

Cultural Funding by Government—2020–21

Overview

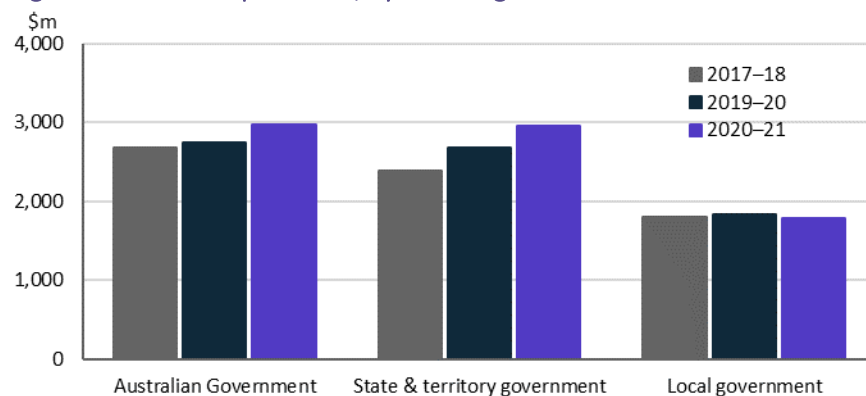
In 2020–21, the estimate of total expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the three tiers of government, was **\$7,708.0m**. This amount includes **\$514.4m** of targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals, support programs and initiatives.

The Australian Government targeted COVID support funding was \$232.6m, and State and territory government targeted COVID support funding was \$281.8m.

The \$7,708.0m in funding for cultural activities from the three tiers of government comprised:

- \$2,967.0m (39% of total) from the Australian Government
- \$2,955.2m (38%) from state and territory governments
- \$1,785.8m (23%) from local governments.

Figure 1. Cultural expenditure, by level of government



Total expenditure rose 6% (or \$442.3m) from 2019–20. Expenditure increased for Australian Government and State and territory government and decreased for Local government (↑8%, ↑10% and ↓3% respectively).

Table 1. Total Government cultural expenditure, 2017–18 to 2020–21¹

2017–18	2019–20 ²	2020–21 ³
\$6,863.0m	\$7,265.7m ↑6%	\$7,708.0m ↑6%

Total recurrent expenditure rose 8% (or \$463.6m) to \$6,488.7m and accounted for 84% of total funded cultural expenditure. Australian Government recurrent expenditure was \$2,709.5m, the highest dollar amount of the three levels of government and represented 42% of total recurrent expenditure.

¹ Cultural Funding by Government survey not conducted for 2018–19.

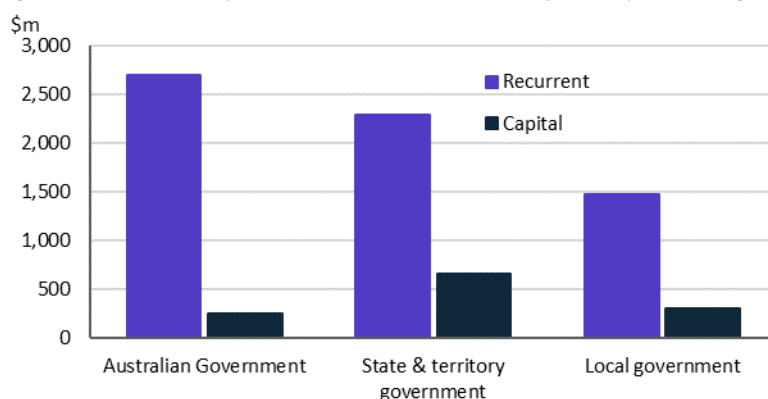
² Includes \$76.9m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported in Total only. Data has been revised.

³ Includes \$514.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals.

Total capital expenditure by all levels of government was \$1,219.3m in 2020–21, a decrease of 2% (or \$21.3m) from 2019–20.

- Most capital expenditure was funded by State and territory government with \$658.2m (54% of total capital expenditure).

Figure 2. Cultural expenditure, recurrent and capital, by level of government—2020–21



The Australian Government allocated more than double the funding to *Arts* activities, compared to *Heritage* activities (72% and 28% respectively). The five categories with the highest expenditure by the Australian Government in 2020–21 was:

1. *Radio and television services*—\$1,418.1m
2. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—\$482.9m
3. *Film and video production and distribution*—\$159.8m
4. *Archives*—\$140.7m
5. *Music*—\$132.4m.

The five categories with the highest expenditure by State and territory government in 2020–21 was:

2. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—\$505.5m
3. *Libraries*—\$451.6m
4. *Art museums*—\$414.0m
5. *Arts education*—\$176.2m.

The jurisdiction with the highest expenditure by Local government in 2020–21 was New South Wales (\$536.0m), followed by Victoria (\$509.0m), and the highest per person funding by Local government was South Australia (\$96.84).

The estimate of per person cultural funding by the three tiers of government was \$300.11 with:

- Australian Government—\$115.52
- State and territory government—\$115.06
- Local government—\$69.53.

Table 2. Per Person cultural expenditure, by level of government

	Australian	State & territory	Local
Heritage	\$32.55	\$55.69	NA
Arts	\$82.97	\$59.31	NA
Total	\$115.52	\$115.06	\$69.53