

Cultural Funding by Government—2023–24

State and territory government

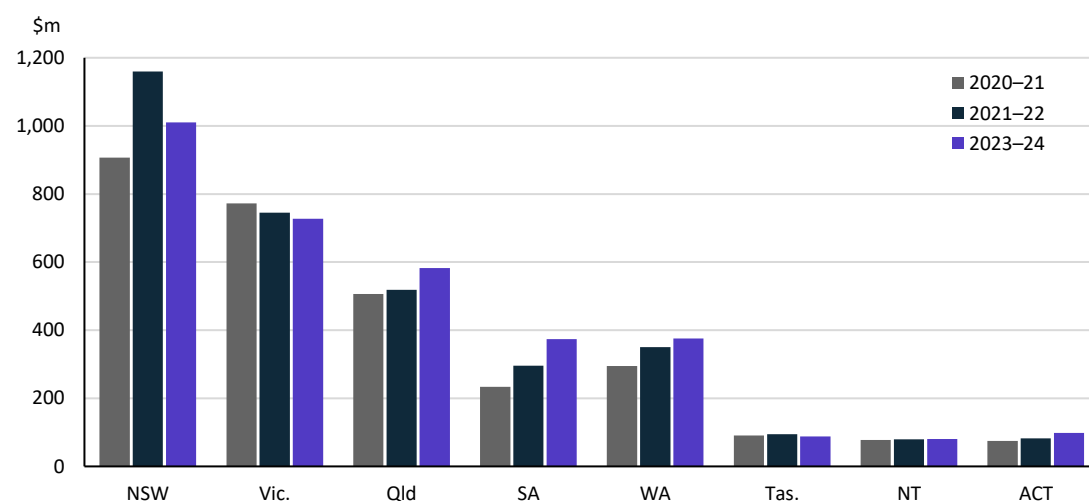
In 2023–24 the estimate of expenditure on cultural activities, funded by state and territory governments, was **\$3,336.5m**. This represented a rise of less than 1% (or \$10.9m) from 2021–22.

Table 1. State and territory government cultural expenditure, 2020–21 to 2023–24¹

2020–21 ²	2021–22 ³	2023–24
\$2,955.2m	\$3,325.6m ↑13%	\$3,336.5m ↑<1%

- The estimate of per person cultural funding was \$123.81.

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



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

The highest percentage increase in funding was for South Australia (26%), followed by Australian Capital Territory (20%) and Queensland (12%).

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

² Includes \$281.8m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. \$1.5m of this expenditure is included in the totals only.

³ Includes \$436.3m targeted cultural and creative sector COVID support funding, reported across categories and totals. \$22.1m of this expenditure is included in the totals only.

Heritage

Funds for Total *Heritage* activities (recurrent and capital) increased 4% (or \$58.5m) to \$1,654.2m.

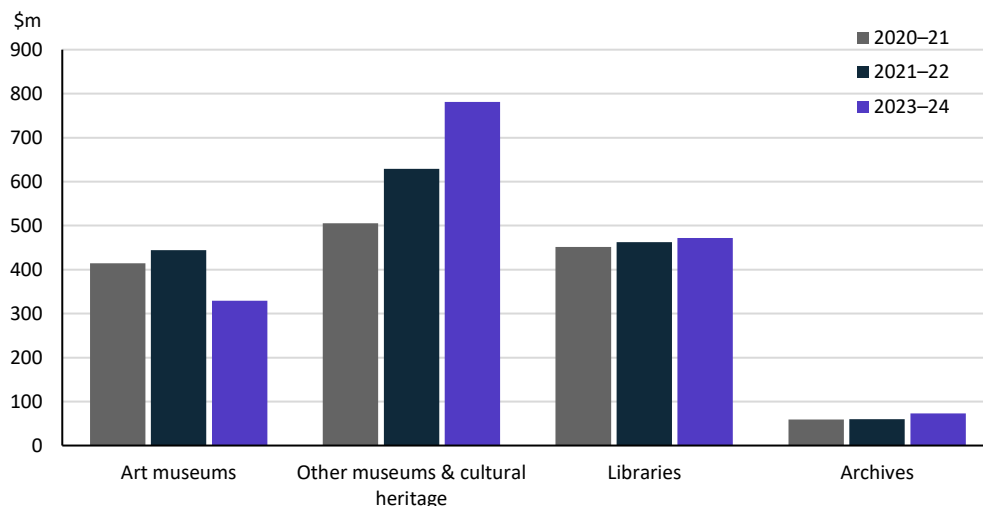
This increase was driven by increased expenditure on *Other museums and cultural heritage* (↑\$151.6m) but was offset by a decrease in *Art Museums* (↓\$115.4m). *Libraries* and *Archives* had smaller increases, by \$9.0m and \$13.2m respectively.

