

Australian Film, Television and Radio School

**Entity resources and planned
performance**

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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 deliver world-leading education that equips creatives with the skills, craft and confidence to build careers that will grow Australia's screen and broadcast industries, and shape its stories and culture.

In a time of accelerated change, AFTRS champions excellence grounded in the strength of First Nations cultures and enriched by the breadth of Australia's many communities. AFTRS' new corporate strategy, to be launched in 2026, is constructed around five pillars: storytelling excellence, industry-aligned learning, equity and engagement, creative innovation and research, and sustainable impact, and continues to support the five pillars of the National Cultural Policy - *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place*.

The pillars are guiding principles of all work undertaken by AFTRS to support a thriving cultural life for all Australians including a commitment to First Nations First, 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.

- **Storytelling Excellence** - Skilled graduates connecting with audiences at home and around the world.
- **Industry-Aligned Learning** - Future-ready practitioners trained in partnership with industry.
- **Equity and Engagement** - Inclusive learning connecting creatives across Australia.
- **Creative Innovation and Research** - Imagination and inquiry forging shared creative futures.
- **Sustainable Impact** - A thriving, resilient institution driving sector leadership.

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 classification as administered (on behalf of the government or the public) or departmental (for AFTRS operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses for 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 2026-27 as at Budget May 2026

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Estimate \$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	9,915	8,734
Funds from government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services Outcome 1 ^(a)	28,310	29,011
Total annual appropriations	28,310	29,001
Total funds from government	28,310	29,011
Funds from other sources		
Interest	692	780
Sale of goods and services	9,416	9,138
Other	595	622
Total funds from other sources	10,703	10,540
Total net resourcing for AFTRS	48,928	48,285
	2025-26	2026-27
Average staffing level (number)	160	160

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.

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) 2026-2027.

AFTRS is not directly appropriated as it is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity (CCE). Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport 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 entity Australian Film, Television and Radio School are detailed in the *Budget Paper No. 2 - Budget Measures* and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: Australian Film, Television and Radio School 2026-27 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2025-26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)

	Program	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	2028-29 \$'000	2029-30 \$'000
Payment measures						
Further Reducing Spending on Consultants, Contractors and Labour Hire, and Non-wage Expenses - one year extension ^(a)						
	1.1					
	Departmental payment	-	-	-	-	(1,219)
	Total	-	-	-	-	(1,219)
Total payment measures						
	Departmental	-	-	-	-	(1,219)
	Total	-	-	-	-	(1,219)

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.

a) This is a cross-portfolio measure. The full measure description and package details appear in *Budget Paper No. 2 - Budget Measures* as 'various agencies' under the cross-portfolio section.

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 the Australian Film, Television and Radio School can be found at: <https://www.aftrs.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AFTRS-2025-26-Corporate-Plan.pdf>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:
<https://www.aftrs.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/AFTRS-Annual-Report-2024%E2%80%9325.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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: Delivery of Specialist Education					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual services					
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	28,310	29,011	34,790	35,293	35,819
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,955	77	23	(35)	(93)
Revenues from other independent sources	10,676	11,050	11,374	11,670	11,922
Total expenses for Program 1.1	40,941	40,138	46,187	46,928	47,648
Outcome 1 Totals by resource type					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual services					
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	28,310	29,011	34,790	35,293	35,819
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,955	77	23	(35)	(93)
Revenues from other independent sources	10,676	11,050	11,374	11,670	11,922
Total expenses for Outcome 1	40,941	40,138	46,187	46,928	47,648
	2025-26	2026-27			
Average staffing level (number)	160	160			

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 (i.e. 2025-26), the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2026-27 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 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^(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow First Nations Community stakeholders and projects • Deliver courses that are 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^(b)	Expected performance results
Current Year 2025-26	First Nations' Culture: Embedding First Nations values within AFTRS by including First Nations' knowledge, voices, values, and pedagogies to build the capacity and knowledge of our staff, graduates, and industry	Target: 2 First Nations-led partnerships Target met
	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 expected to be met Target: 1 partnered industry event per State and Territory outside of NSW Target met
	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 met Target: 100 award course graduates (per calendar year) Target expected to be met

