



Cultural Funding by Government—2019–20

Overview

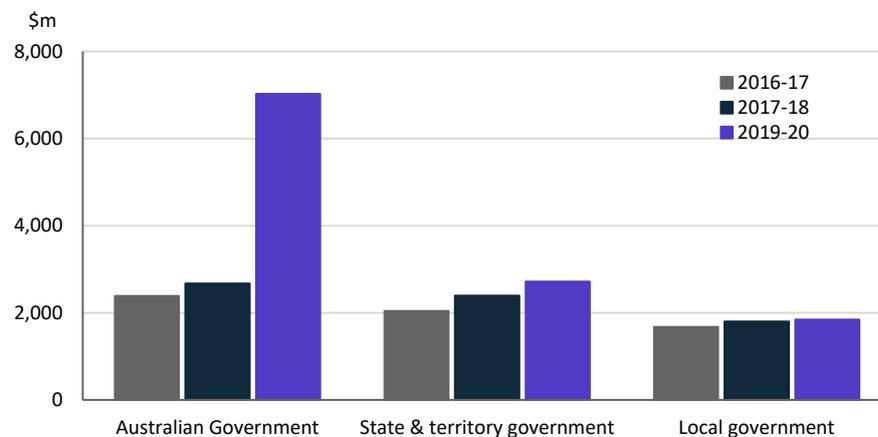
In 2019–20, the estimate of total expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the three tiers of government, was **\$11,582.7m**. This amount included **\$4,322.3m** of COVID support funding for eligible organisations, businesses, and individuals.

The Australian Government COVID support funding was \$4,272.1m (\$3,065.3m *JobKeeper* payments, \$1,168.4m *Boosting Cash Flow for Employers*, and \$38.4m *Arts portfolio grants*). State and territory government COVID support funding was \$50.1m.

The **\$11,582.7m** in funding for cultural activities from the three tiers of government comprised the following:

- \$7,025.7m (61% of total) from the Australian Government
- \$2,716.5m (24%) from state and territory governments
- \$1,840.5m (16%) from local governments.

Figure 1. Cultural expenditure, by level of government



Total expenditure rose 69% (or \$4,719.7m) from 2017–18¹. Expenditure increased across all levels of government.

Table 1. Total Government cultural expenditure, 2016–17 to 2019–20

2016–17	2017–18	2019–20	2019–20 <i>Without COVID support funding</i>
\$6,098.5m	\$6,863.0m ↑13%	\$11,582.7m ↑69%	\$7,260.4 ↑6%

¹ *Cultural Funding by Government* survey not conducted in 2018–19, as it changed to a biennial collection.

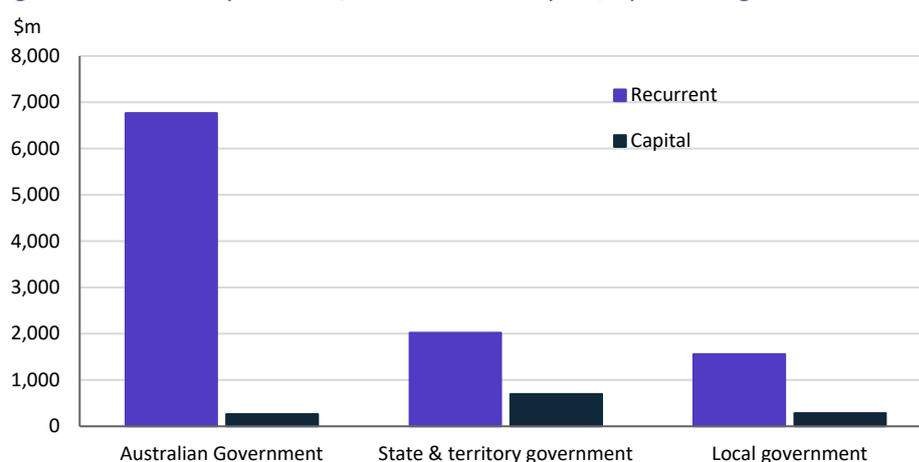
Total recurrent expenditure rose 83% (or \$4,703.3m) to \$10,342.1m. This included \$4,322.3m of COVID support funding.²

- Recurrent expenses accounted for 89% of total funded cultural expenditure.
- Recurrent expenditure by the Australian Government was \$6,764.1m, the highest amount of the three levels of government (65% of total recurrent expenditure).

Capital expenditure by all levels of government was \$1,240.6m in 2019–20, an increase of 1% (or \$16.4m) from 2017–18.

- Most capital expenditure was funded by State and territory government with \$697.4m (56% of total capital expenditure).

Figure 2. Cultural expenditure, recurrent and capital, by level of government—2019–20



The five categories with the highest expenditure funded by the Australian Government in 2019–20 were:

1. *Radio and television services*—\$1,384.3m
2. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—\$452.8m
3. *Archives*—\$192.0m
4. *Film and video production and distribution*—\$119.5m
5. *Libraries*—\$95.8m.

The five categories with the highest expenditure by State and territory government in 2019–20 were:

1. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—\$597.5m
2. *Libraries*—\$484.1m
3. *Performing arts venues*—\$411.9m
4. *Art museums*—\$307.1m
5. *Film and video production and distribution*—\$138.1m.

The estimate of per person cultural funding by the three tiers of government including COVID support funding was \$453.16. This comprised:

- Australian Government—\$274.87
- State and territory government—\$106.28
- Local government—\$72.01.

² COVID support funding included in Total recurrent and Total figures only. COVID funding not reported by category.

The estimate of per person cultural funding by the three tiers of government excluding COVID support funding was \$284.05. This comprised:

- Australian Government—\$107.73
- State and territory government—\$104.32
- Local government—\$72.01.

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

	Australian Government	State and territory government	Local government
Heritage	\$32.65	\$57.04	NA
Arts	\$75.08	\$47.27	NA
Total (<i>including</i> COVID support funding)	\$274.87	\$106.28	\$72.01
Total (<i>excluding</i> COVID support funding)	\$107.73	\$104.32	\$72.01