



Australian  
Communications  
and Media Authority

# **Program expenditure information** **2020–21**

## Aggregated data for commercial television

AUGUST 2022

# Definition of terms and abbreviations

References in the definitions to other Acts, instruments or documents means references to those Acts, instruments or other documents, as they are in force from time to time.

Term/abbreviation	Definition
<b>ACCTS</b>	<a href="#">Broadcasting Services (Australian Content and Children's Television) Standards 2020</a>
<b>Australian adult drama</b>	An 'Australian drama program' as defined in section 8 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian children's drama</b>	An 'Australian drama program' made specifically for children 'Children' is defined in section 8 of the ACCTS as 'people younger than 15 years of age'
<b>Australian children's other</b>	An 'Australian children's program (non-drama)' as defined in section 8 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian documentary</b>	An 'Australian documentary program' as defined in section 8 of the ACCTS. Further information on the interpretation of 'documentary' can be found in the <a href="#">Documentary Guidelines</a>
<b>Australian light entertainment—other</b>	<a href="#">All 'Light entertainment' programs that meet the description as set out in the Documentary Guidelines and that are not characterised as 'Light entertainment—variety'</a>
	For 'Light entertainment—other' programs to be considered 'Australian', they must satisfy the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian light entertainment—variety</b>	<a href="#">An 'Australian light entertainment—variety' program as described in the Documentary Guidelines</a>
	For a 'Light entertainment—variety' program to be considered 'Australian', it must satisfy the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian news and current affairs</b>	'Current affairs' programs as defined in clause 8 of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice 2015
	<a href="#">'News' programs as defined in the Documentary Guidelines</a>
	For a 'news' or 'current affairs' program to be considered 'Australian', it must satisfy the meaning of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian other programming</b>	All programs that satisfy the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS and that do not fit into any of the other 'Australian' program categories listed
<b>Australian program</b>	An 'Australian program' as defined in section 10 of the ACCTS
<b>Australian sports</b>	<a href="#">'Sports coverage' as described in the Documentary Guidelines</a>

<b>Term/abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
	For a sports program to be considered 'Australian', it must satisfy the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS
<b>BSA</b>	<a href="#"><u>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</u></a>
<b>Capital cities</b>	Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney
<b>Commercial television broadcasting licence</b>	A commercial television broadcasting licence, as defined in section 6 of the BSA
<b>Number of stations</b>	The quantity of commercial broadcasting licences held by broadcasters during the return period
<b>Overseas drama</b>	A program that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. does not satisfy the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS, and</li> <li>2. would otherwise satisfy the definition of 'Australian drama program' in section 8 of the ACCTS except for the requirement for it to be an 'Australian program'</li> </ol>
<b>Overseas other</b>	A program that does not satisfy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the definition of 'Australian program' in section 10 of the ACCTS, and</li> <li>2. the definition of 'Overseas drama'</li> </ol>
<b>Overseas programs</b>	'Overseas drama' and 'overseas other' programs
<b>Program expenditure</b>	Total program usage plus program amortisation
<b>Regional</b>	A commercial licence area that is not a metropolitan licence area as defined in subsection 41CA(6) of the BSA
<b>Return period</b>	The period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year
<b>Total programs</b>	The total Australian and overseas program expenditure as reported in the ACMA approved form

## Commercial television program expenditure (\$) – Australia

	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Number of stations</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Program expenditure</b>			
Australian adult drama	95,706,338	79,084,379	69,735,138
Australian children's drama	11,659,436	5,288,035	1,989,138
Australian children's other	13,209,991	5,288,361	1,639,859
Australian news and current affairs	362,420,373	342,412,660	315,448,008
Australian documentaries	9,612,059	7,060,018	8,368,787
Australian sport	526,866,730	504,828,397	623,071,290
Australian light entertainment – variety	3,653,337	546,166	740,769
Australian light entertainment – other	530,624,500	529,882,666	499,159,902
Australian other programming	12,767,942	4,852,420	4,375,478
<b>Total Australian programs</b>	<b>1,566,520,706</b>	<b>1,479,243,102</b>	<b>1,524,528,369</b>
Overseas drama	230,803,648	234,562,893	202,967,443
Overseas other	52,613,294	51,204,079	57,045,314
<b>Total overseas programs</b>	<b>283,416,942</b>	<b>285,766,972</b>	<b>260,012,757</b>
<b>Total programs</b>	<b>1,849,937,648</b>	<b>1,765,010,074</b>	<b>1,784,541,126</b>

## Commercial television program expenditure (\$) – capital cities

	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Number of stations</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Program expenditure</b>			
Australian adult drama	95,706,338	79,084,379	69,735,138
Australian children’s drama	11,659,436	5,288,035	1,989,138
Australian children’s other	13,209,991	5,288,361	1,639,859
Australian news and current affairs	326,793,194	311,389,374	287,961,687
Australian documentaries	9,612,059	7,060,018	8,368,787
Australian sport	526,866,730	504,828,397	623,071,290
Australian light entertainment – variety	3,653,337	546,166	740,769
Australian light entertainment – other	530,624,500	529,882,666	499,159,902
Australian other programming	12,424,133	4,743,812	4,269,956
<b>Total Australian programs</b>	<b>1,530,549,718</b>	<b>1,448,111,208</b>	<b>1,496,936,526</b>
Overseas drama	230,803,648	234,562,893	202,967,443
Overseas other	52,326,441	50,982,211	57,019,759
<b>Total overseas programs</b>	<b>283,130,089</b>	<b>285,545,104</b>	<b>259,987,202</b>
<b>Total programs</b>	<b>1,813,679,807</b>	<b>1,733,656,312</b>	<b>1,756,923,728</b>

## Commercial television program expenditure (\$) – regional

	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Number of stations</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Program expenditure</b>			
Australian adult drama	0	0	0
Australian children’s drama	0	0	0
Australian children’s other	0	0	0
Australian news and current affairs	35,627,179	31,023,286	27,486,321
Australian documentaries	0	0	0
Australian sport	0	0	0
Australian light entertainment – variety	0	0	0
Australian light entertainment – other	0	0	0
Australian other programming	343,809	108,608	105,522
<b>Total Australian programs</b>	<b>35,970,988</b>	<b>31,131,894</b>	<b>27,591,843</b>
Overseas drama	0	0	0
Overseas other	286,853	221,868	25,555
<b>Total overseas programs</b>	<b>286,853</b>	<b>221,868</b>	<b>25,555</b>
<b>Total programs</b>	<b>36,257,841</b>	<b>31,353,762</b>	<b>27,617,398</b>