

# 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

 

### 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



### 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



### 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



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)