

LICENCE FEES FROM GOVERNMENTS: APRIL 2025 DISTRIBUTION

Background

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 licence fees from Government

- the amount for distribution is higher for 2025 because it includes licence fees from the Commonwealth for FY24 that were not included in the 2024 distribution
- we have new title data from Australian Publishers Association and Libraries Australia

Amount for distribution

		\$m			
		Gross	Admin 16.5%	Cultural Fund 1.5%	Net
Amount (approx.)	Licence fees invoiced from April 2024 to March 2025	8.80	1.45	0.13	7.21
	Unpaid allocations rolled over	0.14	–	–	0.14
	Total	8.93	1.45	0.13	7.35

Distribution pools

	licence fees + rollovers \$m		Scheduled
Book publishers, writers/illustrators with book shares; magazine and journal publishers; online publishers	86%	6.32	April
Music (AMCOS)	1%	0.07	
Annual Artists Distribution	6%	0.44	June
Annual Writers Distribution (principally writers in periodicals, collected works)	7%	0.51	
Total	100%	7.35	

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 distributions (scheduled for June 2024).

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).

Ddata sources, selection and weighting for publications pool

Below is the data for the amount remaining after the amounts for writers and artists are set aside.

Data source/s	Criteria for data selection	Weighting
Titles in our Works database, and from other sources, 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 sources so that each receives around \$100 per title 	Equal weighting for each unique title in the dataset
Media monitoring (MMO) data: digital press clippings	Titles (mastheads) used by government customers in 2024	Weighting among mastheads based on best available data
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 in 2024 (including online newspapers)	Same as a book

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](#).