

Australian Film Television and Radio School

**Entity resources and planned
performance**

Australian Film Television and Radio School

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Australian Film Television and Radio School

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) is the national institution for education, training and research for the screen and broadcast industries. Guided by its enabling legislation, the *Australian, Film, Television and Radio School Act 1973*, AFTRS works together with the screen and broadcast industries to provide Australians with the highest level of screen and broadcast education, training, and research so that Australian stories and culture thrive at home and around the world.

As the national screen and broadcast school, AFTRS is a global centre of excellence that is accessible to all Australians. In a time of ongoing sector change, the School is adaptive, nimble and fit for purpose in meeting the industry's evolving needs. For that reason, the School's current five-year strategy, 'Creating the Future', is constructed around three pillars: national reach, excellence and sustainability, and is well positioned to support the five pillars of the national cultural policy, *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place*. The 5 pillars are guiding principles of all work undertaken by the School to support a thriving cultural life for all Australians through a robust cultural infrastructure; including a commitment to First Nations First and the importance of accessibility for creative talent across Australia and recognition of artists as vital workers creating radio, podcasts, television, films and stories that resonate through all parts of Australian creative life.

- **National Reach** – As the national screen and broadcast school, AFTRS engages, upskills, and supports talent in all states and territories.
- **Excellence** – Working in close partnership with industry, AFTRS equips its graduates with skills in craft, professionalism and artistry. AFTRS graduates are enterprising and creative. They understand the power of Australian story, underpinned by a First Nations culture, enriched by the diversity of our country, to engage and entertain audiences at home and around the world.
- **Sustainability** – AFTRS has a suite of scalable, adaptive offerings that support the industry's growth in a way that is sustainable for both AFTRS and the industry.

These pillars are underpinned by the following areas of strategic focus:

- **First Nations Culture** – Embedding First Nations values within AFTRS by including First Nations' knowledges, voices, values, and pedagogies to build the capacity and knowledge of our staff, graduates, and industry.

- **Outreach and Inclusion** – Supporting under-represented talent across Australia to work in the Australian screen and broadcast industries by building an inclusive school culture that celebrates all Australians and creating a flexible and responsive model of delivery that builds on AFTRS’ established strengths, delivering face-to-face learning in the School’s world-class Sydney campus.
- **Talent Development** – Empowering student learning through a model of teaching excellence and an experiential curriculum that is inclusive, flexible and national in its reach.
- **Industry Skills Training** – Ensuring Australian screen and audio practitioners have the skills required for the Australian industry to thrive.
- **Research and Innovation** – Partnering with industry on the design, development and delivery of a range of courses that meet immediate need and provide pathways to life-long careers in the screen and audio industries.
- **Effective Organisation** – Sustaining an adaptive, efficient, and resourceful business that supports AFTRS’ mission as a global centre of excellence for screen and broadcast education, training and research.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to AFTRS for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the Government or the public) and departmental (for AFTRS operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1' tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis. Amounts presented below are consistent with amounts presented in the Appropriation Bills themselves.

Table 1.1: AFTRS resource statement – Budget estimates for 2024–25 as at Budget May 2024

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Estimate \$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	7,399	7,343
Funds from Government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services		
Outcome 1 ^(a)	24,283	27,944
Total annual appropriations	24,283	27,944
Total funds from Government	24,283	27,944
Funds from other sources		
Interest	793	680
Sale of goods and services	8,656	9,695
Other	23	23
Total funds from other sources	9,472	10,398
Total net resourcing for AFTRS	41,154	45,685
	2023-24	2024-25
Average staffing level (number)	150	145

Prepared on a resourcing (that is, appropriations available) basis.

All figures shown above are GST exclusive – these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2024–2025.

AFTRS is not directly appropriated as it is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity. Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (a Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entity), which are then paid to AFTRS and are considered 'departmental' for all purposes.

1.3 Budget measures

Budget measures in Part 1 relating to AFTRS are detailed in the Budget Paper No. 2 and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: AFTRS 2024–25 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2023–24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook

	Program	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000
Payment measures						
Revive – National Cultural Policy	1.1					
Departmental payments		-	3,772	3,994	4,898	10,560
Total		-	3,772	3,994	4,898	10,560
Total payment measures						
Departmental		-	3,772	3,994	4,898	10,560
Total		-	3,772	3,994	4,898	10,560

Prepared on a Government Finance Statistics (Underlying Cash) basis. Figures displayed as a negative (-) represent a decrease in funds and a positive (+) represent an increase in funds.

Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance measure described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in Annual Reports – to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for AFTRS can be found at:

<https://www.aftrs.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/AFTRS-Corporate-Plan-2023-24.pdf>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:

https://www.aftrs.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2022-23-AFTRS-Annual-Report_complete4Wsite.pdf

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Support the development of a professional screen arts and broadcast culture in Australia including through the provision of specialist industry-focused education, training, and research

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much AFTRS intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: Delivery of specialist education					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	24,283	27,944	28,377	29,628	35,866
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,484	170	122	69	16
Revenues from other independent sources	9,922	10,060	10,475	10,823	11,043
Total expenses for Program 1.1	35,689	38,174	38,974	40,520	46,925
Outcome 1 totals by resource type					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	24,283	27,944	28,377	29,628	35,866
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,484	170	122	69	16
Revenues from other independent sources	9,922	10,060	10,475	10,823	11,043
Total expenses for Outcome 1	35,689	38,174	38,974	40,520	46,925
	2023-24	2024-25			
Average staffing level (number)	150	145			

Table 2.1.2: Performance measures for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It is used by entities to describe the results they plan to achieve and the related key activities, as detailed in the current corporate plan, the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2024–25 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Outcome 1 – Support the development of a professional screen arts and broadcast culture in Australia including through the provision of specialist industry-focused education, training, and research		
Program 1.1 – Delivery of specialist education to meet the diverse creative needs of students and the skill requirements of industry by means of award courses, training programs and events.		
Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow First Nations Community Stakeholders and Projects • Deliver courses accessible to learners across the country • Deliver accredited courses • Deliver industry-partnered training • Partner with screen and broadcast stakeholders to provide targeted training • Develop a faculty-driven research project that bridges industry knowledge and academic expertise. 	
Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2023–24	First Nations' Culture: Embedding First Nations values within AFTRS by including First Nations' knowledges, voices, values, and pedagogies to build the capacity and knowledge of our staff, graduates, and industry	Target: 2 First Nations-led partnerships Target expected to be met
	Outreach and Inclusion: Supporting under-represented talent across Australia to learn, make and work in the Australian screen and broadcast industries and building an inclusive school culture that celebrates all Australians. Creating a flexible and responsive model of delivery that allows us to capitalise on established strengths delivering face-to-face learning in our world-class Sydney campus	Target: 3,000 participants in industry training Target expected to be met Target: 1 partnered industry event per State and Territory outside of NSW Target expected to be met
	Talent Development: Empower student learning through an experiential curriculum that is inclusive and flexible, and national in its reach and enable teaching excellence	Target: 300 award course enrolments (per calendar year) Target expected to be met Target: 100 award course graduates (per calendar year) Target expected to be met

Year	Performance measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2023–24 cont.	Industry Skills Training: Creating future-oriented, industry-aligned learning environments that are accessible and transformative and provide pathways to life-long careers in the screen and broadcast industries. Partnering with industry in the design, development, and delivery of courses	Target: 75% of recent graduates applying the skills they learnt in their AFTRS course professionally Target expected to be met Target: 10 industry training partnerships Target expected to be met Target: Annual consultation with industry stakeholders, including industry Advisory Panels and triennial skills survey Target expected to be met
Year	Performance measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2024–25	First Nations' Culture: Embedding First Nations values within AFTRS by including First Nations' knowledges, voices, values, and pedagogies to build the capacity and knowledge of our staff, graduates, and industry	Target: 2 First Nations-led partnerships
	Outreach and Inclusion: Supporting under-represented talent across Australia to work in the Australian screen and broadcast industries by building an inclusive school culture that celebrates all Australians and creating a flexible and responsive model of delivery that builds on AFTRS' established strengths, delivering face-to-face learning in the School's world-class Sydney campus	Target: 3,000 participants in industry training Target: 1 partnered industry event per State and Territory outside of NSW
	Talent Development: Empowering student learning through a model of teaching excellence and an experiential curriculum that is inclusive, flexible and national in its reach	Target: 300 award course enrolments (per calendar year) Target: 100 award course graduates (per calendar year)
	Industry Skills Training: Partnering with industry on the design, development and delivery of a range of courses that meet immediate need and provide pathways to life-long careers in the screen and audio industries	Target: 75% of recent graduates applying the skills they learnt in their AFTRS course professionally Target: 10 industry training partnerships Target: Annual consultation with industry stakeholders, including industry Advisory Panels and triennial skills survey
Forward Estimates 2025–28	As per 2024–25	As per 2024–25

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of AFTRS finances for the 2024–25 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

3.1 Budgeted financial statements

3.1.1 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

Comprehensive income statement

Own-source revenue is expected to increase by 1.4 per cent in 2024–25. Award Course fee income of \$7.8 million is an increase of 2.0 per cent from the 2023–24 result and is expected to continue to increase across the forward estimates period. Income from Short and Industry Courses and Business Development is budgeted to be \$1.5 million for 2024–25 (\$1.5 million for 2023–24) and is then expected to increase throughout the forward estimates period.

Employee costs are expected to increase by 5.4 per cent to \$21.7 million in 2024–25 and then increase over the forward years. Overall, total expenses for 2024–25 (\$38.2 million) is an increase of 7.0 per cent from 2023–24 with a further increase in the outer years. The average staffing level is planned to increase over the forward years.

Departmental balance sheet

The budgeted balance sheet is based on the latest forecast with due consideration to flow-ons from the capital expenditure budget, income statements and cash inflows and outflows.

