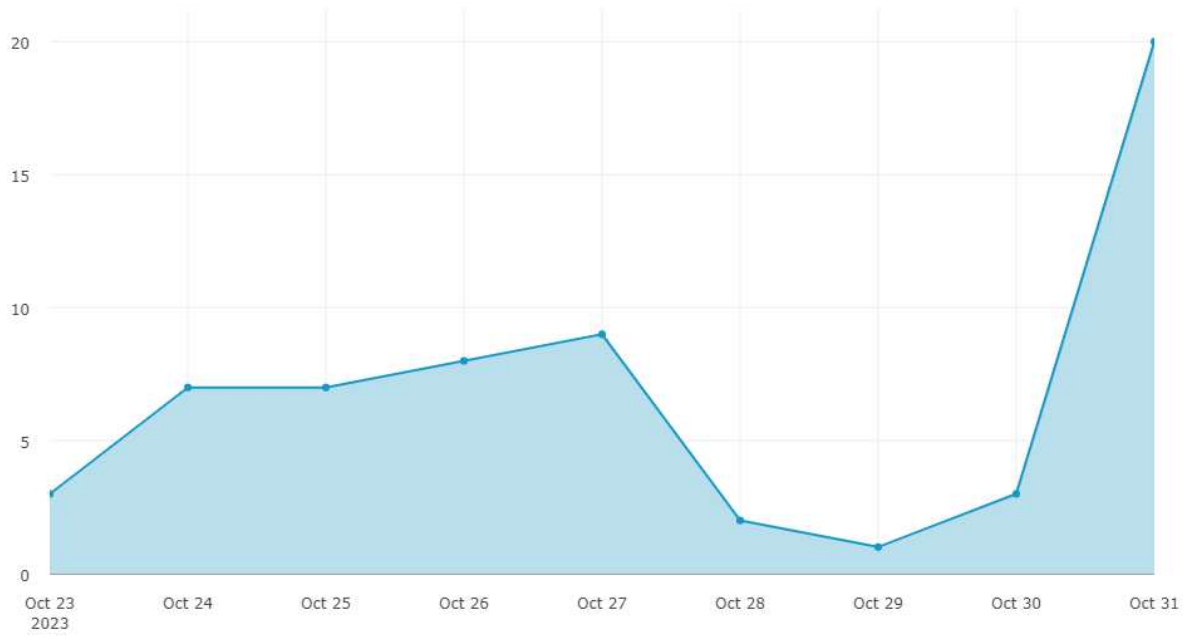
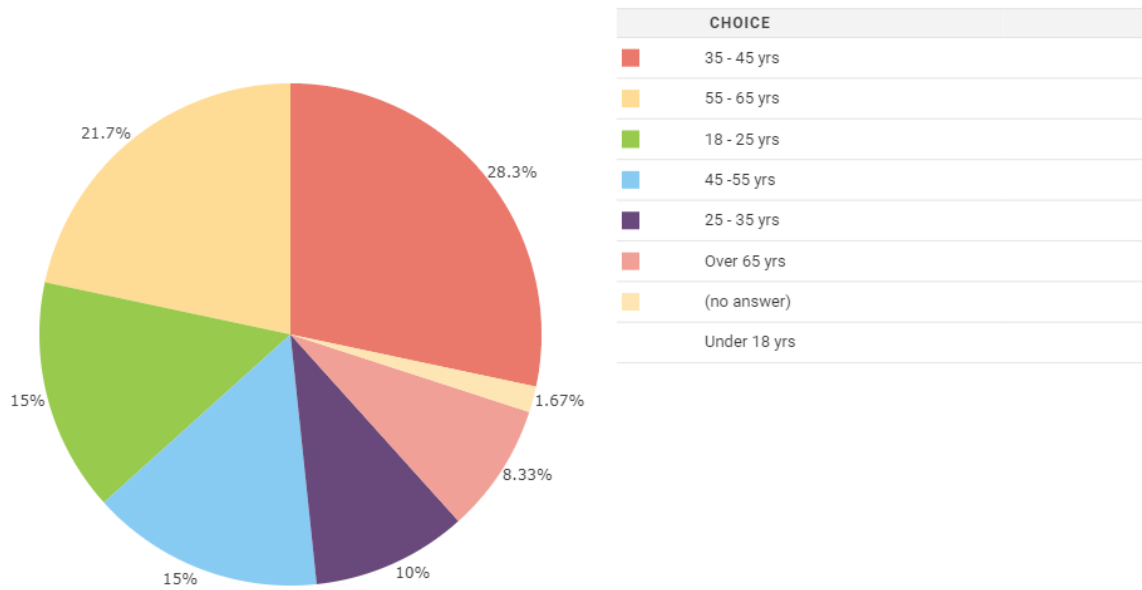


