

Introduction

This chapter contains information relating to Victoria's tourism, recreational and cultural activities. Victoria is one of Australia's most diverse States with a variety of natural features, cultural activities and historic sites.

As a tourist attraction for both international and domestic visitors, Victoria continues to make an important contribution to the growth of tourism within Australia. Metropolitan Melbourne attracts most of the State's international and domestic tourists but regional Victoria is also experiencing growth. The emerging and sustained tourism growth surrounding hallmark events (including major sporting and cultural events) within the State has promoted Victoria to a national and international audience, and has contributed to the development of major infrastructure.

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, is viewed as a culturally diverse, vibrant and green city where there is always plenty to do and a lot to see. Lifestyle features prominently in Melbourne promotions, with shopping, dining, café culture and sport, topping a list of things to do. Cultural activities such as the performing arts, film, literature, sports, recreation, religious practice and activities based around conservation and enjoying the natural environment, provide a basis for community expression, and all share an interrelationship with tourism.

Data in this chapter is sourced from a wide variety of sources, including the Australian Heritage Commission, the Tasmanian Gaming Commission, the Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR) and surveys conducted by the ABS. The tourism statistics contained in this chapter are based on information from the ABS and BTR. Care should be taken in comparing data from these sources because of differing survey methodologies, such as differences in population age groups.

The BTR International Visitor Survey (IVS) is the major source of information on travel patterns of international visitors to Victoria. It provides a profile of the characteristics, travel behaviour and expenditure of international visitors. The IVS was first conducted in 1969 and then intermittently throughout the 1970s. A survey has been conducted annually since 1981, with the exception of 1982 and 1987. The BTR National Visitor Survey (NVS) began in 1998.

Tourism

Tourism is important to Victoria, both economically and socially. Tourism enables others to share Victoria's culture and recreational pursuits, while Victorians who visit other cultures are inevitably changed by their experiences and bring this change back to Victorian society.

Overseas arrivals and departures

Between 1997–98 and 1999–2000, the number of short-term overseas visitors to Australia, who specified Victoria as their main destination, increased by 12.4% to over 685,000 (table 11.1). Victoria's share of overseas arrivals to Australia remained relatively stable between 1997–98 and 1999–2000.

11.1 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS(a), Victoria as Main State of Intended Stay

	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1999–2000
	no.	no.	no.	%
Victoria	610 050	651 940	685 950	14.7
Australia(b)	4 220 010	4 288 030	4 651 790	100.0

(a) Short-term arrivals who stayed less than 12 months in Australia. (b) Includes 'not stated'.

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (Cat. no. 3401.0)*; ABS data available on request, *Overseas Arrivals and Departures Survey*.

In 1999–2000, the major source of international visitors to Australia, who specified Victoria as their main State of intended stay, was New Zealand, which accounted for one in five of the State visitor total (table 11.2).

Between 1997–98 and 1999–2000, the three main sources of international visitors to Victoria were New Zealand, UK and Ireland, and the United States of America (table 11.2). Over this time period, visitors from these countries accounted for just over 40% of the total number of international visitors who indicated that Victoria would be their main State of intended stay. Visitor numbers from these three countries increased over this time period, particularly the United States (30.4%).

The Asian countries are another important source of international visitors to Victoria. Between 1997–98 and 1999–2000, there were increases in visitor numbers from some countries, whereas others declined. The economic downturn in Asia during the period 1998 and 1999 may have had some affect on visitor numbers from individual countries.

11.2 COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS(a), Victoria as Main State of Intended Stay(b)

Country of residence	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1999–2000	Percentage change 1997–98 to 1999–2000
	no.	no.	no.	%	%
New Zealand	126 240	128 570	136 500	19.9	8.1
UK and Ireland	70 610	76 190	80 255	11.7	13.7
United States of America	59 290	65 010	77 320	11.3	30.4
Singapore	42 690	49 330	51 460	7.5	20.5
Japan	50 980	49 610	46 850	6.8	-8.1
Malaysia	24 900	28 290	29 900	4.4	20.1
China(c)	18 040	18 900	23 460	3.4	30.0
Germany	20 750	20 670	21 890	3.2	5.5
Hong Kong(d)	23 580	21 330	20 520	3.0	-13.0
Indonesia	24 550	22 930	19 230	2.8	-21.7
Thailand	8 910	13 050	13 420	2.0	50.6
Canada	11 000	13 540	12 770	1.9	16.1
Italy	10 350	10 790	12 490	1.8	20.7
Taiwan(d)	13 310	13 470	12 110	1.8	-9.0
Other countries	104 690	120 200	127 720	18.6	22.0
All countries(e)	610 050	651 940	685 950	100.0	12.4

(a) Short-term arrivals who stayed less than 12 months in Australia. (b) Graduated random rounding has been used on all cells in this table. (c) Excludes Hong Kong and Taiwan Province. (d) Province of China. (e) Sum of components may not equal total due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures Survey.

