

Welfare, recreation and community arts worker

Average salary: \$57,000+

Career trend: growing strongly

Job description

Welfare, recreation and community arts workers are vital to their community. They develop programs to help individuals and families with financial, emotional or social difficulties survive hard times. In this meaningful role, you'll use educational, artistic or sporting activities to support people's development and improve their quality of life.

What welfare, recreation and community arts workers do

Welfare, recreation and community arts workers plan, develop and oversee projects or programs in communities where there are social, cultural or environmental issues.

Project work can engage young people at risk, people with mental health issues, ethnic minorities, the homeless, the elderly, drug users, and people with disabilities. Workers in this field engage with community groups to identify their needs and design projects to suit. They may run the projects too or hire specialists to run them.

Arts workers use a range of art forms to create a safe space where people can challenge ideas, experiment, learn new skills, speak their minds and feel respected.

Welfare, recreation and community arts workers also do some administrative work including bid writing, fundraising, managing budgets, and marketing projects through community networks.

You'll like this job if...

You're able to communicate effectively with people. You have a positive and non-judgemental attitude. You have excellent organisational skills. You're patient, caring and supportive. You're empathic. You're an active listener. You have expertise in one or more art forms. You're socially aware and understand diversity.

Will I get a job?

- Strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 3,900 new jobs expected to be created in the next four years, bringing the total in Australia to almost 25,000.

What will I earn?

- \$1,101 to \$1,350 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Community arts worker
- Community arts officer
- Recreation officer
- Welfare worker

A day in the life...

Work as a welfare, recreation and community arts worker may involve:

- research and analyse community issues, needs and problems
- identify issues of local need, concerns and desires by asking community members
- develop and maintain community resources and programs
- look at data and write reports such as submissions requesting funding for continuing programs and new projects
- organise local sporting, cultural and recreational events such as community functions, hobby classes, community arts projects, and sporting competitions
- provide support and look at options for clients with problems such as marital difficulties, unemployment, illness, or drug abuse
- assess risks and provide intensive short-term crisis counselling for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, disasters, and other crises
- help to set up and run neighbourhood houses, community groups, employment training programs, and other services.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts (CUA40615)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 82.1%*

Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts Industry Work (CUA50615)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.2%*

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Main employing industries

- Health care and social assistance
- Public administration and safety
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Other jobs you may like...

- Welfare support worker
- Counsellor

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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