55.001)

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