For international visitors who intended that Victoria would be their main State of stay, the most common reason for their journey was holidaying, with two visitors in five stating this as their reason (table 11.3). This percentage has remained relatively stable between 1997–98 and 1999–2000.

11.3 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS(a), Victoria as Main State of Intended Stay — Reason for Journey(b)

Reason for journey	1997–98		1998–99		1999–2000	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Convention/conference	15 390	2.5	19 600	3.0	21 050	3.1
Business	99 710	16.3	97 730	15.0	104 030	15.2
Visiting friends/relatives	172 930	28.3	169 300	26.0	183 050	26.7
Holiday	244 740	40.1	255 590	39.2	283 430	41.3
Employment	5 020	0.8	6 680	1.0	6 070	0.9
Education	32 700	5.4	33 900	5.2	37 880	5.5
Other and not stated	39 540	6.5	69 140	10.6	50 450	7.4
Total	610 050	100.0	651 940	100.0	685 950	100.0

(a) Short-term arrivals who stayed less than 12 months in Australia. (b) Graduated random rounding has been used on all cells in this table.

Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures Survey.

During 1999–2000, there were 792,370 short-term departures of Victorian residents overseas, an increase of 9.6% from 1997–98 and 2.7% from 1998–99 (table 11.4). New Zealand, United States of America, United Kingdom and Ireland are popular destinations for Victorians travelling overseas on a short-term basis, accounting for 35.9% of departures in 1999–2000. Short-term departures to Indonesia declined by almost one-third between 1998–99 and 1999–2000, which may be partly explained by political unrest in that country.

11.4 SHORT-TERM DEPARTURES(a), By Victorian Residents(b)

Country of stay	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1999-2000	Percentage change 1997-98 to 1999-2000
	no.	no.	no.	%	%
New Zealand	93 080	107 750	111 570	14.1	19.9
United States of America	87 220	83 330	95 910	12.1	10.0
UK and Ireland	79 030	75 850	76 840	9.7	-2.8
Indonesia	73 240	84 800	56 930	7.2	-22.3
Thailand	25 870	34 560	38 930	4.9	50.5
Hong Kong	30 270	31 380	31 000	3.9	2.4
Malaysia	26 520	27 700	29 270	3.7	10.4
Singapore	21 590	26 760	28 860	3.6	33.7
Fiji	19 130	24 700	28 600	3.6	49.5
China(c)	21 820	22 830	24 770	3.1	13.5
Italy	20 940	20 380	19 800	2.5	-5.4
Viet Nam	15 270	20 670	17 770	2.2	16.4
Greece	15 470	15 420	17 370	2.2	12.3
Japan	12 690	14 870	13 650	1.7	7.6
Other	180 740	180 340	201 030	25.4	11.2
Total(d)	723 060	771 360	792 370	100.0	9.6

(a) Short-term departures who intended to stay overseas less than 12 months. (b) Graduated random rounding has been used on all cells in this table. (c) Excludes Hong Kong SAR of China and Taiwan Province. (d) Sum of components may not equal total due to rounding.

Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures Survey.

International tourism

The International Visitor Survey conducted by the Bureau of Tourism Research showed that in 1999, over 1 million international visitors aged 15 years and over came to Victoria, spending over 20 million nights in the State (table 11.5). Although over half of international visitors came to Victoria for holiday/leisure purposes, they comprised just 27.2% of visitor nights.

11.5 INTERNATIONAL TOURISM(a), By Primary Purpose of Visit — 1999

Purpose of trip	Visitors	Visitor nights
	'000	'000
Holiday/leisure	560	5 566
Visiting friends/relatives	215	4 360
Business	161	1 485
Other	124	9 083
Total(b)	1 060	20 494

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) Components do not sum to total as more than one reason could be provided.

Source: Bureau of Tourism Research: International Visitor Survey and National Visitor Survey.

