

**ANNUAL LICENCE FEES FROM GOVERNMENT:
MAY 2026 DISTRIBUTION**

Introduction

These licence fees are for ‘internal’ uses of copyright content by public servants for government purposes. The fees do not cover ‘external’ uses of content, such as content published on publicly accessible websites.

There are separate arrangements with each State and Territory government and the Commonwealth. Each arrangement, however, is based on a similar approach (an amount per government employee).

There are separate arrangements for licence fees from sales of survey plans by State and Territory governments.

Changes since previous distribution

- The licence fee pool is \$1.5m less than last year with the previous distribution including 2 years of Commonwealth licence fees
- The distribution includes an additional \$0.4m resulting from actual expenditure being less than the funds provisioned for anticipated expenditure in previous years.
- Additional data sources from APA and Libraries Australia to select data
- Unpaid licence fees held over from previous years (rollovers) will now be distributed in the annual artist and writer distribution.

Funds for distribution

	\$m			
	Gross	Admin 14.9%	Cultural Fund 1.5%	Net
Licence fees invoiced from April 2025 to March 2026	6.9	1.03	.10	5.77
Adjustment payment	0.4	-	-	.40
Total	7.3	1.0	.1	6.2

Distribution pools

	%	When
Book publishers, writers/illustrators with book shares; journal publishers; online publishers	83%	May 2026
Newspaper and magazine publishers	3%	
Music (AMCOS)	1%	
Annual Artists Distribution	6%	June 2026
Annual Writers Distribution (principally writers in periodicals, collected works)	7%	
Total	100%	

Amounts set aside for the Annual Distributions for Writers and Artists

We set aside amounts for writers and artists that we combine with amounts set aside from other licence fees and rollovers and distribute the combined amounts together. There will be separate information sheets for these distributions (scheduled for June 2026)

The pool proportions for publications (books, journals, newspapers/magazines) and artists are based on results of external research in 2021 of Commonwealth government employees' copying and sharing of content. The results included high level information about what the surveyed employees had copied in the last 24 hours.

The amount set aside for the Annual Writers Distribution is based on analysis of data from Australian universities (the best available 'proxy' at the time).

Data sources, selection and weighting

Data source/s	Criteria for data selection	Weighting
Titles in our Works database with subject matter classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exclude: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ publications for children (e.g. school textbooks) ○ books on technology published more than two years ago ○ other books published more than 10 years ago ○ periodicals that are no longer published ○ publications not linked to rightsholders in our Works database • prioritise titles for selection for each subject matter area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ publication year (most recent first) ○ publisher specialises in professional/tertiary market • selection of titles from data source so that each receives around \$100 per title¹ 	Equal weighting for each unique title
Media monitoring (MMO) data: digital press clippings	Titles (mastheads) used by government customers from October 2024 to September 2025 ²	Weighting among mastheads based on MMO DPC data ³
Mastheads not in MMO data	The Australian Financial Review and The Australian are not part of the MMO licence, but available for copying in governments	
Media monitoring (MMO) data: webscraping	Websites used by government customers from October 2024 to September 2025 (including online newspapers that are also in DPC data)	Same as a book

¹ The target allocation of \$100 is based on an assumed member perception that this is a 'worthwhile' allocation, including where the payment is shared among rightsholders (e.g. publisher and author). The amount for distribution is around \$5.4m so approximately 40,000 titles are required for selection.

² We're selecting data from this date range to accommodate the exit of News, Fairfax and ACM from the MMO data in October 2025

³ Using historical data for *The Australian* and *Australian Financial Review* when they were included in MMO licences

More information about payments to members

There is more information about payments to members on our website in the [Members>Payments section](#), and the [Members>Fees webpage](#).