

Cultural Funding by Government—2020–21

State and territory government

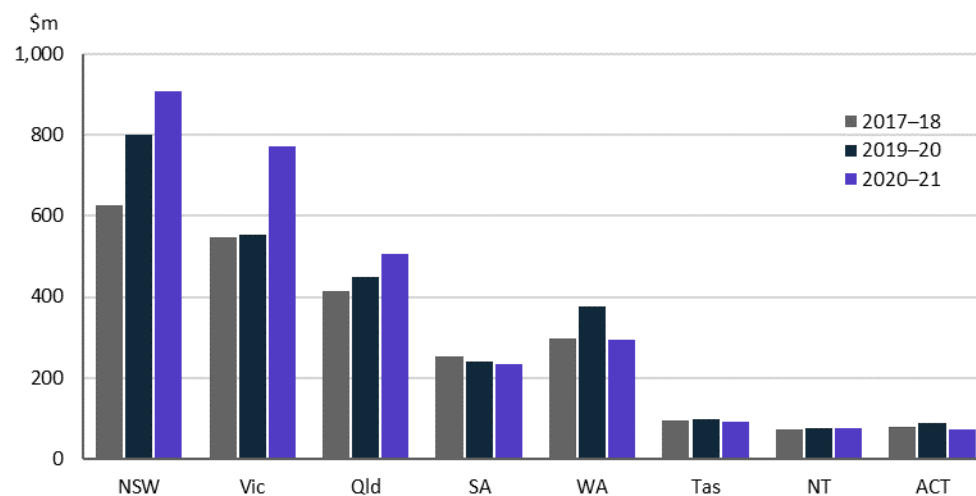
In 2020–21 the estimate of expenditure on cultural activities, funded by state and territory governments, was **\$2,955.2m**. This represented a rise of 10% (or \$273.9m). This amount includes **\$281.8m** targeted COVID support funding for cultural and creative organisations and infrastructure, businesses, individuals, support programs and initiatives.¹

Table 1. State and territory government cultural expenditure, 2017–18 to 2020–21²

2017–18	2019–20 ³	2020–21 ⁴
\$2,390.6m	\$2,681.3m ↑12%	\$2,955.2m ↑10%

- The estimate of per person cultural funding was \$115.06.

Figure 1. State and territory governments total cultural expenditure(a)(b)



- (a) Care should be taken when comparing expenditure between states and territories due to different administrative arrangements.
- (b) Caution should be taken when comparing targeted COVID support funding as the impact of COVID and the response to this impact was different for respective states and territories.

The highest percentage increase in funding was for Victoria (40%), followed by New South Wales and Queensland (both 13%).

¹ Targeted \$281.8m in COVID support funding reported: New South Wales \$80.0m; Victoria \$122.0m; Queensland \$43.0m; South Australia \$14.2m; Western Australia \$12.1m; Tasmania \$2.2m; Northern Territory \$0.7m; and Australian Capital Territory \$7.5m.

² Cultural Funding by Government survey not conducted in 2018–19.

³ Includes \$38.5m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported in Total figures only. Data has been revised.

⁴ Includes \$281.8m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals.

Heritage

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) decreased 2% (or \$27.6m) to \$1,430.4m.

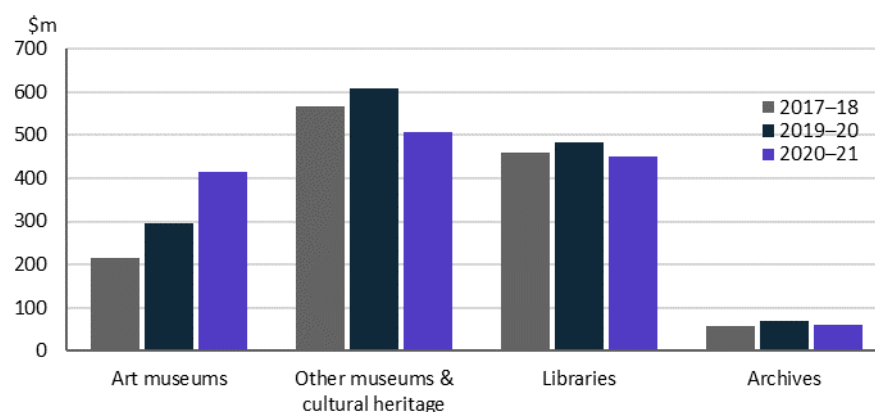
This decrease was driven by reduced expenditure on *Other museums and cultural heritage* (↓\$102.2m, due to the completion of capital projects), *Libraries* (↓\$32.5m) and *Archives* (↓\$10.2m). This was offset by an increase in *Art museums* (↑\$117.2m).

