

# Cultural Funding by Government—2020–21

## New South Wales Government

The estimate of expenditure funded by the New South Wales Government in 2020–21 for cultural activities was **$906.4m**. This represented an increase of 13% or $107.0m from 2019–20. This amount includes **$80.0m** of targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals, support programs and initiatives.

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

| 2017–18 | 2019–20 | 2020–21[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $627.0m | $799.4m ↑27% | $906.4m ↑13% |

* Recurrent expenses accounted for 66% ($602.7m) of funded cultural expenditure.
* Capital expenditure was $303.7m, and the largest two categories were *Art museums* ($120.7m) and *Performing arts venues* ($113.0m).
* The estimate of per person funding was $110.97.

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) rose 2% (or $6.9m) to $462.5m.

This rise was driven by increased expenditure on the categories of *Art museums* (↑$71.7m) and *Libraries* (↑$18.0m). Funds for *Other museums and cultural heritage* dropped $78.8m, due to completion of capital works.

Over one-third (38%) of *Heritage* funds were spent on *Art museums* ($177.0m), the majority (68% or $120.7m) being capital expenditure*.* Also, 34% of funds were spent on *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($157.4m).

Figure 1. New South Wales Government heritage expenditure



Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) rose 29% (or $100.0m) to $443.9m.

The main contributors to this increase were *Arts education* ↑$39.4m, *Performing arts venues* ↑$37.3m*,* *Film and video production and distribution* ↑$17.9m, and *Theatre* ↑$9.3m. Expenditure on the activity of *Music* dropped$9.3m.

Figure 2. New South Wales Government arts expenditure, by selected categories



Over one-third (43%)of all funded expenditure by the New South Wales Government on *Arts* activities was spent on *Performing arts venues* ($190.8m), the majority (59% or $113.0m) being capital expenditure.

Other main categories of *Arts* activities funding were:

* *Arts education*—$62.3m
* *Film and video production and distribution*—$49.5m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$21.5m
* *Music*—$20.5m.

Total recurrent expenditure increased 35% (or $155.1m) to $602.7m.

Table 2. New South Wales Government recurrent cultural expenditure, 2017–18 to 2020–21

| 2017–18 | 2019–20 | 2020–21[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $384.6m | $447.6m ↑16% | $602.7m ↑35% |

The largest recurrent expenditure was for *Other museums and cultural heritage*, $132.5m, followed by *Libraries* ($93.7m), *Performing arts venues* ($77.8m) and *Arts education* ($61.6m).

Figure 3. New South Wales Government recurrent cultural expenditure, by selected categories



1. *Cultural Funding by Government* survey not conducted for 2018–19. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Includes $80.0m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes $80.0m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)