

THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF AUSTRALIAN PERFORMERS

A summary of results from Actors' Wellbeing Study (AWS) & Entertainment Assist Project (EA)



Income (from the craft alone)

Performers (AWS)	Performers (EA)	Producers and Directors (EA)	Crew (EA)
41% earn under \$10,000 ¹			
56% earn under \$20,000	51% earn under \$20,000	20% earn under \$20,000	12% earn under \$20,000
ACOSS poverty line (single) \$20,000			
64% earn under \$30,000	64% earn under \$30,000	27% earn under \$30,000	20% earn under \$30,000
National minimum wage \$34,112			
ACOSS poverty line (family) \$50,000			
25% earn +\$50,000	23% earn +\$50,000	53% earn +\$50,000	54% earn +\$50,000
Average yearly income \$57,980			
	18% earn +\$60,000	38% earn +\$60,000	38% earn +\$60,000
Average full-time wage \$73,600			
5% earn +\$75,000			

66% of performers said their income had either stayed the same or fallen over the past 5 years.
22% said their income had increased over the past 5 years.

Performers	Producers & Directors	Crew
23% earn all income from entertainment industry	53% no outside income	59% no outside income



Mental health and wellbeing

26% of performers report having experienced debilitating performance anxiety. Of these, 72% are trained actors.

What sort of performance particularly induces physical and/or psychological health stress?

437 nominated theatre, 130 nominated musicals, 336 nominated film and television (combined, 186+150).

General population	Performers	Producers and Directors	Crew
Report anxiety moderate to severe 3.7%	45.2%	43.9%	41.1%
Report depression moderate to severe 3%	13.7%	13.6%	20.8%
Have you sought professional help?	Yes 65%	Yes 60%	Yes 45%
Do you know where to look for support?	No 52%	No 52%	No 58%

Suicide data

General population	Performers	Producers and Directors	Crew
Report suicide ideation (last 12 months) 2.3%	15% actors and musicians (dancers at 7.1%)		20% road crew; 19% lighting and sound tech
Report planning suicide (lifetime) 4%	16%	17.5%	19.9%
Report attempting suicide (lifetime) 3.2%	7.4%	7.9%	8.5%

Bullying and Harassment

- 26.3% performers report having experienced bullying or harassment in the workplace
- 23% for men, 29% for women

Age group of respondents

Entertainment industry is a young workforce generally. 40% are under 30yrs and 85% are younger than 50yrs.

This is particularly so amongst performers.

Age	Performers	Producers and directors	Crew
18-24yrs	30.3%	9.4%	18.4%
25-34yrs	29%	37%	32.4%

How do training institutions fare?

- About 70% of trained actors did not receive any training about psychological wellbeing
- Only 14.2% of trained actors received training in financial management.

Levels of satisfaction

Performers	Producers & Directors	Crew
42% dissatisfied	32% dissatisfied	30% dissatisfied
	18% very+ satisfied	19% very+ satisfied

Indicators of mental & physical stress

Anti-social hours, low income levels, poverty, sleep disorders, touring, problems sustaining relationships, low levels of social support, history mental health diagnoses, long and irregular hours, irregular income.



¹ Women tend to have lower average earnings and more women are congregated amongst actors who are low waged. 47% of women respondents earn under \$10,000 from acting compared to 33% of men. The difference between trained and non-trained actors is minimal.