The largest categories of *Heritage* expenditure were *Other museums and cultural heritage* with \$505.5m, followed by *Libraries* with \$451.6m.

One third (31% or \$157.4m) of total state and territory government expenditure for *Other museums and cultural heritage* was attributed to the New South Wales Government. Western Australian Government was the next highest contributor (22% or \$111.5m) on this category.

One quarter (25% or \$113.9m) of total state and territory government expenditure for *Libraries* was funded by the New South Wales Government.

Figure 2. State and territory government heritage expenditure

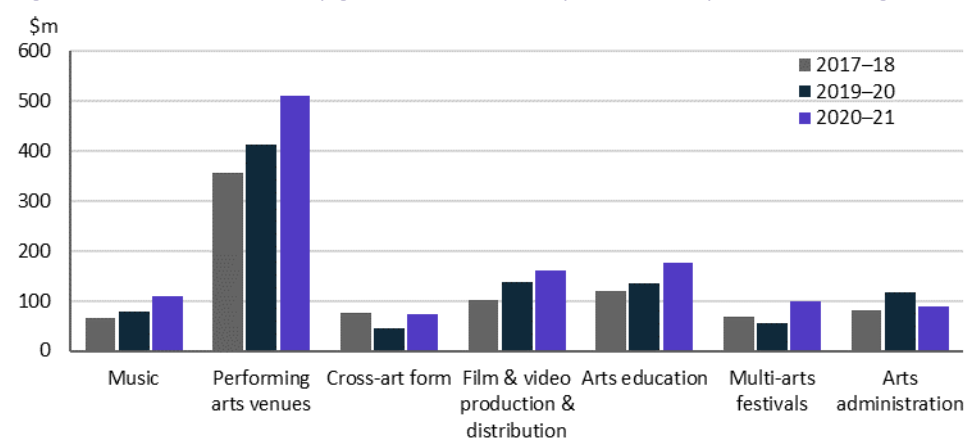


Arts

Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) rose 26% (or \$315.0m) to \$1,523.3m.

The main contributors to this increase were *Performing arts venues* (↑\$99.0m), *Multi-arts festivals* (↑\$43.5m), and *Arts education* (↑\$40.0m). Funding for *Radio and television services* dropped by \$9.4m.

Figure 3. State and territory government arts expenditure, by selected categories



The highest amount of state and territory government *Arts* expenditure was for *Performing arts venues* (\$510.9m), with the governments of New South Wales (\$190.8m or 37%) and Victoria (\$123.9m or 24%) contributing most of the funding to this category.

Other main categories of *Arts* activities funding were:

- *Arts education*—\$176.2m
- *Film and video production and distribution*—\$161.6m
- *Music*—\$108.7m
- *Multi-arts festivals*—\$99.5m
- *Cross-art form* —\$73.2m.

Recurrent expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure rose 16% (or \$313.2m) to \$2,297.1m and accounted for 78% of total funded cultural expenditure. This includes \$281.8m in COVID support funding.⁵

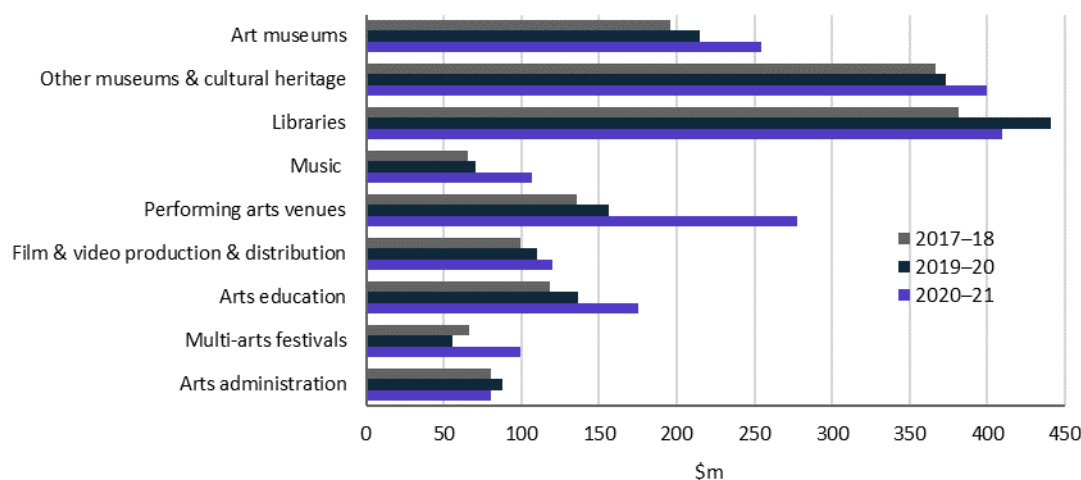
The highest recurrent expenditure was for *Libraries* with \$409.3m.

