Creative Australia

Entity resources and planned performance

Creative Australia

SECTION	1: ENTITY OVERVIEW AND RESOURCES	251
1.1	Strategic direction statement	
1.2	Entity resource statement	
1.3	Budget measures	
SECTION	N 2: OUTCOMES AND PLANNED PERFORMANCE	254
2.1	Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1	255
SECTION	N 3: BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	258
3.1	Budgeted financial statements	
3.2	Budgeted financial statements tables	

Creative Australia

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

Creative Australia is the Australian Government's principal arts investment, development, funding, and advisory body with a purpose to champion and invest in arts and creativity for a dynamic and creative Australia. Creative Australia has a national leadership role in supporting and building Australia's cultural infrastructure by ensuring local and global audiences enjoy the benefits of thriving, dynamic and sustainable cultural and creative industries. Creative Australia achieves this by:

- investing in artists and organisations through grants, fellowships and awards that enable art to be created and experienced
- advocating for the social, cultural and economic value of the arts and creativity
- advising government on matters connected with the arts
- managing Government-directed initiatives and frameworks in support of the arts
- delivering strategic development activity that builds industry capacity, increases markets and audiences for Australian creative work and enables more people to be inspired by and benefit from their creative engagement
- conducting research and analysis that deepens the understanding of the role and value of arts and creativity
- encouraging, facilitating and recognising public sector, private sector, philanthropic and commercial support for, and investment, in the arts
- supporting artists, creative and cultural workers by providing advice on issues of pay, safety and welfare in the arts and culture sector
- collaborating with state, territory and local governments
- partnering with others to increase investment in and support for creativity.

Creative Australia was formally established under the *Creative Australia Act* 2023. The functions of the former Australia Council for the Arts were significantly expanded to become Creative Australia, as part of the Australian Government's National Cultural Policy, *Revive: A place for every story, a story for every place.*

The *Creative Australia Act* 2023 and subsequent *Creative Australia Amendment* (*Implementation of Revive*) *Act* 2024 set out the agency's functions and governance, including establishing Creative Workplaces and Music Australia in 2023, and First Nations Arts and a dedicated First Nations Board in 2024. From 2025, there will be a dedicated independent body for writers called Writing Australia. These bodies, as well as new investment in the Creative Futures Fund, and continuing responsibility for the Australian Cultural Fund, will be critical in building partnerships and expertise that will support artists directly and benefit Australian audiences.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to Creative Australia 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 Departmental (for Creative Australia's 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: Creative Australia resource statement – Budget estimates for 2025–26 as at Budget March 2025

	2024-25	2025-26
	Estimated	Estimate
	actual	
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	25,987	23,174
Funds from Government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ^(a)		
Outcome 1	289,649	311,964
Total annual appropriations	289,649	311,964
Total funds from Government	289,649	311,964
Funds from other sources		
Interest	7,500	300
Other	9,489	5,750
Total funds from other sources	16,989	6,050
Total net resourcing for Creative Australia	332,625	341,188

								 2	024-2	25	20	25-26
Averag	ge staffin	g level	(number)						1	51		159

All figures shown above are GST exclusive - these may not match figures in the cash flow statement. (a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2025-2026 and Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025-2026.

Creative Australia 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 Creative Australia and are considered 'Departmental' for all purposes.

1.3 Budget measures

There are no new measures relating to Creative Australia for the 2025–26 Budget.

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 Creative Australia can be found at: <u>https://creative.gov.au/about-us/strategy-and-corporate-plan/</u>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at: <u>https://creative.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/annual-reports/</u>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Local and global audiences enjoy the benefits of thriving, dynamic and sustainable cultural and creative industries supported through investment, development, partnerships, advice and recognition for Australian artists and arts organisations