# Creative Confidence Indicator Poll – October 2023

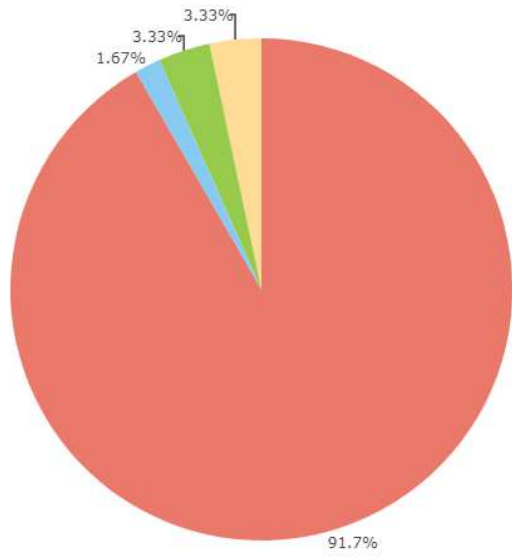
## Form responses received



## What is your age ?

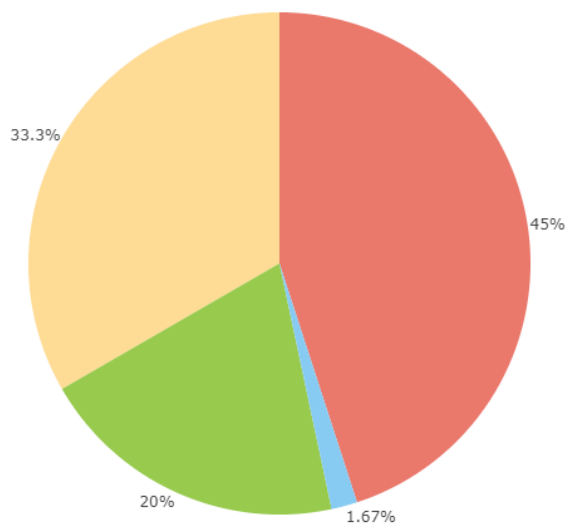


Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?



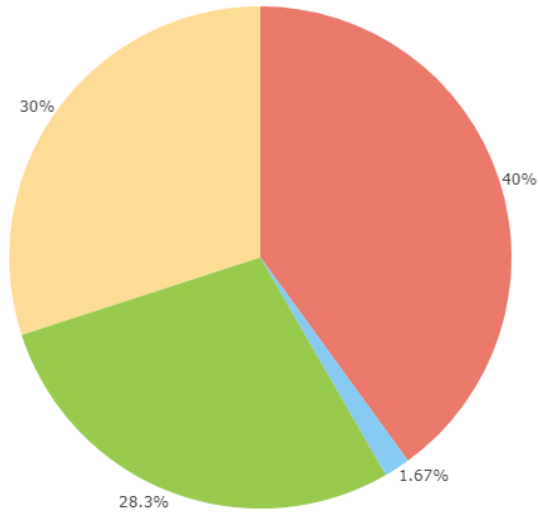
CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	No
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Prefer not to say
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Yes
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	(no answer)

What stage in your creative practice are you?