- The Victorian Government spent the most recurrent dollars on *Libraries* (\$97.0m).
- Most state and territory governments (except New South Wales, Western Australia, and Northern Territory) spent the largest proportion of their recurrent expenditure on *Libraries*. Tasmania had the highest with 46%.

Other main categories of recurrent expenditure were:

- *Other museums and cultural heritage*—\$399.9m
- *Performing arts venues*—\$277.5m
- *Art museums*—\$254.3m.

Figure 4. State and territory government recurrent cultural expenditure, by selected categories

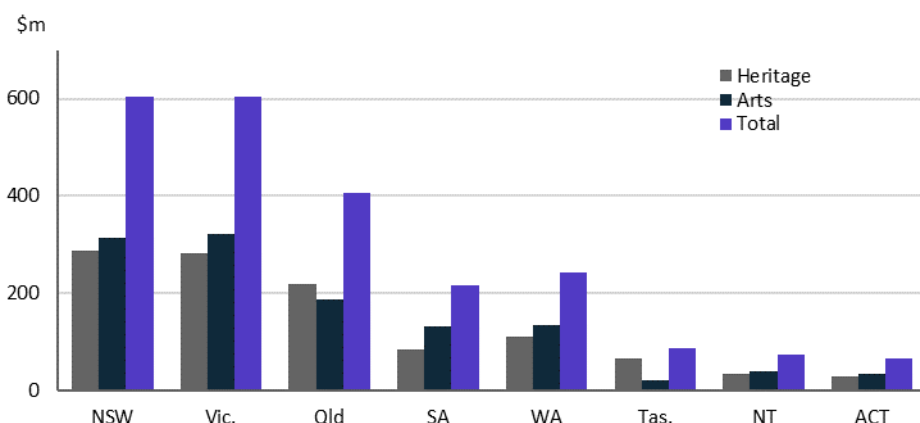


The Victorian Government had the highest estimate of recurrent expenditure with \$603.8m.

- The New South Wales Government had the highest recurrent expenditure on *Heritage* activities (\$287.9m).
- Conversely, the Victorian Government had the highest recurrent expenditure on *Arts* activities (\$321.9m).

⁵ Targeted COVID support funding reported across categories and totals.

Figure 5. State and territory governments recurrent cultural expenditure(a)(b), heritage and arts—2020–21



- (a) Care should be taken when comparing expenditure between states and territories due to different administrative arrangements.
- (b) Caution should be taken when comparing targeted COVID support funding as the impact of COVID and the response to this impact was different for respective states and territories.

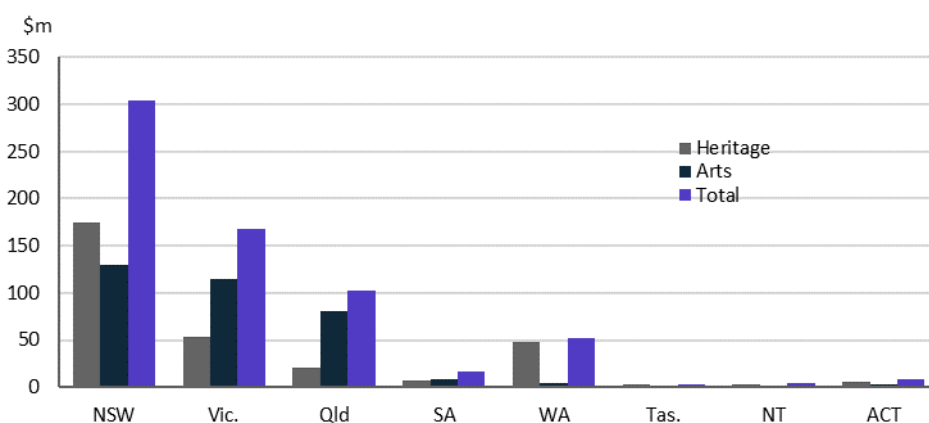
Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure accounted for 22% (\$658.2m) of total state and territory funded cultural spending.

- The largest two categories were *Performing arts venues* (\$233.4m) and *Art museums* (\$159.7m).

The New South Wales Government contributed the most capital expenditure for both categories of *Performing arts venues* (\$113.0m or 48%) and *Art museums* (\$120.7m or 76%).

arts—2020–21



- (a) Care should be taken when comparing expenditure between states and territories due to different administrative arrangements.

The New South Wales Government had the highest capital expenditure on *Heritage* activities (\$174.6m) followed by Victoria (\$53.6m) and Western Australia (\$48.3m).

The New South Wales Government also had the highest estimate for capital expenditure on *Arts* activities (\$129.1m), followed by Victoria (\$114.5m).