Domestic tourism

Almost half of domestic visitors to Victoria (which include inter and intra-state visitors) came for holiday/leisure purposes, representing just under half of the visitor nights. In total, there were more than 17 million domestic visitors in 2000, who spent on average, about three nights in Victoria.

11.6 DOMESTIC TOURISM(a), By Primary Purpose of Visit

Purpose of trip	1999		2000	
	Visitors '000	Visitor nights '000	Visitors '000	Visitor nights '000
Holiday/leisure	7 912	27 499	7 609	25 909
Visiting friends/relatives	5 577	17 397	5 832	17 562
Business	2 703	6 984	3 057	7 326
Other	820	3 202	712	3 242
Total	16 670	52 565	17 213	54 039

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) Components do not sum to total as more than one reason could be provided.

Source: Bureau of Tourism Research: *International Visitor Survey and National Visitor Survey*.

Backpacking

'Backpacking' is an important component of international tourism in Australia, one that is characterised by visitors staying for longer periods of time, spending more money, and visiting more regions than other tourists. In 1999, there were 170,700 backpacker visitors to Victoria compared to 129,500 in 1997, an increase of 31.8% (table 11.7). The increase in backpacker visitor nights has also been significant, with numbers increasing 20.7% since 1997.

11.7 BACKPACKER VISITORS(a)(b)

	1997	1998	1999
	'000	'000	'000
Visitors	129.5	146.6	170.7
Visitor nights	3 018	3 589	3 642

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) A backpacker is defined as an international visitor who spent one or more nights in a backpacker hotel or youth hostel during their stay in Australia.

Source: Bureau of Tourism Research, *International Visitor Survey*.

Culture

The diversity of culture in Victoria is shown by the type of activities undertaken by the population. Everything from a stroll in a botanic garden, to turning on the television, picking up a book, going to the football, the theatre, a circus — all of these things encompass culture and cultural activity.

National Estate

Respect for our cultural heritage involves retaining and managing those places and objects that have importance to us as a community. The preservation and use of historic sites, as part of the natural or cultural environment are important aspects of cultural expression within our community. Many places in Australia have aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social significance, or other special value for the present community and future generations. These include natural environments, historic buildings and sites of significance to Aboriginal people; and are collectively known as the National Estate.

The Australian Heritage Commission is the peak advisory body to the Commonwealth Government regarding identification and conservation of the National Estate, and is responsible for maintaining the Register of the National Estate. The register lists places identified as being of cultural and natural importance which should be conserved for present and future generations.

Perceptions of what is of heritage value change over time. In the past, architecture and buildings were given pre-eminence as cultural icons. Now, Australian heritage is increasingly perceived as a record of our past, in all its facets, which assists us as a nation to understand our identity: where we have come from and where our future lies. At 8 November 2001 there were 2,924 places in Victoria in the Register of the National Estate (table 11.8), an increase of 28 places since 16 October 2000. The latest increase in the number of places is considerably smaller than the previous year's increase of 295 places. On 30 May 2000, about 190 places were added to the Interim List as a result of the Regional Forest Agreement. Since then, the process of registration across the nation has slowed as resources have been diverted to the proposed introduction of new heritage legislation.

11.8 PLACES ON THE NATIONAL ESTATE REGISTER — 8 November 2001

	Indigenous	Historic	Natural	Total	% of Australia
Victoria	111	2 431	382	2 924	22.1

Source: Australian Heritage Commission.

Cultural funding

Government in Victoria provides considerable financial support to organisations, across a diverse range of art and cultural activities.

The Victorian State Government provided funding of \$382.1m for cultural purposes in 1999–2000 (table 11.9), resulting in per person funding of \$80.70. Almost one-third of funding went to national parks and wildlife services. Overall, State Government cultural funding in Victoria fell by \$54.3m in 1999–2000 as several major projects were completed, including the Melbourne Museum and the Museum of Victoria.

11.9 CULTURAL FUNDING BY VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT — 1999–2000

	\$m
Cultural facilities and services	
Zoological and botanic gardens	11.4
Libraries and archives	80.5
Literature and publishing	0.3
Museums	56.9
Art galleries	24.2
Visual arts, crafts and photography	2.4
Cultural venues	31.2
Music (excluding opera)	2.6
Other performing arts	11.1
Cultural heritage	11.9
<i>Total</i>	232.5
Broadcasting and film	
Radio and television broadcasting	—
Film and video	13.3
Multimedia	0.4
<i>Total</i>	13.7
Culture n.e.c.	
Administration of culture	4.2
Community cultural activities	3.5
Public halls and civic centres	—
National parks and wildlife services	125.8
Other culture n.e.c.	2.5
<i>Total</i>	135.9
Total	382.1

(a) 'Culture n.e.c.' includes 'recreational facilities and services'.