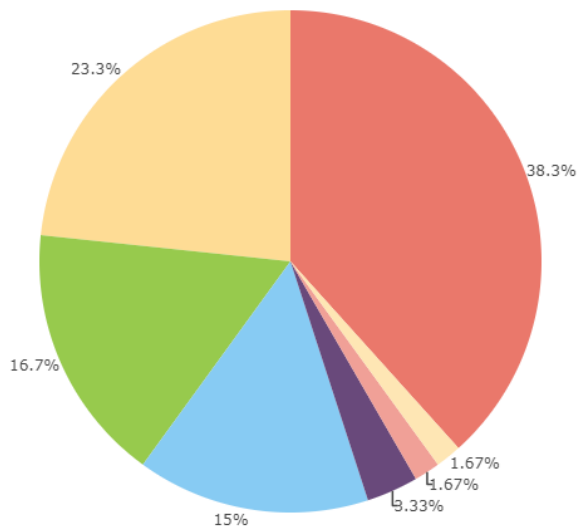
CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Early
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Mid-career
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Established
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	(no answer)

How much time do you undertake your creative practice?



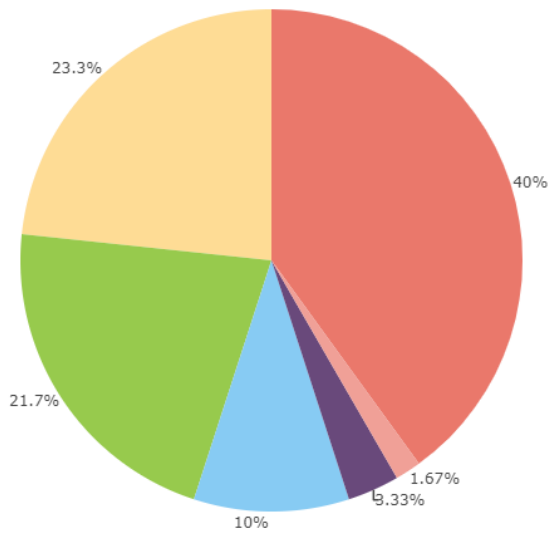
CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Part-time
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Full-time
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Casually/Hobby
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	(no answer)

How confident are you feeling about your creative activities and/or practice right now?



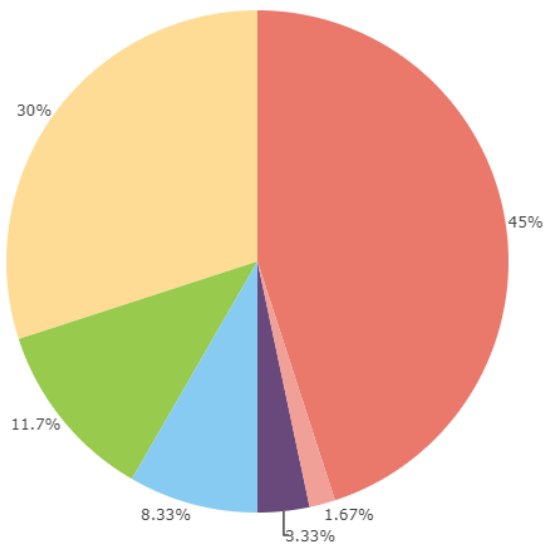
CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Confident
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Neutral
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Very Confident
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Unconfident
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Very Unconfident
<span style="color: pink;">■</span>	(no answer)
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	N/A

How confident do you feel about the region's creative communities and industries?



CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Confident
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Neutral
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Unconfident
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Very Unconfident
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Very Confident
<span style="color: pink;">■</span>	(no answer)
	N/A

How confident do you feel about the future of your creative activities and/or practice over the next 12 months?



CHOICE	
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Confident
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Neutral
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Unconfident
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Very Confident
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Very Unconfident
<span style="color: pink;">■</span>	(no answer)
	N/A

