

Cultural Funding by Government—2023–24

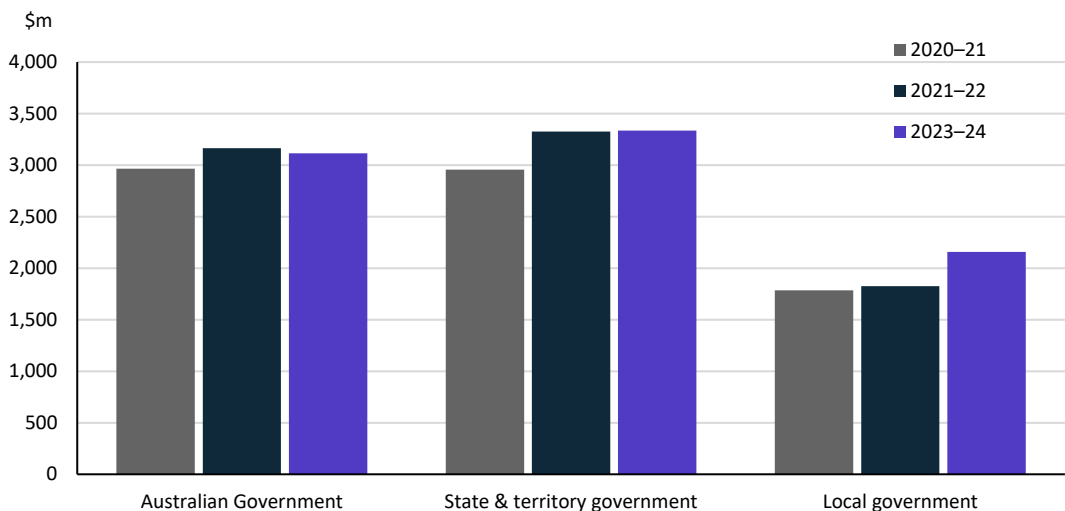
Overview

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

Table 1. Total Government cultural expenditure, 2020–21 to 2023–24²

2020–21 ³	2021–22 ⁴	2023–24
\$7,708.0m	\$8,317.5m ↑8%	\$8,607.9m ↑3%

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>

² No survey was conducted for 2022–23 due to the move to a biennial collection cycle.

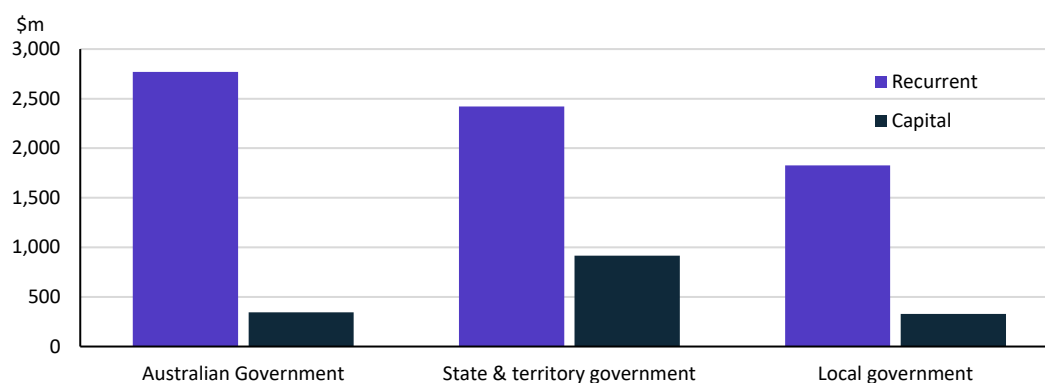
³ Includes \$514.4m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. \$1.5m of this expenditure is included in the totals only.

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.

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
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