

# Cultural Funding by Government—2021–22

## Overview

In 2021–22, the estimate of total expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the three tiers of government, was **$8,317.5m**. This amount includes **$646.4m** of targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals, support programs and initiatives. The COVID funding includes **$26.5m** that could not be reported by individual category and is included in the totals only.

The Australian Government targeted COVID support funding was $210.1m, and State and territory government targeted COVID support funding was $436.3m.

The $8,317.5m in funding for cultural activities from the three tiers of government comprised:

* $3,165.2m (38% of total) from the Australian Government
* $3,325.6m (40%) from state and territory governments
* $1,826.7m (22%) from local governments.

Figure 1. Cultural expenditure (recurrent and capital), by level of government

Total expenditure rose 8% (or $609.5m) from 2020–21. Expenditure increased for Australian Government, State and territory government and Local government (↑7%, ↑13% and ↑2% respectively).

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

| 2019–20[[1]](#footnote-1) | 2020–21[[2]](#footnote-2) | 2021–22[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $7,265.7m | $7,708.0m ↑6% | $8,317.5 ↑8% |

Total recurrent expenditure rose 6% (or $386.7m) to $6,875.4m and accounted for 83% of total funded cultural expenditure. Australian Government recurrent expenditure was $2,732.8m, the highest dollar amount of the three levels of government and represented 40% of total recurrent expenditure.

Total capital expenditure by all levels of government was $1,442.1m in 2021–22, an increase of 18% (or $222.8m) from 2020–21.

* Most capital expenditure was funded by State and territory government with $774.3m (54% of total capital expenditure).

Figure 2. Cultural expenditure, recurrent and capital, by level of government—2021-22

The Australian Government allocated more than double the funding to *Arts* activities, compared to *Heritage* activities (71% and 29% respectively). The five categories with the highest expenditure by the Australian Government in 2021–22 was:

1. *Radio and television services*—$1,440.1m
2. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—$528.9m
3. *Film and video production and distribution*—$185.2m
4. *Music*—$158.4m
5. *Archives*—$150.5m.

The five categories with the highest expenditure by State and territory government in 2021–22 was:

1. *Other museums and cultural heritage* —$629.1m
2. *Libraries*—$462.6m
3. *Performing arts venues*—$454.9m
4. *Art museums*—$444.5m
5. *Music*—$197.8m.

The jurisdiction with the highest expenditure by Local government in 2021–22 was New South Wales ($555.4m), followed by Victoria ($543.2m), and the highest per person funding by Local government was South Australia ($97.32).

The estimate of per person cultural funding by the three tiers of government was $322.72 with:

* Australian Government—$122.81
* State and territory government—$129.03
* Local government—$70.87.

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

|  | Australian  | State & territory | Local |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Heritage | $35.97 | $61.92 | NA |
| Arts | $86.67 | $66.26 | NA |
| Total | $122.81 | $129.03 | $70.87 |

1. Includes $76.9m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported in Total only. Data has been revised. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Includes $514.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes $646.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. $26.5m is included in the totals only. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)