The largest categories of *Heritage* expenditure were *Other museums and cultural heritage* with \$780.8m, followed by *Libraries* with \$471.6m.

Over half (54% or \$418.2m) of total state and territory government heritage expenditure for *Other museums and cultural heritage* was attributed to the New South Wales Government. The Western Australian Government was the next highest contributor (14% or \$108.5m) to this category.

Over one quarter (27% or \$125.6m) of total state and territory government expenditure for *Libraries* was funded by the New South Wales Government. The Victorian Government was the next highest contributor (24% or \$112.8m) to this category.

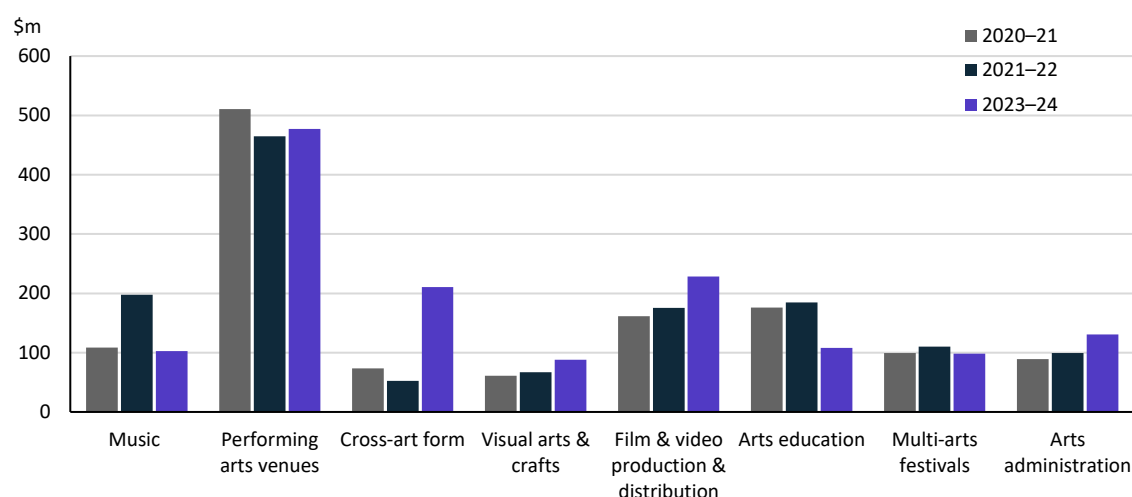
Figure 2. State and territory government heritage expenditure (recurrent and capital)



Arts

Funds for Total *Arts* activities (recurrent and capital) dropped 1% (or \$25.5m) to \$1,682.3m.

The main contributors to this decrease were *Music* (↓\$95.4m), *Arts education* (↓\$76.6m) and *Music theatre and opera* (↓\$51.2). However, these were offset by a large increase in the category of *Cross-art form* (↑\$158.4m), with the majority coming from the Victorian Government.

Figure 3. State and territory government arts expenditure (recurrent and capital), by selected categories⁴

The highest amount of state and territory government Arts expenditure was for *Performing arts venues* (\$477.2m), with the governments of South Australia (\$164.3m or 34%) and Queensland (\$122.2m or 26%) contributing most of the funding to this category.

Other main categories of Arts activities funding were:

- *Film and video production and distribution*—\$228.6m
- *Cross-art form*—\$210.7m
- *Arts administration*—\$130.5m
- *Arts education*—\$107.9m
- *Music*—\$102.4m
- *Multi-arts festivals*—\$98.2m
- *Visual arts and crafts* —\$88.2m.