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

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

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	0004.05	0005.00	0000 07	0007.00	0000.00			
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29			
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward			
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000			
Program 1.1: To champion and invest in arts and creativity for a dynamic creative Australia.								
Revenue from Government								
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation								
Bill (No. 1) and Supply Bill (No. 1))	289,649	311,964	329,060	335,669	341,689			
Revenues from other independent sources	16,989	6,050	5,462	6,074	6,384			
Total expenses for Program 1.1	306,638	318,014	334,522	341,743	348,073			
Outcome 1 Totals by resource type								
Revenue from Government								
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation								
Bill (No. 1) and Supply Bill (No. 1))	289,649	311,964	329,060	335,669	341,689			
Revenues from other independent sources	16,989	6,050	5,462	6,074	6,384			
Total expenses for Outcome 1	306,638	318,014	334,522	341,743	348,073			
	2024-25	2025-26						

	2024-23	2023-20
Average staffing level (number)	151	159

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 2025–26 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Outcome 1 – Local and global audiences enjoy the benefits of thriving, dynamic and sustainable cultural and creative industries supported through investment, development, partnerships, advice and recognition for Australian artists and arts organisations

Program 1.1 – To champion and invest in arts and creativity for a dynamic creative Australia.								
Key Activities ^(a)	 Administering the Government's National Performing Arts Partnership Framework 							
	 Administering Government programs, including National Regional Touring Programs and the Visual Arts and Craft Design Framework 							
	 Undertaking research and knowledge management activity to inform policy and program analysis and awareness of Australia's arts sector 							
	 Delivering an integrated suite of programs that support artists and arts organisations across the arts sector, including: Peer assessed and industry advised grant funding for individual artists, groups and arts organisations Four Year core program funding for small-to-medium arts organisations Strategic national and international market, audience and artistic development activity Capacity building activity for arts workers and organisations First Nations arts initiatives 							
	 Implementing the Government's National Cultural Policy - <i>Revive</i>, including investments for: Music Australia Creative Workplaces First Nations Arts Creative Futures Fund Writing Australia, and The Australian Cultural Fund 							

Year	Performance Measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2024–25	Annual attendances at Creative Australia funded activities in Australia	14 million Target expected to be met
	Number of artists and creative organisations funded primarily to create works, and total investment value	300 artists or organisations with \$12 million investment Target expected to be met
	Number of arts workers and creative organisations supported primarily to develop capability and practice, and total investment value	500 arts workers or creative organisations with \$10 million investment Target expected to be met
	Total number First Nations artists and First Nations-led creative organisations supported, and total investment value	220 First Nations artists or First Nations-led organisations with \$20 million investment Target expected to be met
	Number of artists and creative organisations supported to present work or collaborate internationally each year	200 artists or organisations Target expected to be met
	Private investment directly facilitated through Creative Australia platforms and incentives	\$11 million Target expected to be met
Year	Performance Measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2025–26	Annual attendances at Creative Australia funded activities in Australia	15 million
	Number of artists and creative organisations funded primarily to create works, and total investment value	400 artists or organisations with \$15 million investment
	Number of arts workers and creative organisations supported primarily to develop capability and practice, and total investment value	600 arts workers or creative organisations with \$13 million investment
	Total number First Nations artists and First Nations-led creative organisations supported, and total investment value	300 First Nations artists or First Nations-led organisations with \$30 million investment
	Number of artists and creative organisations supported to present work or collaborate internationally each year	250 artists or organisations
	Private investment directly facilitated through Creative Australia platforms and incentives	\$11 million
Forward	As per 2025-26	As per 2025-26
Estimates 2026–29	This is to be reassessed for the next budget when there is more clarity on the impact of the various new activities implemented by Creative Australia in line with the National Cultural Policy	This is to be reassessed for the next budget when there is more clarity on the impact of the various new activities implemented by Creative Australia in line with the National Cultural Policy

(a) Refer to updated key activities that will be reflected in the 2025-29 Corporate Plan.

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of Creative Australia's finances for the 2025–26 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

The Creative Australia's 2025–26 Budget has been built on the principle of a balanced, break-even budget, that is, annual expense matches the annual revenue forecast to be received.

Comprehensive income statement

Creative Australia's base appropriation will increase by \$22.3 million in 2025-26, from \$289.7 million to \$312.0 million. The increase is due to the continued implementation of the - National Cultural Policy - *Revive* - notably comprising the implementation of new programs for Writing Australia, and an increased investment in Territory Orchestras, together with indexation (net of the applicable annual efficiency dividend).