Year	Performance measures	Expected performance results
Current Year 2025-26 cont.	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	<p>Target: 75% of recent graduates applying the skills they learnt in their AFTRS course professionally</p> <p>Target expected to be met</p> <p>Target: 10 industry training partnerships</p> <p>Target met</p> <p>Target: Annual consultation with industry stakeholders, including industry Advisory Panels and triennial skills survey</p> <p>Target expected to be met</p>
	Research and Innovation: Providing the industry with the new knowledge it needs to keep Australia at the forefront of global innovation. Supporting a culture of enquiry, exploration, and rigour through AFTRS' research programs	<p>Target: 2 disseminated industry research projects</p> <p>Target expected to be met</p>
Year	Performance measures	Planned performance results
Budget Year 2026-27	Storytelling Excellence: Skilled talent to support the industry	<p>Target: 300 award course enrolments</p> <p>Target: 100 award course graduates, including 4% First Nations graduates</p>
	Industry-Aligned Learning: Graduates with the skills to build careers in evolving industries	Target: 75% of recent graduates are applying the skills they learnt in their AFTRS award course professionally
	Industry-Aligned Learning: Training delivered across Australia shaped by and informing industry practice	<p>Target: 3,000 participants in industry training</p> <p>Target: 12 training partnerships, including one in each state and territory</p> <p>Target: Establish a baseline for an external industry assessment of training impact</p>
	Creative Innovation and Research: Conduct industry-partnered and faculty-led research that supports innovation in the industry	Target: 1 industry-partnered research project disseminated

Year	Performance measures	Planned performance results
Forward Estimates 2027-30	As per 2026-27	As per 2026-27
Material changes to Program 1.1 resulting from 2026-27 Budget Measures: Nil		

- a) Refer to updated key activities relating to PBS measures that will be reflected in the 2026-27 corporate plan.
- b) Performance measure descriptions and planned performance results have changed for 2026-27 and forward estimates aligned with new pillars of new corporate strategy to come into effect in 2026 that will be reflected in the 2026-27 corporate plan.

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of AFTRS finances for the 2026-27 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

Own-source revenue is expected to increase by 3.5 per cent in 2026-27 as course fee income and interest revenue increase. Award Course fee income of \$7.7 million is an increase of 2.6 per cent from the 2025-26 result and is expected to continue to increase across the forward estimates period. Income from Short and Industry Courses and AFTRS for Business courses is budgeted to be \$1.9 million for 2026-27 (\$1.8 million for 2025-26) and is then expected to increase throughout the forward estimates period.

Employee costs are expected to increase by 3.1 per cent to \$24.9 million in 2026-27 and then increase over the forward years. Overall, total expenses for 2026-27 (\$40.1 million) show a decrease of 2.0 per cent from 2025-26 before increasing again in the outer years. The average staffing level is planned to remain stable 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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	24,139	24,889	25,761	26,662	27,596
Suppliers	10,045	8,668	13,689	13,400	12,989
Depreciation and amortisation ^(a)	6,369	6,235	6,441	6,627	6,882
Finance costs	388	346	296	239	181
Total expenses	40,941	40,138	46,187	46,928	47,648
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	9,482	9,628	10,182	10,478	10,730
Interest	599	800	800	800	800
Other	572	622	392	392	392
Total own-source revenue	10,653	11,050	11,374	11,670	11,922
Gains					
Other	23	-	-	-	-
Total gains	23	-	-	-	-
Total own-source income	10,676	11,050	11,374	11,670	11,922
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(30,265)	(29,088)	(34,813)	(35,258)	(35,726)
Revenue from government	28,310	29,011	34,790	35,293	35,819
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,955)	(77)	(23)	35	93
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME					
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(1,955)	(77)	(23)	35	93
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(1,955)	(77)	(23)	35	93
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per statement of Comprehensive Income	(1,955)	(77)	(23)	35	93
<i>plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets^(a)</i>	4,308	4,441	4,511	4,511	4,505
<i>less: lease principal repayments^(a)</i>	(4,183)	(4,364)	(4,488)	(4,546)	(4,598)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(1,830)	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

a) Applies to leases under AASB 16 Leases.