Recurrent expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure dropped 5% (or \$131.5m) to \$2,419.9m and accounted for 73% of total funded cultural expenditure.

Music (↓\$94.8m), *Arts education* (↓\$79.6m) and *Music theatre and opera* (↓\$51.2m) were the main contributors to this decrease.

The highest recurrent expenditure was for *Libraries* with \$431.8m, followed by *Other museums and cultural heritage* with \$411.4m.

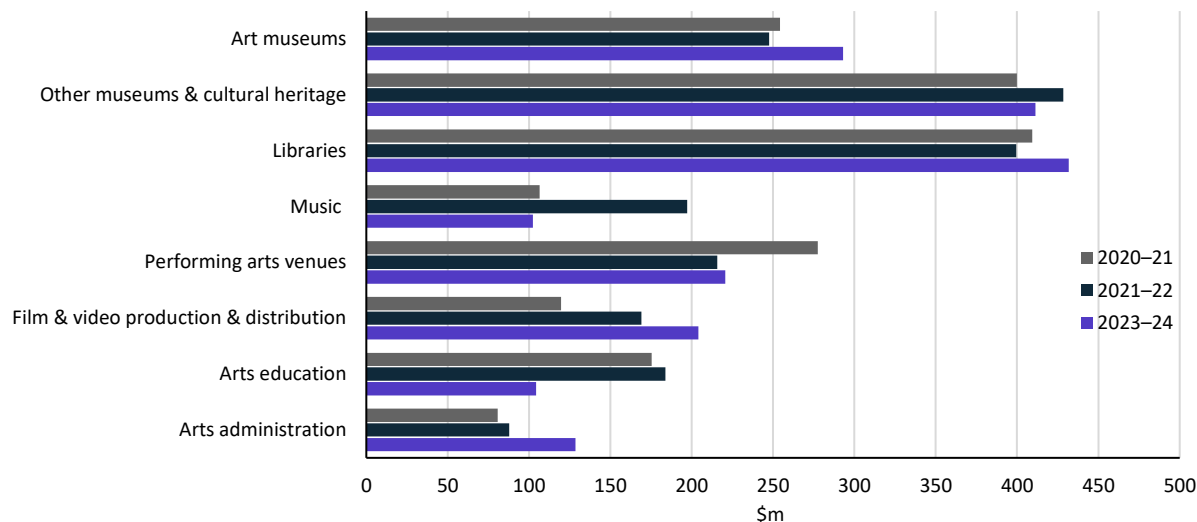
- The New South Wales Government spent the most recurrent dollars on *Libraries* (\$112.5m), with the Victorian Government contributing the next highest in this category (\$107.4m).
- Half of the state and territory governments spent the largest proportion of their recurrent expenditure on *Libraries* (Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania). Tasmania had the highest proportion with 42%.
- The New South Wales Government also spent the most recurrent dollars on *Other museums and cultural heritage* (\$121.5m).

⁴ Recurrent and total expenditure in the category of *Performing arts venues* for 2021–22 has been revised.

Other main categories of recurrent expenditure were:

- *Art museums*—\$293.0m
- *Performing arts venues*—\$220.6m
- *Film and video production and distribution* —\$204.2m.