Other revenue of \$6.1 million for 2025-26 includes returned grant monies, interest income, and donations to the Australian Cultural Fund.

Creative Australia's total expenses are budgeted at \$317.9 million for 2025-26, compared to \$309.8 million in 2024-25 and comprise:

- Grant expenditure of \$267.0 million budgeted to support individual artists, National Performing Arts Partnership Framework organisations, small to medium arts organisations and for initiatives to increase national and international audiences and markets for Australian arts. Budgeted expenditure will increase by \$5.2 million, due to indexation, and the implementation of the National Cultural Policy – *Revive*, notably the new programs for Writing Australia, and an increased investment in Territory Orchestras.
- Supplier expenses of \$22.3 million, will increase by \$0.8 million in 2025-26 due to expenditure related to National Cultural Policy *Revive* activities.
- Employee benefits expense of \$25.7 million, will increase by \$2.2 million in 2025-26 due the continued implementation of Revive, including additional employees relating to the commencement of Writing Australia activities, together with expected annual salary and superannuation increases.
- Depreciation and amortisation expenses of \$2.7 million in 2025-26 are \$0.1 million lower than 2024-25.

Budgeted Departmental balance sheet

Financial assets are budgeted at \$28.9 million with cash and cash equivalent balances expected to be \$23.9 million by the end of 2025-26.

Non-financial assets are budgeted to decrease to \$21.4 million due to depreciation of \$2.7 million offsetting capital expenditure of \$0.4 million. The capital expenditure investment in 2025-26 is predominantly computer and other equipment.

Budgeted financial statements tables 3.2

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

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	23,495	25,740	27,315	28,156	29,001
Suppliers	21,486	22,290	24,206	25,096	25,077
Grants	261,887	267,047	279,831	285,329	290,716
Depreciation and amortisation	2,843	2,707	2,857	2,763	2,792
Finance costs	92	71	50	28	4
Total expenses	309,803	317,855	334,259	341,372	347,590
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Interest	7,500	300	300	300	300
Other	9,489	5,750	5,162	5,774	6,084
Total own-source revenue	16,989	6,050	5,462	6,074	6,384
Total own-source income	16,989	6,050	5,462	6,074	6,384
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(292,814)	(311,805)	(328,797)	(335,298)	(341,206)
Revenue from Government	289,649	311,964	329,060	335,669	341,689
Total comprehensive income/(loss)					
attributable to the Australian					
Government	(3,165)	159	263	371	483
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation	arrangement	S			
Total comprehensive income/(loss) -					
as per statement of Comprehensive					
Income	(3,165)	159	263	371	483
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets ^(a)	1,822	1,583	1,583	1,583	1,583
less: lease principal repayments ^(a)	,	,	,	,	,
1 1 1 2	(1,857)	(1,742)	(1,846)	(1,954)	(2,066)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,200)	•	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis. (a) Applies leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 0.2. Badgeted Departmental	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual	Duugot	estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS	i	· · · ·		-	
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	23,174	23,936	24,185	24,966	25,764
Trade and other receivables	4,921	4,921	4,921	4,921	4,921
Total financial assets	28,095	28,857	29,106	29,887	30,685
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	19,951	17,787	15,622	13,452	11,282
Property, plant and equipment	2,579	2,375	2,701	2,531	2,335
Intangibles	219	242	249	225	210
Other non-financial assets	1,003	1,003	1,003	1,003	1,003
Total non-financial assets	23,752	21,407	19,575	17,211	14,830
Total assets	51,847	50,264	48,681	47,098	45,515
LIABILITIES		,	,	,	, ,
Payables					
Suppliers	1,798	1,798	1,798	1,798	1,798
Grants	4,354	4,354	4,354	4,354	4,354
Other payables	4,704	4,704	4,704	4,704	4,704
Total payables	10,856	10,856	10,856	10,856	10,856
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	7,957	6,215	4,369	2,415	349
Total interest bearing liabilities	7,957	6,215	4,369	2,415	349
Provisions					
Employee provisions	3,074	3,074	3,074	3,074	3,074
Other provisions	786	786	786	786	786
Total provisions	3,860	3,860	3,860	3,860	3,860
Total liabilities	22,673	20,931	19,085	17,131	15,065
Net assets	29,174	29,333	29,596	29,967	30,450
EQUITY	·				
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	2,612	2,612	2,612	2,612	2,612
Reserves			21,174	21,174	-
	21,174	21,174	21,174	21,174	21,174
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	21,174 5,388	21,174 5,547	21,174 5,810	6,181	6,664
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit) Total parent equity interest		-	,	,	-