COMMENTS

<b>Any comments you would like to make about the Creative Industries in the South West Region?</b>
Its very welcoming
ACT Natimuk is a terrific organisation to be affiliated with and the Nati Frinj as a recurring point in time. Like my local ACCA and a little Speigeltent is how I view it in my creative life. My focus is on creative practice fulltime and teaching art maintains the focus.
Collaboration is key. Appreciate the ways in which this strategy is able to hold councils & gov bodies accountable.
it would be great to see local government, particularly Moyne Shire more engaged and positive about community cultural development. Committing some serious \$\$ and positive engagement
FYVCollective has been a wonderful, supporting and nurturing space to explore and reconnect with creativity. I've recently learned that I'm actually not terrible at drawing (amongst other creative endeavors) as previously believed, thanks to FYVC.
There is a lack in performance opportunities
At the moment there are limited opportunities and we wish that there were more in the region.
The music scene is growing and growing, we just need to keep people engaged!
There should more opportunities for people with disabilities to creatively release
In Warrnambool and surrounds it would be good for more performance opportunities
I would like more performance opportunities
It would be good to have more opportunities.
As a resident in Colac Orway Shire it can be hard work to feel the arts is supported by our local government and broader community, thankfully there are many amazing volunteers and artists to make things happen. The need for alarge gallery/art space in Colac specifically would be amazing - this is currently lacking....
I think the work of RAV, councils and other formal groups or mechanisms to support artists and volunteers in creative industries is critical. In two key ways, 1) to expand or continue the work of existing pratitioners and 2) to attract and inspire new people and audiences to the field. Thanks
As a resident in Colac Orway Shire it can be hard work to feel the arts is supported by our local government and broader community, thankfully there are many amazing volunteers and artists to make things happen. The need for alarge gallery/art space in Colac specifically would be amazing - this is currently lacking....
Keep investing, keep growing, things feel like they're changing!

I was based in Warrnambool and have moved to Melbourne this year. I was a part of the Creative Leaders Program. The networking and mentorship opportunities have had a lasting impact on me.

The program helped me realise that there are people like me who are creative and that I can surround myself with people like this who are like me. I have stayed connected with some of the other creative leaders and some have reached out to me for advice.

The best thing is that I run into my mentor, Joel O'Keefe from Airborne regularly in Melbourne and he always stops for a chat. It's a dream come true to have one of my biggest idols as a mentor and to still know me and make time for me years later.

My confidence since moving to Melbourne has decreased as the realities of trying to make it in the music industry has been tough.

I am not confident about the regions creative industries, because the South West is dominated by footy culture and I never felt a sense of belonging as a creative in the general community. I feel like it's good for hobby creatives, but limited for people who want to work in the industries. I have learned a lot and I am confident about moving forward.

I think the best thing that could happen for the South West is more opportunities for mentoring and networking.

There is a feeling that the sector is maturing and showing more confidence in itself as a legitimate industry sector. I know in previous years, there has been a strong sense of arts practitioners claiming they lack funding, support or capacity building avenues, but now I see greater evidence of collaborations, maturity in strategic direction and governance considerations, and more targeted and advanced funding requests.

More of an up to date creative performance venue for large shows or at least current venue to have equipment especially lighting facilities for stage performances updated and raked seating installed.

Corangamite Shire now are very verbose about the Creatives in the region, it's a very positive step forward with more art galleries and craft related shops popping up.

More funding should be available for sole traders promoting south west Victorian artists. Rates, insurance, rent, permits, advertising, signage, social media, staff, cleaning etc etc needs to be paid before even beginning to sell and promote local art. The funding available seems to go to government not for profit.

I'm confident, though at times I find the resources are a bit ad hoc, or based in commercial enterprises. I work part-time in education. Always maintaining connection with other artists, like-minded folk is key.

Lots of support out here.

There seems to be more opportunities to develop artistically and ability to take part more at a local level

Personally I think the people with enough talent and discipline are better off reaching out to Melbourne or other interstate areas to pursue their goals, the south west is developed by tall poppy syndrome and a toxic competitive scene where a lot of people easily get jealous by the success of others.