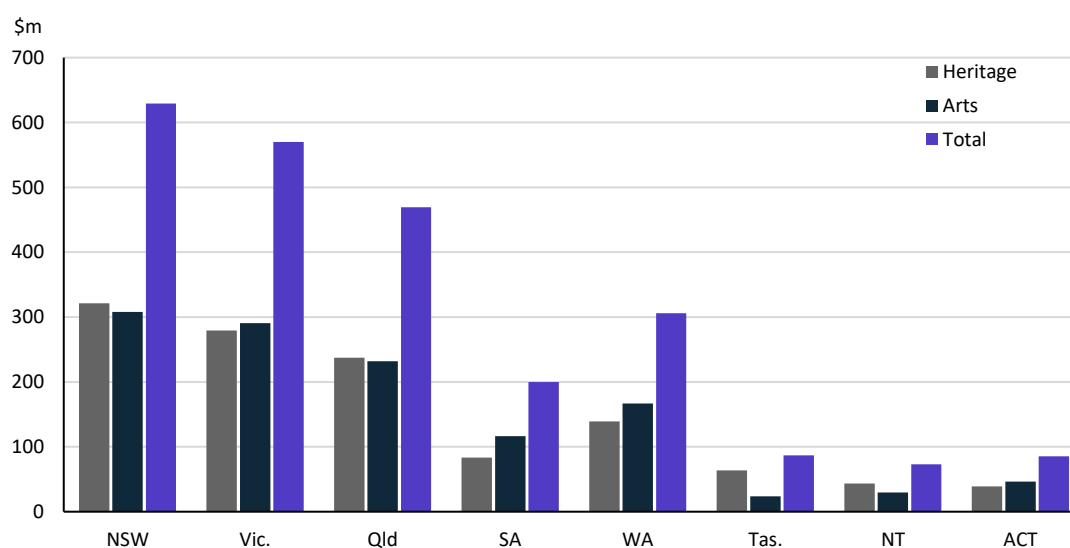
Figure 4. State and territory government recurrent cultural expenditure, by selected categories⁴



The New South Wales Government had the highest estimate of recurrent expenditure with \$629.3m.

- The New South Wales Government had the highest recurrent expenditure on *Heritage* activities (\$321.4).
- The New South Wales Government also had the highest recurrent expenditure on *Arts* activities (\$307.9m).

Figure 5. State and territory governments recurrent cultural expenditure(a), heritage and arts—2023–24



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

Capital expenditure

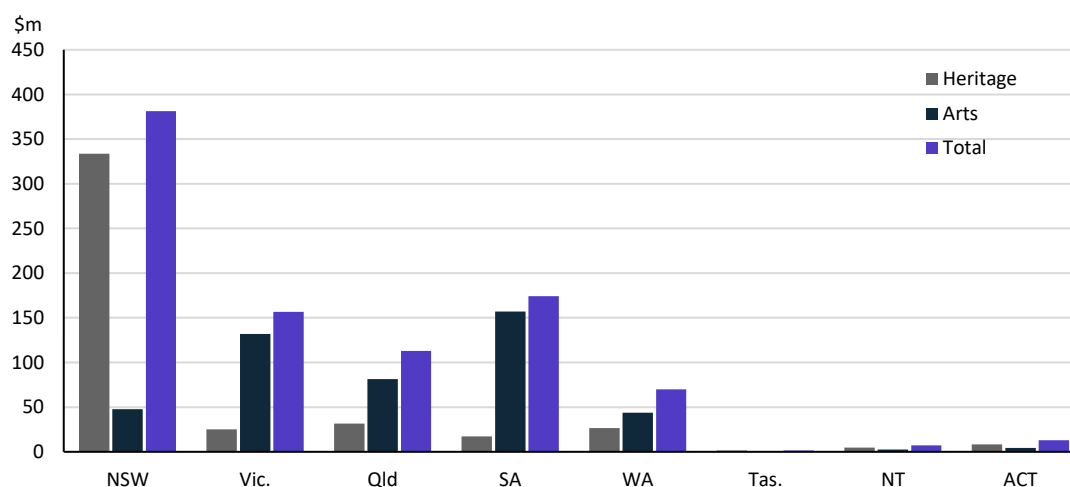
Capital expenditure accounted for 27% (\$916.7m) of total state and territory funded cultural spending.

Capital expenditure increased by 18% (or \$142.4m) from 2021–22. The highest dollar increase in capital expenditure was in South Australia (\$121.5m).

- The largest two categories were *Other museums and cultural heritage* (\$369.4m) and *Performing arts venues* (\$256.6m).

The New South Wales Government contributed the most capital expenditure for *Other museums and cultural heritage* (\$296.7m or 80%) and the South Australian Government for *Performing arts venues* (\$148.0m or 58%).

Figure 6. State and territory governments capital cultural expenditure(a), heritage and arts—2023–24



- (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 (\$333.5m) followed by Queensland (\$31.6m) and Western Australia (\$26.5m).

The South Australian Government had the highest estimate for capital expenditure on *Arts* activities (\$156.8m), followed by Victoria (\$131.7m).