

# AUSTRALIA

## Snapshot of Australia

### Population

General Population: 21 million  
Indigenous Population: 500,000 (25%)

### Median Age

36.7 years

### Children 0-4

1.3 million (6.3%)  
4% with disabilities

### Valuing Arts

"The arts should be an important part of the education of every Australian child." (85% of 2,600 people surveyed, across gender, generation, culture, educational level, employment status and income level).

### Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics <http://www.abs.gov.au>, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare <http://www.aihw.gov.au/>  
Costantoura, Paul (2001): *Australians and the Arts*. Federation Press: Australia Council for the Arts.

### About the Panelist



Anja Tait works as consultant music therapist in cross-cultural contexts, in maternal and child health, early childhood intervention, education across the stages of schooling,

and palliative and bereavement care. Her practice and research focuses on enabling individuals, families and communities to participate in active artmaking (music, movement, visual arts) for learning and wellbeing across the lifespan.

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## Anja Tait

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*Through music children "express ideas, their knowledge and life meaning"*

Torres Strait (Parents), Australia

## Demographics

Australian music therapists working in early childhood care and education in 2008

Number of Therapists	90-120
Workplace conditions	part-time, full-time, sessional
Settings	hospital, hospice, community, childcare, preschool, disability services
Service delivery models	inter-disciplinary, inter-agency, child-centred, family-focused, individual, family, small group, preventative, intervention

## Background Information

Federal and state/territory regulations influence access to and the practices of music therapy with young children. In late 2007, Australia had a change of federal government and Prime Minister. This impacts at all levels of society, as new policies and priorities emerge for early childhood education, health and care, as well as the arts sector.

## Common Approaches

Current Australian Government policies and funding priorities emphasize the delivery of programs that strengthen the development and learning of 0-5 year olds. Music therapy practice in Australia will become increasingly visible in this political climate, representing a range of philosophical standpoints and clinical practices. Examples of contemporary music therapy practice in Australia include:

ArtStories  
<http://artstories.cdu.edu.au>

Giant Steps Foundation  
<http://www.giantsteps.net.au/>

Music Together, Uniting Church of Australia  
[http://www.mca.org.au/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mpfl\\_pdfs/Music\\_Together\\_report.pdf](http://www.mca.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/mpfl_pdfs/Music_Together_report.pdf)  
[http://www.connections.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=35&Itemid=36](http://www.connections.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=35&Itemid=36)

Nordoff Robbins: Golden Stave Music Therapy Centre  
<http://www.nordoff-robbins.com.au/contentsMain.asp?CatID=15>

Pediatric music therapy programs in hospitals in major capital cities of Australia  
[http://www.rch.org.au/musictherapy/index.cfm?doc\\_id=1075](http://www.rch.org.au/musictherapy/index.cfm?doc_id=1075)  
<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/rch/>  
<http://www.kidswithcancer.org.au/hospital%20achievements.htm>  
[http://www.chw.edu.au/prof/services/allied\\_health/](http://www.chw.edu.au/prof/services/allied_health/)  
[http://www.sch.edu.au/departments/allied\\_health/](http://www.sch.edu.au/departments/allied_health/)  
<http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/divisions/paedm/clinhaem/index.html>

Sing and Grow, Playgroup Queensland  
<http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/qld/index.cfm?objectid=DC19F14A-E41A-0CF5-77C3D0D601E6EC70>

## Prominent Publications

A growing body of Australian literature is now evident in the fields of early childhood intervention, early childhood care and education, music education and music therapy. Some prominent articles follow, sourced across disciplines.