3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	20,629	21,738	23,237	24,381	27,766
Suppliers	8,667	9,631	8,826	9,604	13,182
Depreciation and amortisation	5,936	6,377	6,527	6,204	5,699
Finance costs	457	428	384	331	278
Total expenses	35,689	38,174	38,974	40,520	46,925
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	9,080	9,437	9,952	10,300	10,520
Interest	819	600	500	500	500
Other	23	23	23	23	23
Total own-source revenue	9,922	10,060	10,475	10,823	11,043
Total own-source income	9,922	10,060	10,475	10,823	11,043
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(25,767)	(28,114)	(28,499)	(29,697)	(35,882)
Revenue from Government	24,283	27,944	28,377	29,628	35,866
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,484)	(170)	(122)	(69)	(16)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(1,484)	(170)	(122)	(69)	(16)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,484)	(170)	(122)	(69)	(16)
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of Comprehensive Income	(1,484)	(170)	(122)	(69)	(16)
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets	4,032	4,170	4,227	4,227	4,227
less: lease principal repayments ^(a)	(3,822)	(4,000)	(4,105)	(4,158)	(4,211)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(1,274)	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Applies leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	7,343	8,277	9,438	10,315	10,701
Trade and other receivables	3,459	3,129	3,349	3,504	3,589
Total financial assets	10,802	11,406	12,787	13,819	14,290
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	35,232	32,056	27,829	23,602	19,375
Property, plant and equipment	8,252	7,592	6,522	5,759	5,487
Intangibles	155	94	64	50	50
Other non-financial assets	205	205	205	205	205
Total non-financial assets	43,844	39,947	34,620	29,616	25,117
Total assets	54,646	51,353	47,407	43,435	39,407
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	1,508	1,508	1,508	1,508	1,508
Other payables	3,980	3,988	4,263	4,456	4,562
Total payables	5,488	5,496	5,771	5,964	6,070
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	35,471	32,451	28,346	24,188	19,977
Total interest bearing liabilities	35,471	32,451	28,346	24,188	19,977
Provisions					
Employee provisions	4,097	3,986	3,992	4,054	4,147
Total provisions	4,097	3,986	3,992	4,054	4,147
Total liabilities	45,056	41,933	38,109	34,206	30,194
Net assets	9,590	9,420	9,298	9,229	9,213
EQUITY					
Parent entity interest					
Reserves	2,857	2,857	2,857	2,857	2,857
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	6,733	6,563	6,441	6,372	6,356
Total parent entity interest	9,590	9,420	9,298	9,229	9,213
Total equity	9,590	9,420	9,298	9,229	9,213

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (Budget year 2024–25)

	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Total equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2024			
Balance carried forward from previous period	6,733	2,857	9,590
Adjusted opening balance	6,733	2,857	9,590
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(170)		(170)
Total comprehensive income	(170)	-	(170)
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2025	6,563	2,857	9,420
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	6,563	2,857	9,420

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	24,283	27,944	28,377	29,628	35,866
Sale of goods and rendering of services	8,656	9,695	10,007	10,338	10,541
Interest	793	680	500	500	500
Net GST received	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Other	23	23	23	23	23
Total cash received	34,855	39,442	40,007	41,589	48,030
Cash used					
Employees	20,268	21,849	23,231	24,319	27,673
Suppliers	9,193	10,731	9,926	10,704	14,282
Interest payments on lease liability	457	428	384	331	278
Total cash used	29,918	33,008	33,541	35,354	42,233
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	4,937	6,434	6,466	6,235	5,797
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total cash used	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(1,171)	(1,500)	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	3,822	4,000	4,105	4,158	4,211
Total cash used	3,822	4,000	4,105	4,158	4,211
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(3,822)	(4,000)	(4,105)	(4,158)	(4,211)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(56)	934	1,161	877	386
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	7,399	7,343	8,277	9,438	10,315
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	7,343	8,277	9,438	10,315	10,701

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally from departmental resources ^(a)	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200
TOTAL	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total cash used to acquire assets	1,171	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Funded from annual appropriations and may include donations and contributions, gifts, internally developed assets, and proceeds from the sale of assets.

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (Budget year 2024–25)

	Asset Category			Total
	Buildings	Other property, plant and equipment	Computer software and intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2024				
Gross book value	-	10,300	3,795	14,095
Gross book value - ROU assets	57,235	165	-	57,400
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(2,053)	(3,640)	(5,693)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(22,003)	(160)	-	(22,163)
Opening net book balance	35,232	8,252	155	43,639
Capital asset additions				
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets				
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services ^(a)	-	1,500	-	1,500
Total additions	-	1,500	-	1,500
Other movements				
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(2,146)	(61)	(2,207)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(4,156)	(14)	-	(4,170)
Other - ROU assets	980	-	-	980
Total other movements	(3,176)	(2,160)	(61)	(5,397)
As at 30 June 2025				
Gross book value	-	11,800	3,795	15,595
Gross book value - ROU assets	58,215	165	-	58,380
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(4,199)	(3,701)	(7,900)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(26,159)	(174)	-	(26,333)
Closing net book balance	32,056	7,592	94	39,742

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to equity injections appropriations provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2024–2025, including DCBs.

