

# 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<sup>1</sup>

2020–21 <sup>2</sup>	2021–22 <sup>3</sup>	2023–24 <sup>4</sup>
\$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).

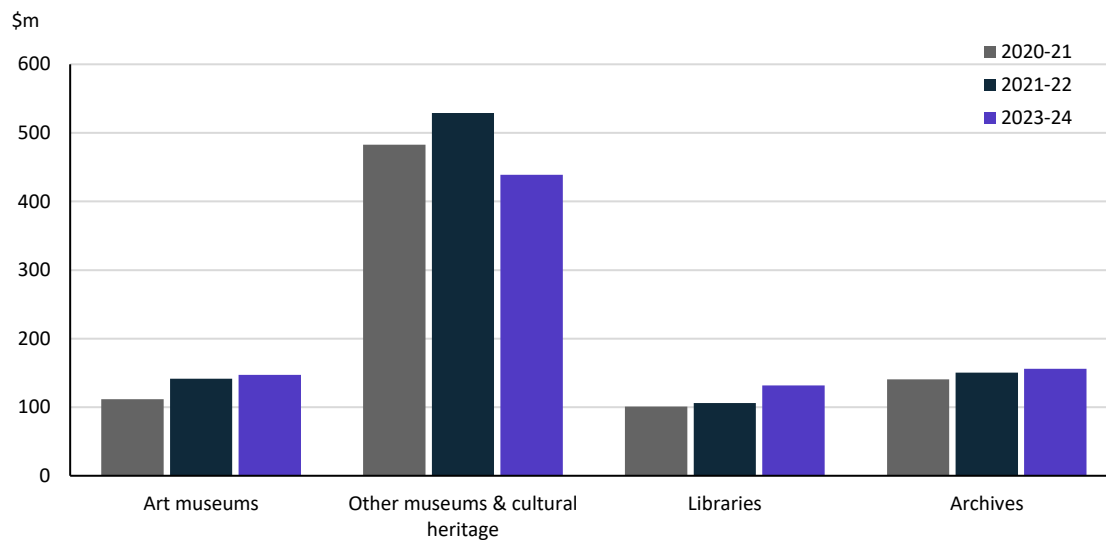
<sup>1</sup> No survey was conducted for 2022–23 due to the move to a biennial collection cycle.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$232.6m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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>

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.

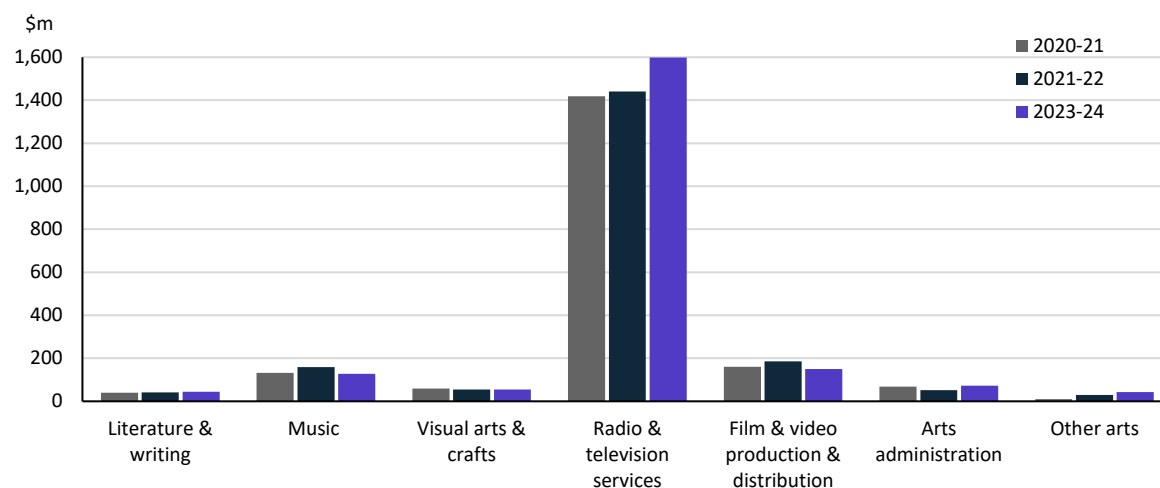
Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) increased less than 1% (or \$6.0m) to \$2,239.7m.

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

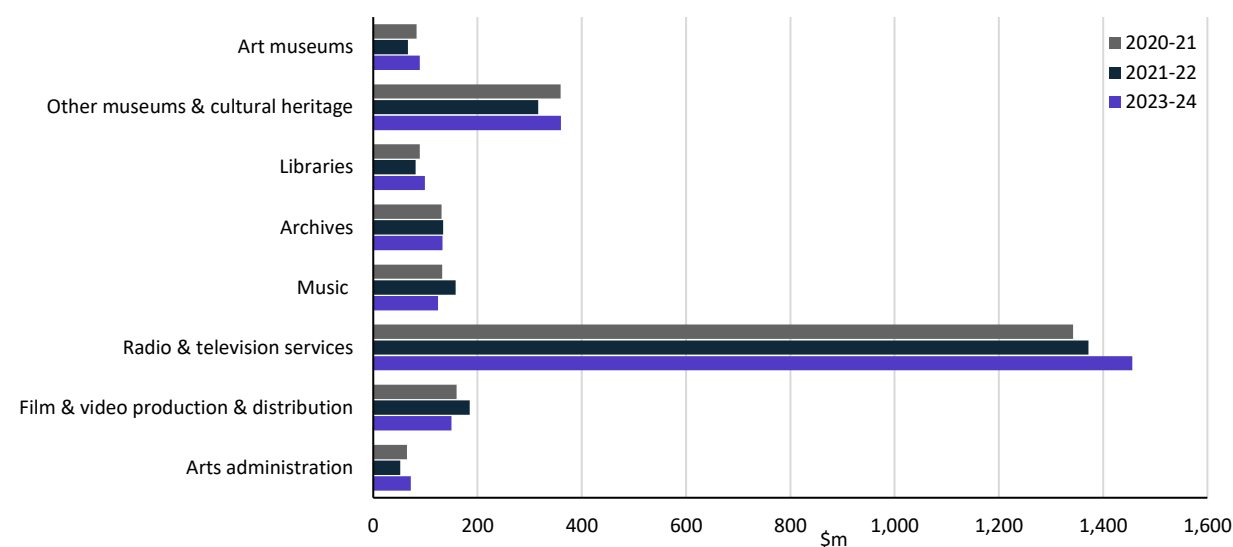
Total heritage and arts recurrent expenditure increased by 1% (or \$35.7m) to \$2,768.5m and accounted for 89% of total funded cultural expenditure.

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

