

Participant Information Form

Title	Visual Arts Work: sustainable strategies for the Australian visual arts and craft sector
Principal Investigators	Assoc Prof Grace McQuilten, Dr Marnie Badham
Associate Investigators	Prof Kate MacNeill, Assoc Prof Jenny Lye, Dr Joe Hirschberg, Chloë Powell

What does my participation involve?

You are invited to participate in a research project about the visual arts sector in Australia. Please read this information before deciding to participate. If you have any questions, you can email us at visualartswork@rmit.edu.au

1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in this research project called *Visual Arts Work: sustainable strategies for the Australian visual arts and craft sector*. You have been invited because you are an artist and/or arts worker in Australia, or an Australian citizen working as an artist and/or arts worker overseas.

This Participant Information Form tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative, friend, or support worker. You may also complete the survey with their assistance.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to click the consent button before starting the online survey. By clicking it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

Only surveys that have been completed by clicking the 'Submit' button will be used in the research.

2 What is the purpose of this research?

Visual Arts Work aims to strengthen the sustainability of the Australian visual art industry. We know incomes are low for artists and arts workers and this research seeks to develop a clearer understanding of the diversity of artist careers and career lifecycles. To do so, the research brings together economic data on artists and arts workers' careers, alongside new social and policy research to address the question of why incomes are declining and what we can do to improve economic conditions in the sector.

This survey is open to all who identify as artists and/or arts workers in the Australian visual arts industry. The survey will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete and you are welcome to stop at any time. Your data will not be identifiable as we are not collecting name or contact details. All data will be destroyed after 5 years.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

Your participation will involve:

- Reading this information and asking any questions you might have
- Giving consent for your responses to be part of the research before starting the survey
- Completing an online survey
- You will not be asked for any identifying information (e.g. name, contact details)
- You can choose not to complete the survey at any stage and your incomplete data will be destroyed.
- Your survey responses will be stored securely on digital platforms with RMIT for five years and will then be destroyed.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

The survey will ask you about the following topics:

- Your experience working artist and/or arts worker
- How you feel supported in the visual arts sector
- Your income as an artist and/or arts worker and conditions that support your practice
- Other parts of your career including selling, talks and workshops, or grants and awards
- Important values and 'best practices' for working as an artist and/or an arts worker
- General demographic information (e.g. age, gender, location of residence).

4 Other relevant information about the research project

This research project is led by Associate Professor Grace McQuilten and Dr Marnie Badham at RMIT University in partnership with Professor Kate MacNeill and Associate Professor Jenny Lye at the University of Melbourne, the National Association of Visual Arts (NAVA) and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA).

The survey will be distributed online to artists and arts workers across Australia and internationally. We aim to reach approximately 500 respondents.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project by not submitting your survey.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University or The University of Melbourne or partner organisations NAVA and AMaGA.

Submitting your completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time by exiting the survey without clicking the submit button. Once you have submitted it, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are non-identifiable and therefore, we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, you may appreciate contributing to knowledge. Possible benefits may include strengthening the sustainability visual arts sector in Australia and you might like to talk about your experiences as an artist and/or arts worker.

7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

It is anticipated that the risks involved are minimal. If you feel uncomfortable responding to any of the questions, you do not need to answer. In case you feel distressed you can engage with the following services online:

- Lifeline website for emotional distress <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>
- Support ACT website (with specific First Nations Counselling services) <https://supportact.org.au/get-help/first-nations-support-2/>)

You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately.

This project uses an external site to create, collect and analyse data collected in a survey format. The site we are using is Qualtrics. If you agree to participate in this survey, the responses you provide will be stored on their host server. No personal information will be collected in the survey so none will be stored as data. Once we have completed our data collection and analysis, we will import the data to the RMIT server where it will be stored securely for five years. The data on the host server will then be deleted and expunged.

8 What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify a member of the research team. You have the right to have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed, providing it can be reliably identified.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

The data collected from the survey will be analysed by the researchers producing a research report that will be circulated through the project website and partner organisations NAVA and AMaGA. Findings will be discussed with the visual arts industry to inform policy and sector interventions to improve the sustainability of the visual arts industry. Additional scholarly presentations and papers will be developed from this work. Data from this survey will also inform later stages of the research project, including interviews and sector consultations, by identifying topics for further investigation. Interviews and focus groups will not be undertaken in this part of the research project.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information about me?