Source: *Cultural Funding, Australia (Cat. no. 4183.0)*.

Recreation

Recreation refers to a pastime, diversion, exercise, or other resource affording relaxation, leisure and enjoyment. This includes active recreation such as participation in sport, as well as more passive forms of recreation such as reading or watching television. Recreation can be a whole-of-life activity, and is an important part of a well-balanced and healthy lifestyle.

Spending on recreation

In 1998–99, Victorian households reported that they spent an average of \$90.95 per week on recreation (table 11.10), slightly more than the Australian average of \$88.81. This represented 12.7% of total household expenditure on goods and services. The main area of recreational spending was holiday expenses (both within Australia and overseas), which represented 31.7% of the total spent on recreation. This includes holiday travel, accommodation and package tours.

**11.10 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON RECREATION —
1998–99**

	Victoria	Australia
	\$	\$
Audiovisual equipment and parts	6.01	6.50
Home computer equipment (incl. pre-packaged software)	4.73	3.98
Blank and pre-recorded media	4.64	3.96
Books, newspapers, magazines and other printed material	7.68	7.55
Other recreational and educational equipment	9.84	10.10
Gambling	5.89	5.80
Hire of recreational and educational equipment	1.48	1.60
Sports fees and charges	5.27	5.19
Cultural fees and charges	5.50	4.88
Other recreational and educational services (excl. holiday expenses)	4.37	4.79
Holidays — Australia (selected expenses)	16.93	15.82
Holidays — overseas (selected expenses)	11.88	11.99
Animal expenses	6.16	6.21
Other	0.57	0.44
Total	90.95	88.81

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items (Cat. no. 6535.0).

Spending on gambling

Gambling refers to the lawful placement of a wager or bet on the outcome of a future uncertain event, and has been a part of Australian society and its economy since the arrival of the First Fleet. The motivations for gambling vary according to the type of gambling. The average recreational gambler gambles for entertainment (as a way of spending leisure time), as a means of social interaction, or is motivated by the dream of winning. The monetary cost of gambling is not always apparent as there are two distinct measures. The first of these is the initial outlay in placing a bet, known as the turnover. The second is the net outlay which takes winnings into account, this is known as expenditure. The expenditure spending is generally less than the turnover spending (table 11.11).

Spending on total gambling increased between 1998–99 and 1999–2000, with turnover increasing by 10.2% and expenditure increasing by 9.4%. Gaming accounts for more spending by both turnover and expenditure measures than racing and sportsbetting, accounting for around 87.7% of total per capita spending. In 1999–2000, gaming machines accounted for almost two-thirds of this total gaming spend.

11.11 SPENDING ON GAMBLING(a)

Gambling form	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		Per capita 1999-2000(b)	
	Turnover	Expenditure	Turnover	Expenditure	Turnover	Expenditure	Turnover	Expenditure
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$	\$
Racing								
TAB	2 371.9	379.5	2 537.7	406.0	2 576.3	412.2	716.33	114.61
On-course totalisator	215.5	34.5	206.6	33.1	208.3	33.3	57.91	9.27
On-course bookmakers	384.2	17.3	301.8	15.7	249.9	13.0	69.49	3.60
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 971.6</i>	<i>431.3</i>	<i>3 046.1</i>	<i>454.8</i>	<i>3 034.5</i>	<i>458.5</i>	<i>843.72</i>	<i>127.48</i>
Gaming								
Lottery	13.0	5.2	13.6	5.4	13.0	5.2	3.60	1.44
Tattslotto, lotto	672.0	268.8	705.2	282.1	708.4	283.3	196.96	78.78
Instant lottery	59.2	23.7	59.5	23.8	64.0	25.6	17.81	7.12
Casino	13 048.2	742.3	9 098.2	721.9	10 651.7	823.9	2 961.67	229.08
Keno	28.5	7.1	28.7	7.2	27.2	6.8	7.58	1.89
Gaming machines(c)	18 097.8	1 711.3	20 543.6	1 954.2	22 387.6	2 170.6	6 224.84	603.52
Pools, Bingo and minor gaming	2.5	1.2	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.1	0.61	0.31
<i>Total</i>	<i>31 921.3</i>	<i>2 759.6</i>	<i>30 451.2</i>	<i>2 995.8</i>	<i>33 854.1</i>	<i>3 316.5</i>	<i>9 413.07</i>	<i>922.13</i>
Sportsbetting								
Sportsbetting(d)	43.5	6.2	50.6	5.9	73.5	7.9	20.43	2.19
Total gambling	34 936.3	3 191.1	33 548.0	3 456.5	36 962.0	3 782.8	10 277.83	1 051.81

