

# Cultural Funding by Government—2021–22

## Australian Government

In 2021–22 the estimate of expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the Australian Government, was **$3,165.2m** representing a rise of 7% or **$198.2m** from 2020–21. This amount includes **$210.1m** targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals, support programs and initiatives. The COVID funding includes **$4.4m** that could not be reported by individual category and is included in the totals only.

Table 1. Australian Government cultural expenditure, 2019–20 to 2021–22

| 2019–20[[1]](#footnote-1) | 2020–21[[2]](#footnote-2) | 2021–22[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $2,743.8m  | $2,967.0m ↑8% | $3,165.2m ↑7% |

The estimate of per person cultural funding was **$122.81.**

### Heritage

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) increased 11% (or $91.0m) to $927.0m, including $3.0m targeted COVID support funding.

Expenditure on the categories of *Other museums and cultural heritage* and *Art museums* increased $46.0m and $29.9m respectively.

The categories with the highest levels of *Heritage* expenditure were *Other museums and cultural heritage* with $528.9m, followed by *Archives* with $150.5m.

Figure 1. Australian Government heritage expenditure (recurrent and capital)

### Arts

The Australian Government allocated more than double the funding to *Arts* activities, compared to *Heritage* activities (71% and 29% respectively).

Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) increased 5% (or $102.7m) to $2,233.7m, including $202.7m COVID support funding.

The main contributors to this increase were *Music* (↑$26.0m), *Film and video production and distribution* (↑$25.4m), *Radio and television services* (↑$22.0m) and *Performing arts venues* (↑$14.1m).

Funding for *Radio and television services* ($1,440.1m) accounted for two-thirds (or 64%) of all expenditure by the Australian Government on *Arts* activities.

Other main categories of *Arts* funding were:

* *Film and video production and distribution*—$185.2m
* *Music*—$158.4m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$54.5m
* *Arts education*—$52.7m
* *Arts administration*—$51.7m
* *Theatre*—$47.2m.

Figure 2. Australian Government arts expenditure (recurrent and capital), by selected categories

### Recurrent expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure increased by 1% (or $23.3m) to $2,732.8m and accounted for 86% of total funded cultural expenditure.

The highest recurrent expenditure was for *Radio and television services* ($1,371.9m), followed by *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($316.6m).

Other main categories of recurrent expenditure were:

* *Film and video production and distribution*—$185.2m
* *Music*—$158.3m
* *Archives*—$134.3m
* *Libraries*—$81.1m
* *Art museums*—$66.4m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$54.4m
* *Arts administration*—$51.7m.

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

### Capital expenditure

Total capital expenditure increased by 68% (or $174.9m) to $432.4m in 2021–22 and accounted for 14% of Australian Government cultural spending.

The highest capital expenditure was for *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($212.3m), followed by *Art museums* ($75.3m).

Other main categories of capital investment were:

* *Radio and television services* —$68.2m
* *Libraries*—$24.8m
* *Archives*—$16.2m.

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

1. Includes $38.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported in Total figures only. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Includes $232.6m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes $210.1m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. $4.4m is included in the totals only. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)