<p>I would like to see creatives being helped to diversify their income outside of exhibition and teaching classes. A quick example I saw in Warburton is hosting space for artists to see prints and products at the information centre.</p>
<p>The role of creative art activities in peoples lives is always under valued from a mental health point of view. Positive impacts on our communities are not just from professional creatives, or people making an income from the sector. Support for arts based community groups should be equivalent to other community groups, such as sporting clubs. Local government could easily support via equivalent infrastructure for local creative hubs.</p>
<p>I was full time as a sole trader photographer for 13 years. Now I've lost my passion to be full time and have ideas to pursue as a hobby however would still like to make some money. I would love to have a grant to follow through on some of these ideas.</p>
<p>Anecdotally, the Creative Industries are in a disjointed state. There are pockets of great success at one end, and at the other there are practitioners feeling disconnected and unsure. There is community dissatisfaction in the availability of opportunities right now, but also a sense that things are underway to improve the situation. Personally I feel that there is a more collaborative approach between governing bodies, arts orgs and the community at large, and this will lead to good things in the coming years.</p>
<p>More grants support for local projects. More workshops for digital media.</p>
<p>As my creative outlet is community based I answered the above based on my own assumption, this is not reflective of the opinion of my local community who I engage with.</p>
<p>I have lived here for ten years and I've had my art ABN for four. It feels like the arts in this region has been flourishing during this time. I've loved seeing more public art, what The F Project has been doing is amazing, Fresh market has been really helpful for me (I have a stall there during spring and summer). I was disappointed the WAG Cannon Hill project wasn't able to go ahead. I think the public didn't understand the benefits. Many find change challenging, especially post COVID. But on the whole I think the public is an art loving and supportive one. I feel well supported here by the public and by RAV. I think it's wonderful that there are small business mentoring opportunities. I have clicked "full time", but I actually work three days a week while my preschooler is in care...plus weekends and some nights. It probably adds up to full time! Next year he'll be in school so I'll be officially full time.</p>
<p>There needs to be an effort to attract people aged in their 20-40s into enjoyment of the arts. There seems to be a good range of options for youth and for seniors, but the middle age band are missing out. There also needs to be a focus on more budget friendly options for performances and workshops.</p>

I feel the Creative Industry is growing stronger. Slowly but surely people are realising the effect that all forms of art can have on your wellbeing. Whether it's bringing visual joy, being thought provoking, truth telling, sharing unique perspectives, thinking outside the box, providing representation, story telling, therapeutic practice etc. The arts are an incredibly important part of the South West and gives our regions creatives opportunities to express feelings and thoughts through their eyes, from their own perspectives and gives us insight into how they view the world. As a practicing Contemporary Aboriginal Artist myself, I am particularly impressed with the opportunities for First Nations artists but do feel that our artists need help in valuing their work and would benefit greatly from information sessions regarding licensing etc and it would also be great if businesses/companies also had access to information regarding price expectancy when commissioning a piece and costs involved if they want to use that piece further than just being a physical artwork, such as exclusive or non exclusive use and licensing of the artwork, reproduction, digitally and physically, creating a piece that becomes part of their identity/ branding etc. As I feel the difference in value and costs in Metropolitan areas compared to rural areas is significantly substantial and a lot of businesses/companies not understanding the value or worth that that piece can bring them, often dictating the budget, trying to barter the price with the artist or potentially seeking a less experienced or established artist that are not confident with their pricing or don't know their own worth yet. If we can work on some of those things into the future so that everyone is on a level playing field and has a better understanding of these matters then that would be very satisfying.

The southwest region is thriving and mutually supportive. Our galleries are broad and connected to local creatives and I feel very lucky to have a creative practice in this part of the world.

I think my confidence in my creative practice is unrelated to any government policies, documents or activities that are going on. As part of a group we have applied for funding, but been unsuccessful. The only way we have been able to secure a premises for exhibitions, workshops, retail sales and artist studios has been hard work by artist volunteers and their supporters. There is a lot more the federal, state, but especially local government can do to support the arts.

I've noticed a cooling as people find it harder to afford workshops and events. But the interest is still there. Grants needed to help balance accessibility for all financial demographics (Inc youth!)

We need so much practical support and constantly working through grant applications and partnerships is a total drain away from our mission

Thanks

I feel the creative industries in the area are growing and strengthening. I feel confident there are opportunities to network and develop as an artist. Postcode 3228

I would like to see more support offered to artists especially early / mid career.

I have asked for support to write a submission for funding and was told funding only goes to established artists .

Funding to be fair needs to respond to artists at all levels of career.

I have seen no workshops in South West region to assist writing funding submissions, nor mentoring programs or spaces that encourage you to pursue an arts career.