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	8,734	8,176	8,049	8,202	8,673
Trade and other receivables	2,983	3,291	3,491	3,585	3,661
Total financial assets	11,717	11,467	11,540	11,787	12,334
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	28,742	25,113	20,615	16,117	11,619
Property, plant and equipment	6,826	6,526	6,584	6,455	6,071
Intangibles	15	1	0	0	0
Other non-financial assets	978	978	978	978	978
Total non-financial assets	36,561	32,618	28,177	23,550	18,668
Total assets	48,278	44,085	39,717	35,337	31,002
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420
Other payables	4,290	4,088	4,337	4,455	4,550
Total payables	5,710	5,508	5,757	5,875	5,970
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	29,405	25,833	21,345	16,799	12,201
Total interest bearing liabilities	29,405	25,833	21,345	16,799	12,201
Provisions					
Employee provisions	5,135	4,793	4,687	4,700	4,775
Total provisions	5,135	4,793	4,687	4,700	4,775
Total liabilities	40,250	36,134	31,789	27,374	22,946
Net assets	8,028	7,951	7,928	7,963	8,056
EQUITY					
Parent entity interest					
Reserves	2,835	2,835	2,835	2,835	2,835
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	5,193	5,116	5,093	5,128	5,221
Total parent entity interest	8,028	7,951	7,928	7,963	8,056
Total equity	8,028	7,951	7,928	7,963	8,056

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

**Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity - summary of movement
(Budget year 2026-27)**

	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Total equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2026			
Balance carried forward from previous period	5,193	2,835	8,028
Adjusted opening balance	5,193	2,835	8,028
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(77)	-	(77)
Total comprehensive income	(77)	-	(77)
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2027	5,116	2,835	7,951
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	5,116	2,835	7,951

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	28,310	29,011	34,790	35,293	35,819
Sale of goods and rendering of services	9,416	9,138	10,231	10,502	10,749
Interest	692	780	800	800	800
Net GST received	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Other	572	622	392	392	392
Total cash received	40,090	40,651	47,313	48,087	48,860
Cash used					
Employees	24,178	25,231	25,867	26,649	27,521
Suppliers	11,145	9,768	14,789	14,500	14,089
Interest payments on lease liability	388	346	296	239	181
Total cash used	35,711	35,345	40,952	41,388	41,791
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	4,379	5,306	6,361	6,699	7,069
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property plant and equipment	23	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	23	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total cash used	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(1,377)	(1,500)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	4,183	4,364	4,488	4,546	4,598
Total cash used	4,183	4,364	4,488	4,546	4,598
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(4,183)	(4,364)	(4,488)	(4,546)	(4,598)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(1,181)	(558)	(127)	153	471
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	9,915	8,734	8,176	8,049	8,202
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	8,734	8,176	8,049	8,202	8,673

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2025-26 Estimated actual \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward estimate \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally from departmental resources ^(a)	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total cash used to acquire assets	1,400	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000

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 2026-27)

	Asset Category			Total
	Buildings	Other property, plant and equipment	Computer Software And Intangibles	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2026				
Gross book value	-	12,670	3,769	16,439
Gross book value - ROU assets	59,177	350	-	59,527
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(5,953)	(3,754)	(9,707)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(30,435)	(241)	-	(30,676)
Opening net book balance	28,742	6,826	15	35,583
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		(1,764)	(14)	(1,778)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(4,421)	(36)		(4,457)
Other - ROU assets	792			792
Total other movements	(3,629)	(1,800)	(14)	(5,443)
As at 30 June 2027				
Gross book value	-	14,170	3,769	17,939
Gross book value - ROU assets	59,969	350	-	60,319
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	-	(7,717)	(3,768)	(11,485)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(34,856)	(277)	-	(35,133)
Closing net book balance	25,113	6,526	1	31,640

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026-2027 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, DCBs or other operational expenses.

