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# Cultural Funding by Government—2023–24

## Australian Government

In 2023–24 the estimate of expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the Australian Government, was **$3,113.6m** representing a decrease of 2% or $51.6m from 2021–22.

Table 1. Australian Government cultural expenditure, 2020–21 to 2023–24[[1]](#footnote-1)

| 2020–21[[2]](#footnote-2) | 2021–22[[3]](#footnote-3) | 2023–24[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $2,967.0m | $3,165.2m ↑7% | $3,113.6m ↓2% |

The estimate of per person cultural funding was **$115.54.**

### Heritage

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) decreased 6% (or $53.1m) to $873.9m.

Expenditure increased in the categories of *Art museums* ↑$5.3m, *Libraries* ↑$25.9m, and *Archives* ↑$5.7m. Funds for *Other museums and cultural heritage* decreased by $90.0m, or 17%.

The two largest categories of *Heritage* expenditure were *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($438.9m) and *Archives* ($156.2m).

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

### Arts

The Australian Government allocated 72% of the total funded cultural expenditure to *Arts* activities and 28% to *Heritage* activities.

Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) increased less than 1% (or $6.0m) to $2,239.7m.

The largest increases in expenditure were for *Radio and television services* (↑$158.2m), *Arts administration* (↑$20.6m) and *Other arts* (↑$14.6m).These increases were offset by decreases in the categories of *Music theatre and opera* (↓$46.0m), *Film and video production and distribution* (↓$35.4m) and *Music* (↓$30.1m).

The main categories of *Arts* funding were:

* *Radio and television services* —$1,598.3m
* *Film and video production and distribution*—$149.8m
* *Music*—$128.3m
* *Arts administration*—$72.3m
* *Visual arts and crafts*—$55.2m
* *Literature and writing*—$45.1m
* *Other arts*—$43.5m

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

### Recurrent expenditure

Total heritage and arts recurrent expenditure increased by 1% (or $35.7m) to $2,768.5m and accounted for 89% of total funded cultural expenditure.

The highest recurrent expenditure was for *Radio and television services* ($1,455.8m), followed by *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($359.8m).

Other main categories of recurrent expenditure were:

* *Film and video production and distribution*—$149.8m
* *Archives*—$132.9m
* *Music*—$124.0m
* *Libraries*—$99.1m
* *Art museums*—$89.5m
* *Arts administration*—$72.3m

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

### Capital expenditure

Total heritage and arts capital expenditure decreased by 20% (or $87.3m) to $345.1m in 2023–24 and accounted for 11% of Australian Government cultural spending.

The decline was driven by a reduction in the ‘Other museums and cultural heritage’ category, which fell from $212.3 million in 2021-22 to $79.1 million in 2023-24, a decrease of 62.7%.

The capital expenditure figure was impacted by the timing of funding allocations for the multi-year Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Project.

The highest capital expenditure was for *Radio and television services* ($142.5m), followed by *Other museums and cultural heritage* ($79.1m).

Other main categories of capital investment were:

* *Art museums*—$57.6m
* *Libraries*—$32.7m
* *Archives*—$23.4m

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

1. No survey was conducted for 2022–23 due to the move to a biennial collection cycle. [↑](#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 of this expenditure is included in the totals only. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The decline in Australian Government expenditure was driven by the cessation of COVID support funding and the timing of funding allocations for the multi-year Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Project. See: <https://www.arts.gov.au/cultural-data-online/government-cultural-funding-and-participation/cultural-funding-and-participation-national-overview> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)