### Music Education

- Barrett, Margaret (2003). Meme Engineers: Children as Producers of Musical Culture, *International Journal of Early Years Education*, 11(3), 195-212, Oct 2003.
- De Vries, Peter (2004). Exploring the piano from the ages of eight to thirty six months: implications for infant and toddler music development, in the peer-reviewed proceedings of the Australian Association for Research in Music Education Annual Conference, pp107-115.
- Wright, S. (2003). *The arts, young children, and learning*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

### Early Childhood Care and Education

- Elliott, Allison (2005). Creative Arts (Editorial). *Every Child*, 11(2), Autumn 2005.
- Rankin, Beth (1999). Mother and baby: The positive benefits of active music making to a child's musical development and learning, in the peer-reviewed proceedings of the Australian Association for Research in Music Education Annual Conference, pp269-272.
- Southies, Louie & Larkin, V (1998). A comparison of the responses of four year old children to music and movement experiences in two different contexts: a specialised music program and as part of a daycare curriculum, in the peer-reviewed proceedings of the Australian Association for Research in Music Education Annual Conference, pp101-108.

### Early Childhood Intervention/Music Therapy

- Chen-Hafteck, L (1996). Music and language development in early childhood: Integrating past research in the two domains. *Early Child Development and Care*, 130, 85-97.
- Shoemark, H. (1996). Family-centred early intervention: Music therapy in the playgroup program. *The Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 7, 3-15.
- Skewes, K. & Thompson, G (1998). The use of musical interactions to develop social skills in early intervention. *The Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 9, 35-44. (abstract)
- Tait, A & Blight, C (1998). *Creatively Communicating: The music in language & the language in music*. Published in the conference proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of Early Childhood Intervention Australia, Sydney, September 1998.
- Tait, A & Blight, C (2000). *Making Magic!* A multi-sensory approach to early language acquisition. Published in the Conference Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Early Childhood Intervention Australia, Brisbane, August 2000.
- Wilmot, Catherine. (2004). *Sound Communication: Music for Teaching Oral Language Skills*. Perth, WA: Music Therapy Matters .

### Children in Hospital/Music Therapy

- Calabro, J., Wolfe, R., & Shoemark, H. (2003). The effects of recorded sedative music on the physiology and behavior of premature infants with a respiratory disorder. *The Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 14, 3-19. (abstract).
- Daveson, B. (1999). A model of response: Coping mechanisms and music therapy techniques during debridement. *Music Therapy Perspectives*, 17(2), 92-98.
- Edwards, J & Kennelly, J. (1999). *Clinician's Manual – Music therapy for children in hospital*. University of Queensland Printery, St Lucia, Brisbane.
- Edwards, J. & Kennelly, J. (2004). Music therapy in paediatric rehabilitation: The application of modified Grounded Theory to identify techniques used by a music therapist. *Nordic Journal of Music Therapy*, 13(2), 112-126.
- Han, P. (1998). The use of music in managing pain for hospitalised children. *The Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 9, 44-56. (abstract)
- Kennelly, J. (2000). The specialist role of the music therapist in developmental programs for hospitalised children. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, 14 (2), 56-59.
- Kennelly, J. & Edwards, J. (1997). Providing music therapy to the unconscious child in the paediatric intensive care unit. *The Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 8, 18-29. (abstract)
- Rosenfeld, J.V. & Dun, B. (1999). Music therapy in children with severe traumatic brain injury (pp. 35-46). In R.R. Pratt & Grocke, D.E. (Eds). *MusicMedicine 3. MusicMedicine and music therapy: Expanding Horizons*. Melbourne: University of Melbourne.
- Sheridan, J. & McFerran, K. (2004). Exploring the value of opportunities for choice and control in music therapy within a paediatric hospice setting. *Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 15, 18 - 32.
- Shoemark, H and Dearn, T (2008). Keeping parents at the centre of family centred music therapy with hospitalized Infants. *Australian Journal of Music Therapy*, 19.
- Shoemark, H. (2004). Family-centred music therapy for infants with complex medical and surgical needs. In M. Nocker-Ribaupierre (Ed.), *Music therapy for premature and newborn infants* (pp. 141-157). Gilsum NH: Barcelona Publishers.
- Shoemark, H. (1999). Singing as the foundation for multi-modal stimulation of the older preterm infant (pp. 140-152). In R.R. Pratt & Grocke, D.E. (Eds). *MusicMedicine 3. MusicMedicine and music therapy: Expanding Horizons*. Melbourne: University of Melbourne.