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

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (Budget year 2025–26)

	Retained	Asset	Other	Contributed	Total
	earnings	revaluation	reserves	equity/	equity
	-	reserve		capital	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2025 Balance carried forward from					
previous period	5,388	8,440	12,734	2,612	29,174
Adjusted opening balance	5,388	8,440	12,734	2,612	29,174
Comprehensive income					
Other comprehensive income	159	-	-	-	159
Total comprehensive income	159	-	-	-	159
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2026	5,547	8,440	12,734	2,612	29,333
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	5,547	8,440	12,734	2,612	29,333

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

bu Juliej					
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	289,649	311,964	329,060	335,669	341,689
Interest	7,500	300	300	300	300
Net GST received	24,341	26,215	27,400	28,546	26,198
Other	9,489	5,750	5,162	5,774	6,084
Total cash received	330,979	344,229	361,922	370,289	374,271
Cash used					
Employees	23,495	25,740	27,315	28,156	29,001
Suppliers	21,486	22,290	24,206	25,096	25,077
Net GST paid	24,341	26,215	27,400	28,546	26,198
Interest payments on lease liability	92	71	50	28	4
Other	261,887	267,047	279,831	285,329	290,716
Total cash used	331,301	341,363	358,802	367,155	370,996
Net cash from/(used by) operating				,	/
activities	(322)	2,866	3,120	3,134	3,275
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and					
equipment and intangibles	634	362	1,025	399	411
Total cash used	634	362	1,025	399	411
Net cash from/(used by) investing					
activities	(634)	(362)	(1,025)	(399)	(411)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	1,857	1,742	1,846	1,954	2,066
Total cash used	1,857	1,742	1,846	1,954	2,066
Net cash from/(used by) financing					
activities	(1,857)	(1,742)	(1,846)	(1,954)	(2,066)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(2,813)	762	249	781	798
Cash and cash equivalents at the					
beginning of the reporting period	25,987	23,174	23,936	24,185	24,966
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of					
the reporting period	23,174	23,936	24,185	24,966	25,764

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

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	Estimated	Budget	Forward	Forward	Forward
	actual		estimate	estimate	estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL					
ASSETS					
Funded internally from Departmental					
resources ^(a)	634	362	1,025	399	411
TOTAL	634	362	1,025	399	411
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO					
ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET					
MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	634	362	1,025	399	411
Total cash used to acquire assets	634	362	1,025	399	411

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	Asset Category				
_	Land	Buildings	Other property,	Computer software	Total
			plant and equipment	and intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2025		•			
Gross book value	149	16,640	2,938	2,706	22,433
Gross book value - ROU assets Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	-	16,313	-	-	16,313
and impairment Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	-	(3,440)	(359)	(2,487)	(6,286)
and impairment - ROU assets	-	(9,711)	-	-	(9,711)
Opening net book balance	149	19,802	2,579	219	22,749
Capital asset additions Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets By purchase - appropriation ordinary					
annual services ^(a)	-	50	163	149	362
Total additions	-	50	163	149	362
Other movements Depreciation/amortisation expense Depreciation/amortisation on ROU	-	(632)	(366)	(126)	(1,124)
assets	-	(1,583)	-	-	(1,583)
Total other movements	-	(2,215)	(366)	(126)	(2,707)
As at 30 June 2026					
Gross book value	149	16,690	3,101	2,855	22,795
Gross book value - ROU assets Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	-	16,313	-	-	16,313
and impairment Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	-	(4,071)	(726)	(2,613)	(7,410)
and impairment - ROU assets	-	(11,294)	-	-	(11,294)
Closing net book balance	149	17,638	2,375	242	20,404

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2025-2026, Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025-2026 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, DCBs or other operational expenses.