(a) Sum of components may not equal totals due to rounding. (b) Annual average dollar spend per Victorian, excluding persons under the age of 18 years, based on estimated mid year population. (c) Excludes gaming machines located in casinos. (d) Due to changes in methodology, estimates for sportsbetting in 1997-98 have become available. However, not all of those estimates have been removed from the racing and gaming estimates, resulting in some double counting.

Source: Tasmanian Gaming Commission, Australian Gambling Statistics 1973-74 to 1999-2000.

Involvement and participation in culture and leisure

In the 12 months to April 2001, a total of 638,800 persons aged 15 years and over were working in selected culture and leisure activities, representing a participation rate of 16.9% (table 11.12). Although more females were likely to be working in these types of activities, they were less likely than males to receive payment (41.7% of males compared to 28.4% of females).

11.12 PERSONS INVOLVED IN SELECTED CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES — 12 months to April 2001

	Unit	Males	Females	Total
Some paid involvement(a)	'000	127.6	94.6	222.2
Unpaid involvement only	'000	177.6	239.0	416.6
<i>Total persons involved</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>305.3</i>	<i>333.5</i>	<i>638.8</i>
Persons with no involvement	'000	1 554.3	1 587.4	3 141.7
Participation rate	%	16.4	17.4	16.9

(a) Includes persons who only received payment in kind.

Source: Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia (Cat. no. 6281.0).

In the 12 months prior to April 2000, 58.8% of children aged 5-14 years participated in organised sport outside of school hours (table 11.13). This compares with 48.2% of children who accessed the Internet, and 46.8% who used a home computer (but did not access the Internet).

Participation in selected leisure activities in the two weeks prior to the interview in April 2000 showed varied usage patterns, with almost all children aged 5–14 watching television or videos, compared to 70.0% playing electronic or computer games.

11.13 CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES, By Age — 12 months ended April 2000

	Age (years)			Persons involved '000	Total Participation rate %
	5–8 '000	9–11 '000	12–14 '000		
Organised cultural activities(a)					
Playing a musical instrument	28.5	42.7	36.0	107.2	16.7
Singing	*4.0	9.9	9.4	23.3	3.6
Dancing	27.7	18.0	12.4	58.1	9.0
Drama	*5.6	*7.1	11.6	24.4	3.8
Organised sport(b)	128.9	134.8	114.9	378.6	58.8
Leisure activities(c)					
Skateboarding or rollerblading	78.7	69.7	41.1	189.5	29.9
Bike riding	194.0	137.0	95.7	426.7	66.3
Watching TV or videos	250.6	194.5	181.9	627.1	97.5
Playing electronic or computer games	171.5	149.4	129.8	450.7	70.0
Art and craft activities	139.4	86.4	47.7	273.5	42.5
Computer activities(d)					
Accessed the Internet	61.8	111.3	137.2	310.3	48.2
Used a home computer but not the Internet	169.0	83.7	48.6	301.3	46.8
Total	230.8	195.0	185.9	611.6	95.1

(a) Children aged 5 to 14 years who participated in selected activities outside of school hours during the 12 months prior to interview in April 2000. (b) Children aged 5–14 years who participated in organised sport outside of school hours during the 12 months prior to interview in April 2000. (c) Children aged 5–14 years who participated in selected leisure activities outside of school hours during the two weeks prior to interview in April 2000. (d) Children aged 5–14 years who used a computer or accessed the Internet during the 12 months prior to interview in April 2000.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*.

AFL attendance

Over 6 million spectators attended AFL football during the 2001 season (table 11.14). The first time that attendance at home and away games topped 6 million was in 1997. Between 2000 and 2001, home and away attendance increased by 3.1%, while finals attendance decreased by 7.1%. This decrease in finals attendance is a result of more interstate teams having home finals in smaller venues. Overall, total attendance increased by 2.2% in 2001 from the previous year.