With your consent, we will use your information (data from the survey) in reports and presentations related to the visual arts in Australia. This information will be locked in a password protected digital file for 5 years and then will be destroyed. We will not ask for your name or contact details and your data will not be identifiable.

By clicking the 'Consent and Complete the Survey' button at the beginning of the survey, you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a

way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission. We will not refer to any details that may make you identifiable. Data from this survey will be used for the outcomes of this research project only and will not be shared outside of the research team.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is to protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project and for the future research described that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

11 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is conducted by Assoc Prof Grace McQuilten, Dr Marnie Badham at RMIT University and Prof Kate MacNeill and Assoc Prof Jenny Lye at The University of Melbourne with support from Chloë Powell and Dr Joe Hirshberg.

It is funded through an Australia Research Council grant LP200100054.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researcher at marnie.badham@rmit.edu.au

Research contact person

Name	Grace McQuilten and Marnie Badham
Position	Principal investigators
Email	grace.mcquilten@rmit.edu.au and marnie.badham@rmit.edu.au

14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	RMIT University
HREC Secretary	Vivienne Moyle
Telephone	03 9925 5037
Email	humanethics@rmit.edu.au
Mailing address	Manager, Research Governance and Ethics RMIT University GPO Box 2476 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Primary and Secondary Occupations

First, we'd like to know about your status as a visual/craft artist and/or arts worker

Recognising that visual and craft artists are often arts workers too, and vice versa, this survey includes questions that relate to your main area of activity first.

If you're engaged in the sector as both a visual/craft artist **and** as an arts worker, you will be asked to respond to questions about both areas of your work.

Regardless of your main source of income, do you mostly identify as (please select one)

An artist

An arts worker (e.g. curator / technician / collection management staff / arts educator/academic etc.)

On average, what percentage of your working time do you spend on the following areas of work? (adding up to 100%)

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Visual / craft
artist

Arts worker

Other (please
specify)

Demographics

Now, we'd like to know a bit about you

What is your age?

15-19

20-24

25-29

30-34

35-39

40-44

45-49

50-54

55-59

60-64

65-69

70-74

75-79

80+

Prefer not to say

How would you describe your gender?

Woman

Man

Non-binary

Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

In which country were you born?

Do you use a language other than English at home?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Which best describes your household?

Individual adult, no dependents (e.g. children or people you care for)

Individual adult, with dependents

Married or living with partner, no dependents

Married or living with partner, with dependents

Shared household of adults, close or extended family

Shared household of adults, no dependents

Shared household of adults, with dependents

Other (please specify)

What is your main location of residence?

Australian Capital Territory

New South Wales

Northern Territory

Queensland

South Australia

Tasmania

Victoria

Western Australia

Other (please specify)

How would you describe the location where you live?

Capital city

Regional city or town

Rural or remote

Do you identify as

Aboriginal

Torres Strait Islander

Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Of culturally and linguistically diverse background

Prefer not to say

None of the above

Do you identify as

A person with a disability

Prefer not to say

None of the above

Following on from the previous questions, do you feel there are access-related barriers to participating in the visual arts sector?

Yes (please specify)

No

Prefer not to say

What access supports do you require in your practice?

Are these available to you?

Yes

No

Unsure

Other (please specify)

If Arts Worker Primary, Visual Artist Secondary

Because you identify mainly as an arts worker, we're going to ask you about this aspect of your work first.

As you indicated that you're also a visual/craft artist, we'll ask about your art practice later.

Arts Workers

Now, we'd like to hear about your work as an arts worker

What is your area of work? Please **select all that apply.**

Arts professional (e.g. curator / arts writer / gallerist / creative producer / arts manager / collection management / gallery director)

Arts technician (e.g. studio technician / fabricator / exhibition installer)

Arts educator (e.g. lecturer / workshop leader / private teacher)

Arts researcher (e.g. academic / market analyst)

Cultural advisor

Community Arts and Cultural Development worker

Designer (e.g. graphic designer / web/digital designer)

Other (please specify)

How would you describe where you are in your career now?

Early career

Mid-career

Established

How would you describe where you were in your career five years ago (in 2019)?

Early career

Mid-career

Established

Wasn't working as an arts worker in 2017

How long have you worked as an arts worker?

Less than 2 years

2 - 5 years

5 - 10 years

10 - 20 years

20+ years

Please tell us about the education and training you've undertaken related to your arts work. Please [select all](#)

that apply.

