

# Cultural Funding by Government—2023–24

## Overview

In 2023–24, the estimate of total expenditure on cultural activities, funded by the three tiers of government, was **$8,607.9m**.

The $8,607.9m in funding for cultural activities from the three tiers of government comprised:

* $3,113.6m (36% of total) from the Australian Government
* $3,336.5m (39%) from State and territory governments
* $2,157.8m (25%) from local governments.

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

Total expenditure rose 3% (or $290.4m) from 2021–22. Expenditure increased for State and territory government and Local government (<1% and ↑18% respectively) but decreased for Australian Government (↓2%).[[1]](#footnote-1)

Table 1. Total Government cultural expenditure, 2020–21 to 2023–24[[2]](#footnote-2)

| 2020–21[[3]](#footnote-3) | 2021–22[[4]](#footnote-4) | 2023–24 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $7,708.0m | $8,317.5m ↑8% | $8,607.9m ↑3% |

Total recurrent expenditure rose 2% (or $141.1m) to $7,016.5m and accounted for 82% of total funded cultural expenditure. Australian Government recurrent expenditure was $2,768.5m, the highest dollar amount of the three levels of government and represented 39% of total recurrent expenditure.

Total capital expenditure by all levels of government was $1,591.4m in 2023–24, an increase of 10% (or $149.3m) from 2021–22.

* Most capital expenditure was funded by State and territory government with $916.7m (58% of total capital expenditure).

Figure 2. Cultural expenditure, recurrent and capital, by level of government—2023-24

The Australian Government allocated 72% of the total funded cultural expenditure to *Arts* activities and 28% to *Heritage* activities. The five categories with the highest expenditure by the Australian Government in 2023–24 was:

1. *Radio and television services*—$1,598.3m
2. *Other museums and cultural heritage*—$438.9m
3. *Archives*—$156.2m
4. *Film and video production and distribution*—$149.8m
5. *Art museums*—$147.0m.

The five categories with the highest expenditure by State and territory government in 2023–24 was:

1. *Other museums and cultural heritage* —$780.8m
2. *Performing arts venues*—$477.2m
3. *Libraries*—$471.6m
4. *Art museums*—$329.1m
5. *Film and video production and distribution*—$228.6m.

The jurisdiction with the highest expenditure by Local government in 2023–24 was Victoria ($656.0m), followed by New South Wales ($650.5m), and the highest per person funding by Local government was South Australia ($114.89).

The estimate of per person cultural funding by the three tiers of government was $319.43 with:

* Australian Government—$115.54
* State and territory government—$123.81
* Local government—$80.07.

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

|  | Australian  | State & territory | Local |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Heritage | $32.43 | $61.39 | NA |
| Arts | $83.11 | $62.43 | NA |
| Total | $115.54 | $123.81 | $80.07 |

1. Australian Government decreased 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-1)
2. No survey was conducted for 2022-23 due to the move to a biennial collection cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Includes $514.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. $1.5m of this expenditure is included in the totals only. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Includes $646.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. $26.5m of this expenditure is included in the totals only. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)