

# Cultural Funding by Government—2020–21

## Australian Government

In 2020–21 the estimate of expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the Australian Government, was **$2,967.0m** representing a rise of 8% or **$223.2m** from 2019–20. This amount includes **$232.6m** targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals support programs and initiatives[[1]](#footnote-1).

Table 1. Australian Government cultural expenditure, 2017–18 to 2020–21[[2]](#footnote-2)

| 2017–18 | 2019–20[[3]](#footnote-3) | 2020–21[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $2,674.9m | $2,743.8m ↑3% | $2,967.0m ↑8% |

The estimate of per person cultural funding was $115.52.

### Heritage

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) increased 6% (or $49.6m) to $836.0m, including $63.7m targeted COVID support funding.

Expenditure on the categories of *Other museums and cultural heritage* and *Art museums* increased $30.1m and $17.9m respectively. Funding for *Archives* dropped $3.2m.

The categories with the highest levels of *Heritage* expenditure were *Other museums and cultural heritage* with $482.9m, followed by *Archives* with $140.7m.

Figure 1. Australian Government heritage expenditure

Figure 1. Australian Government heritage expenditure.
A column graph compares expenditure across the heritage categories of Art museums, Other museums and cultural heritage, Libraries and Archives between the financial years of 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2020-21 for the Australian Government.
2017-18: Art museums $88.0m, Other museums & cultural heritage $290.3m, Libraries $110.8m, Archives $122.1m.
2019-20: Art museums $93.9m, Other museums & cultural heritage $452.8m, Libraries $95.8m, Archives $143.9m.
2020-21: Art museums $111.8m, Other museums & cultural heritage $482.9m, Libraries $100.7m, Archives $140.7m.

### Arts

The Australian Government allocated more than double the funding to *Arts* activities, compared to *Heritage* activities (72% and 28% respectively).

Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) increased 11% (or $211.9m) to $2,131.0m, including $169.0m targeted COVID support funding.

The main contributors to this increase were *Music* (↑$53.8m), *Film and video production and distribution* (↑$40.3m), *Radio and television services* (↑$33.8m), and *Theatre* (↑$25.8m).

Funding for *Radio and television services* ($1,418.1m) accounted for two-thirds (or 67%) of all expenditure by the Australian Government on *Arts* activities.

Other main categories of *Arts* funding were:

* *Film and video production and distribution*—$159.8m
* *Music*—$132.4m
* *Arts administration*—$68.4m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$60.0m
* *Arts education*—$54.5m
* *Theatre*—$51.2m.

Figure 2. Australian Government arts expenditure, by selected categories

Figure 2. Australian Government arts expenditure, by selected categories.
A column graph compares expenditure across selected arts categories of Music, Theatre, Visual arts and crafts, Radio and television services, Film and video production and distribution, Arts education and Arts administration between the financial years of 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2020-21 for the Australian Government.
2017-18: Music $74.8m, Theatre $70.3m, Visual arts & crafts $50.3m, Radio & television services $1,418.5m, Film & video production & distribution $110.9m, Arts education $50.0m, Arts administration $59.1m. 
2019-20: Music $78.6m, Theatre $25.4m, Visual arts & crafts $42.9m, Radio & television services $1,384.3m, Film & video production & distribution $119.5m, Arts education $50.7m, Arts administration $68.1m.  
2020-21: Music $132.4m, Theatre $51.2m, Visual arts & crafts $60.0m, Radio & television services $1,418.1m, Film & video production & distribution $159.8m, Arts education $54.5m, Arts administration $68.4m.

### Recurrent expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure rose 9% (or $227.2m) to $2,709.5m and accounted for 91% of total funded cultural expenditure.

The highest recurrent expenditure was for *Radio and television services* ($1,342.5m), followed by *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($359.7m).

Other main categories of recurrent expenditure were:

* *Film and video production and distribution*—$159.8m
* *Music*—$132.2m
* *Archives*—$130.9m
* *Libraries*—$89.0m
* *Art museums*—$82.8m
* *Arts administration*—$64.4m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$57.9m.

Figure 3. Australian Government recurrent cultural expenditure, by selected categories

Figure 3. Australian Government recurrent cultural expenditure, by selected categories.
A bar chart compares recurrent expenditure across selected categories of Art museums, Other museums and cultural heritage, Libraries, Archives, Music, Visual arts and crafts, Radio and television services, Film and video production and distribution and Arts administration between the financial years of 2017-18, 2019-20 and 2020-21 for the Australian Government.
2017-18: Arts administration $59.1m, Film & video production & distribution $110.9m, Radio & television services $1,356.7m, Visual arts & crafts $39.3m, Music $74.3m, Archives $114.6m, Libraries $68.6m, Other museums & cultural heritage $228.4m, Art museums $50.8m. 
2019-20: Arts administration $67.8m, Film & video production & distribution $119.4m, Radio & television services $1,315.8m, Visual arts & crafts $41.6m, Music $77.9m, Archives $134.7m, Libraries $81.1m, Other museums & cultural heritage $328.3m, Art museums $62.4m.
2020-21: Arts administration $64.4m, Film & video production & distribution $159.8m, Radio & television services $1,342.5m, Visual arts & crafts $57.9m, Music $132.2m, Archives $130.9m, Libraries $89.0m, Other museums & cultural heritage $359.7m, Art museums $82.8m.

### Capital expenditure

Total capital expenditure decreased 2% (or $4.1m) to $257.5m in 2020–21 and accounted for 9% of Australian Government cultural spending.

The highest capital expenditure was for *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($123.2m), followed by *Radio and television services* ($75.6m).

Other main categories of capital investment were:

* *Art museums*—$29.0m
* *Libraries*—$11.6m
* *Archives*—$9.8m.

Figure 4. Australian Government capital cultural expenditure, by selected categories

Figure 4. Australian Government capital cultural expenditure, by selected categories.
A bar chart compares capital expenditure across selected categories of Art museums, Other museums and cultural heritage, Libraries, Archives, Visual arts and crafts, Radio and television services and Arts administration between the financial years of 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2020-21 for the Australian Government.
2017-18: Arts administration $0.0m, Radio & television services $61.8m, Visual arts & crafts $11.0m, Archives $7.5m, Libraries $42.2m, Other museums & cultural heritage $61.9m, Art museums $37.2m.
2019-20: Arts administration $0.4m, Radio & television services $68.6m, Visual arts & crafts $1.3m, Archives $9.1m, Libraries $14.6m, Other museums & cultural heritage $124.5m, Art museums $31.5m.
2020-21: Arts administration $4.0m, Radio & television services $75.6m, Visual arts & crafts $2.1m, Archives $9.8m, Libraries $11.6m, Other museums & cultural heritage $123.2m, Art museums $29.0m.

1. In 2020–21 the Australian Government also provided wider economy COVID support funding of $7,456.9m ($5,732.1m JobKeeper payments, and $1,724.8m Boosting Cash Flow for Employers) for eligible businesses and individuals in cultural and creative industries. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Cultural Funding by Government* survey not conducted in 2018–19. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes $38.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported in Total figures only. Data has been revised. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Includes $232.6m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)