Postgraduate education (e.g. Masters, PhD)

Undergraduate education (e.g. Bachelor degree, Diploma)

Community activity / centre

Collective activity / peer learning

Private classes / workshops

Currently undertaking study / training

Other (please specify)

None

Now, we'd like to hear about your employment and income as an arts worker

In the 2023-2024 financial year, what were your typical weekly paid hours of work in your role/s as an arts worker?

0-10

11-20

21-34

35+

In the 2018-2019 financial year, what were your typical weekly paid hours of work in your role/s as an arts worker?

0-10

11-20

21-34

35+

What is the main reason for the change in your hours of work?

If more hours of paid employment were available each week, would you take them?

Yes (please tell us the main reason why)

No (please tell us the main reason why)

What was your income from your work as an arts worker in the **2023-2024 financial year, before tax?**

Negative income

\$0 or nil income

\$1-\$7,799 per year

\$7,800-\$15,599 per year

\$15,600-\$20,799 per year

\$20,800-\$25,999 per year

\$26,000-\$33,799 per year

\$33,800-\$41,599 per year
\$41,600-\$51,999 per year
\$52,000-\$64,999 per year
\$65,000-\$77,999 per year
\$78,000-\$90,999 per year
\$91,000-\$103,999 per year
\$104,000-\$155,999 per year
\$156,000-\$181,999 per year
\$182,000 or more year
Prefer not to say

What was your income from your work as an arts worker in the 2018-2019 financial year, before tax?

Negative income
\$0 or nil income
\$1-\$7,799 per year
\$7,800-\$15,599 per year
\$15,600-\$20,799 per year
\$20,800-\$25,999 per year
\$26,000-\$33,799 per year
\$33,800-\$41,599 per year
\$41,600-\$51,999 per year
\$52,000-\$64,999 per year
\$65,000-\$77,999 per year
\$78,000-\$90,999 per year
\$91,000-\$103,999 per year
\$104,000-\$155,999 per year
\$156,000-\$181,999 per year
\$182,000 or more year
Prefer not to say

Which of the following describes your employment as an arts worker in the **2023-2024 financial year. Please **select all that apply**.**

Employed on a fixed-term contract

Employed on casual basis

Employed on a permanent or ongoing basis

Self-employed

Other (please specify)

In your work as an **arts educator, which of the following **best** describes your employment in the **2023-2024 financial year**?**

Employed on casual/sessional basis

Employed on a fixed-term contract

Employed on a permanent or ongoing basis

Other (please specify)

What is the **main reason you are working in casual employment?**

Attracted to pay premium attached to casual work

Employment on a permanent, ongoing, or fixed-term contract basis not available to you

Allows time for own business

Allows time for arts practice

Allows time for study

Allows time for community or cultural responsibilities

Allows time for caring responsibilities

Preferred job, and only casual employment available

Other (please specify)

How long have you been self-employed?

Up to 2 years

2 - 5 years

5 - 10 years

10+ years

What is the **main** factor that led you to being self-employed?

Flexibility / Independence

Only kind of work available

Easier to get work as a contractor

Economic reasons (e.g. tax, insurance, etc.)

Other (please specify)

Visual Artists

Now, we'd like to know about your visual art/craft practice

What is your **main** area of practice?

Painting / Drawing / Printmaking

Sculpture / Installation

Craft / Object

Video / Sound / Media art

Photography

Socially engaged / Community arts

Interdisciplinary (please specify, e.g. painting and installation)

Other (please specify)

How would you describe where you are in your practice now?

Early career

Mid-career

Established

How would you describe where you were in your practice five years ago (**in 2019**)?

Early career

Mid-career

Established

Wasn't working as an artist in 2017

How long have you maintained a visual art/craft practice?

Less than 2 years

2 - 5 years

5 - 10 years

10 - 20 years

20+ years

Please tell us about the education and training you've undertaken related to your practice. Please **select all that apply**.

Postgraduate education (e.g. Masters, PhD)

Undergraduate education (e.g. Bachelor degree, Diploma)

Community activity / centre

Collective activity / peer learning

Private classes / workshops

Currently undertaking study / training

Other (please specify)

None

Now, we'd like to hear about your income and practice as a visual/craft artist

In the **2023-2024 financial year**, how many hours per week did you spend on your practice?

0-10

11-20

21-34

35+

In the 2018-2019 financial year, how many hours per week did you spend on your practice?