11.14 AFL ATTENDANCE(a)

	Home and away	Finals	Total
1996	5 216 148	478 773	5 694 921
1997	5 842 591	560 406	6 402 997
1998	6 119 164	572 733	6 691 897
1999	5 771 579	472 007	6 243 586
2000	5 740 811	566 562	6 307 373
2001	5 921 117	526 443	6 447 560

(a) Includes persons who attend more than once.

Source: Australian Football League.

Sport

Sport is an integral part of the Australian and Victorian culture and there are many benefits associated with participating in sport and physical activity, including enjoyment, social interaction, health, personal achievement, national pride and community involvement.

Governments invest in sport because it returns both tangible and intangible benefits. Federal, State and Local governments all play an important role in the development of Victorian sport. The provision of quality facilities, whether they be 'state of the art' stadiums or community cycling paths, encourage physical activity and, importantly, good health.

Sports involvement

Just over 1 million Victorians were involved in organised sport and physical activity in the 12 months ending April 2001, resulting in a participation rate of 26.6% (table 11.15). Participation rates were higher for males in all age groups, than for females. Total participation rates declined steadily as age increased. Just over 40% of 15–24 year olds participated in sport compared to less than a 16% of persons aged 65 years and over.

**11.15 INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISED SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY(a)
— 12 months ended April 2001**

Age group (years)	Number			Participation rate		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
15–24	164.2	108.9	273.2	48.5	33.4	41.1
25–34	123.2	85.8	209.0	33.4	23.2	28.3
35–44	103.0	94.3	197.4	28.7	25.6	27.1
45–54	90.3	72.5	162.8	28.3	22.3	25.3
55–64	43.0	30.7	73.7	19.6	13.9	16.7
65 and over	54.1	35.9	90.1	21.2	11.6	15.9
Total	577.8	428.1	1 006.2	31.1	22.3	26.6

(a) Combines those with paid only and both paid and unpaid involvement.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia*.

Children's participation in sport

In the 12 months ended April 2000, the most popular sports attracting participation from 5–14 year olds were swimming (106,000), Australian Rules Football (76,800) and basketball (74,300) (table 11.16). However, for some sports, there is a clear difference between the sexes in preferred sporting activity. Most (95.1%) netball players were girls, while boys comprised 96.6% of Australian Rules Football players and 93.5% of outdoor cricketers.

In terms of participation rates, the most popular sports for boys were Australian Rules Football (22.5%), swimming (15.8%) and basketball (13.4%), while girls showed a preference for netball (19.0%), swimming (17.2%) and tennis (10.2%).

**11.16 CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS(a), Main Organised Sports —
12 months ended April 2000**

	Number			Participation rate		
	Boys	Girls	Persons	Boys	Girls	Persons
Sporting event	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Swimming	52.1	54.0	106.0	15.8	17.2	16.5
Australian Rules	74.2	*2.5	76.8	22.5	*0.8	11.9
Basketball	44.0	30.3	74.3	13.4	9.6	11.5
Tennis	38.1	32.1	70.1	11.5	10.2	10.9
Netball	*3.1	59.6	62.7	*0.9	19.0	9.7
Athletics and track and field	19.7	19.7	39.4	6.0	6.3	6.1
Cricket (outdoor)	30.4	**2.0	32.5	9.2	**0.7	5.0
Soccer (outdoor)	27.9	**2.0	29.9	8.5	**0.6	4.6
Martial arts	17.4	8.2	25.6	5.3	2.6	4.0
Gymnastics	*3.8	13.9	17.7	*1.2	4.4	2.7
Hockey	*5.8	*2.8	8.6	*1.7	*0.9	1.3
Rugby League	**1.2	**1.2	**1.2	**0.4	**1.2	**0.2

(a) Children aged 5 to 14 years who participated in organised sport outside of school hours during the 12 months prior to interview in April 2000.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*.

Bibliography

ABS sources

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (Cat. no. 3401.0).

Public Attitudes to the Arts, Australia (Cat. no. 4157.0).

Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia (Cat. no. 4177.0).

Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Detailed expenditure items (Cat. no. 6535.0).

Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia (Cat. no. 6285.0).

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, (Cat. no. 4901.0).

Non-ABS sources

Australian Heritage Commission.

Bureau of Tourism Research, *National Visitor Survey*.

Bureau of Tourism Research, *International Visitor Survey*.

Tasmanian Gaming Commission, *Australian Gambling Statistics, 1973–74 to 1998–99*.

Internet

Australian Football League, <www.afl.com.au>.

Bureau of Tourism Research, <www.btr.com.au>.