0-10

11-20

21-34

35+

What is the main reason for the difference in the hours you work now?

What was your income from your work as a visual/craft artist in the 2023-2024 financial year, before tax?

Negative income

\$0 or nil income

\$1-\$7,799 per year

\$7,800-\$15,599 per year

\$15,600-\$20,799 per year

\$20,800-\$25,999 per year

\$26,000-\$33,799 per year

\$33,800-\$41,599 per year

\$41,600-\$51,999 per year
\$52,000-\$64,999 per year
\$65,000-\$77,999 per year
\$78,000-\$90,999 per year
\$91,000-\$103,999 per year
\$104,000-\$155,999 per year
\$156,000-\$181,999 per year
\$182,000 or more year
Prefer not to say

What was your income from your work as a visual/craft artist in the 2018-2019 financial year, before tax?

Negative income
\$0 or nil income
\$1-\$7,799 per year
\$7,800-\$15,599 per year
\$15,600-\$20,799 per year
\$20,800-\$25,999 per year
\$26,000-\$33,799 per year
\$33,800-\$41,599 per year
\$41,600-\$51,999 per year
\$52,000-\$64,999 per year
\$65,000-\$77,999 per year
\$78,000-\$90,999 per year
\$91,000-\$103,999 per year
\$104,000-\$155,999 per year
\$156,000-\$181,999 per year
\$182,000 or more year
Prefer not to say

What were the **main sources of income from your visual art/craft practice in the **2023-2024 financial year**. Please **select the top three**.**

Sales and/or commissions through a gallery

Sales and/or commissions direct between artist and buyer

Commissioned Public Art and/or Festivals

Exhibition / Artist fees

Workshop / Speaker fees

Grants / Prizes / Awards

Other (please specify)

What are the **main expenses you incur in your visual art/craft practice? Please **select the top three**.**

Materials and consumables

Fees for collaborating artists

Labour engaged in production/fabrication

Equipment

Education/training

Commission on gallery sales

Rent of studio or workspace

Gallery hire fees

Administration (e.g. internet / postage / utilities etc.)

Freight (that you paid for yourself and that's related to your creative practice)

Travel (that you paid for yourself and that's related to your creative practice)

Insurance (related to your creative practice)

Child minding costs (related to your creative practice)

Other expenses (please specify)

Combined

Do you do any unpaid work in the arts sector (e.g. volunteer on Boards, with Artist Run Initiatives etc.)

Yes

No

How many hours do you regularly spend **each month on unpaid work in the following areas?**

hrs Artist Run Initiatives

hrs Boards

hrs Self-managed projects/events

hrs Mentoring

hrs Family arts-related business

hrs Other (please specify)

We'd now like to know about your

experience with grant funding.

Have you applied for any arts grants to support your practice and/or arts work?

- Yes, and received the grant/s
- Yes, but did not receive all of the grants
- Yes, but did not receive any grants
- No, did not apply
- Can't remember

Which funding organisations did you apply for funding from? Please **select all that apply**.

- Commonwealth Office for the Arts (e.g. RISE fund)
- Creative Partnerships Australia
- Australia Council for the Arts
- State Government arts funders
- Local Government arts funders
- Philanthropic organisation
- Other (please specify)

At what stage of your career or practice do you feel grant funding is or has been **most** valuable?

- Early career
- Mid-career
- Established

Not sure

Other (please specify)

Which area of financial support do you feel would be or has been **most beneficial to your practice?**

Funding for a specific project

Infrastructure (e.g. equipment / studio space etc.)

Research and development time

Other (please specify)

What do you feel are the challenges/barriers (if any) in applying for arts grant funding? Please **select the top three.**

Application timelines

Amount of funding available

Not a strong enough track record of previous grants

Project timelines

Amount of administration/time taken to prepare applications

Funding priorities/criteria don't match with my project or practice

Contract terms and conditions

Other (please specify)

We now have some questions about alternative forms of income.

Do you earn income from any other sources outside of the visual arts and craft sector?

Yes

No

Please select all sources of income that apply

Other employment (non-arts related work)

Government support (e.g. benefits / disability support pension / parenting payment / child support)

Scholarship

Family support

Private income

Other (please specify)

In your **non-arts related work, which best describes your employment in the **2023-2024 financial year**. Please **select all that apply**.**

Employed on a fixed-term contract

Employed on casual basis

Employed on a permanent or ongoing basis

Self-employed

Other (please specify)

What industry is your **non-arts related work in? If you have more than one non-arts job, please respond based on the job in which you **work the most hours**.**

If 'Other services' or 'Other', please specify

What is your non-arts related job?

In the **2023-2024 financial year, what were your typical weekly paid hours of work in this job?**

0-10

11-20

21-34

35+

What was your income from this job in the 2023-2024 financial year, before tax?

Negative income

\$0 or nil income

\$1-\$7,799 per year

\$7,800-\$15,599 per year

\$15,600-\$20,799 per year

\$20,800-\$25,999 per year

\$26,000-\$33,799 per year

\$33,800-\$41,599 per year

\$41,600-\$51,999 per year

\$52,000-\$64,999 per year

\$65,000-\$77,999 per year

\$78,000-\$90,999 per year

\$91,000-\$103,999 per year

\$104,000-\$155,999 per year

\$156,000-\$181,999 per year

\$182,000 or more year

Prefer not to say

We'd like to know about your experience of... (not sure how to introduce this section)

Have you taken parental leave from your practice and/or arts work?

Yes, and I feel it had a positive impact on my career progression

Yes, and I feel it had a negative impact on my career progression

Yes, and I feel it had a neutral impact on my career progression

No, I wanted to take parental leave but was not able to

No, I have not needed to take parental leave

Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

If you were to choose not to continue as an artist and/or arts worker **in five years' time, what do you feel would be the reasons for this? Please **select the top three**.**

Change of interest

Difficulty returning to work after parental leave

Discrimination (please specify)

Family or personal commitments or responsibilities

Financial pressures

Higher and/or steadier pay in other industries

Lack of access to training/development opportunities

Lack of networks

Lack of opportunities in my current location

Lack of time for creative practice

Other (please specify)

Now, we'd like to know about your

experience of the rising cost of living.

How would you describe your financial conditions in terms of paying for essential goods and services?

Very financially stressed

Moderately financially stressed

Neutral

Moderately financially comfortable

Very financially comfortable

Other (please specify)

On a scale of one to five (one being the lowest), how much is the rising cost of living affecting you?

1. My living costs have not increased
2. My living costs have increased, but I am managing
3. My living costs have increased, and I'm worried about it
4. My living costs have increased, and I need to make significant changes to cope
5. My living costs have increased, and I cannot cope

Have you accessed any supports in the last six months (e.g. foodbank, financial counselling, debt management, emotional support)?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Over the last six months, have you had to rely on any of the following to pay everyday bills (e.g. energy, food shopping etc.)? Please **select all that apply.**

Borrowing from family members or friends

Buy now, pay later schemes (e.g. lay-by, Afterpay etc.)

Credit card

Bank loan

Overdraft

Other

In what areas have you noticed the greatest impact of rising costs? Please **select the top three.**

Childcare

Caring for a friend or relative

Food/groceries

Home maintenance

Health

Petrol

Rent/Mortgage/Accommodation

Utilities (electricity/gas/water)

Other (please specify)

In **the last month, did you or anyone else in your household skip meals or have smaller meals than usual**

because you couldn't afford or get access to food?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

How has the change in cost of living impacted your arts practice and/or arts work?

Next, we have some questions about your financial security as an artist and/or arts worker, and your views on the arts sector overall

What do you feel are the barriers to your financial security as an artist and/or arts worker?

What supports and opportunities have been useful in improving your financial security as an artist and/or arts worker?

What additional support would significantly improve your financial security as an artist and/or arts worker?

In your opinion, what would be one significant action that would improve the Australian visual arts sector?

Thank you for your responses. To finish, we'd like to know about your overall wellbeing.

Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

- Not at all satisfied
- Partly satisfied
- Satisfied
- More than satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Prefer not to say

Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

- Not at all worthwhile
- A bit worthwhile
- Somewhat worthwhile
- Mostly worthwhile
- Very worthwhile
- Prefer not to say

Overall, how happy did you feel **yesterday?**

- Not at all happy
- A bit happy
- Somewhat happy
- Mostly happy
- Very happy
- Prefer not to say

Overall, how would you rate your mental health?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

How would you rate your work-life balance?

- Poor

Fair

Good

Very good

Excellent

If Visual Artist Primary, Arts Worker Secondary

Because you identify mainly as a visual/craft artist, we're going to ask you about this aspect of your practice first.

As you indicated that you also work as an arts worker, we'll ask about that part of your career later.