

**Screen Australia**  
[SOI@screenaustralia.gov.au](mailto:SOI@screenaustralia.gov.au)

30 September 2008

To whom it may concern

### Draft Statement of Intent 2008/09

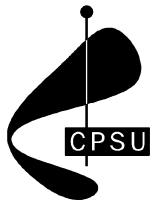
The CPSU welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Screen Australia Draft Statement of Intent.

Our members at Screen Australia have raised a number of concerns with us and these are detailed below.

First, a number of CPSU members are concerned about the limitation on staff accessing Screen Australia funding. I understand that, at present, staff can only access funding in exceptional circumstances as approved by the CEO. However one of the reasons staff seek employment at Screen Australia is an abiding interest in the work undertaken. Many staff are involved in arts and cultural projects and should not be restricted from applying for funding, particularly where they are not involved in approving funding applications. The funding approval process must be transparent enough to allow staff to apply for funding but ensure that no conflicts of interest arise.

Second, Screen Australia proposes to reward achievement. Film is a collaborative medium. As such, any success is a consequence of that collaboration. Of all the feature films produced between 2003 and 2007, 63 per cent had two or more producers. Members who would administer such a rewards program are concerned about how a project with multiple producers would be rewarded, whether each producer would be rewarded, and how a monetary or non-monetary reward would be split. In addition, rewarding the producer does not acknowledge that the success may lie largely in the script, or the direction, or the performances.

Third, Screen Australia proposes that there be more industry and external outsourcing activities. How will the selection process be fair and transparent and how does Screen Australia propose to ensure that there is an even mix of different sized companies so that the out-sourcing is not dominated by only the largest?



Finally, the CPSU supports real initiatives, developed collectively with employees and their union to improve efficiency. However, CPSU members raised some concern that one way Screen Australia may 'avoid wasteful duplication' will be to cease to take responsibility for some forms of assistance and leave it to the State agencies. For example, if SA decides to leave the development of relatively new screenwriters to the State agencies, this creates a bigger demand on their resources which, in turn, will lead to less overall funding of new scriptwriters. It is inevitable that there'll be duplication in terms of programs, but it doesn't necessarily follow that this is wasteful.

We trust that these concerns will be taken into account in the review of the Draft Statement of Intent. Should you require clarification of any of the issues raised above, please contact CPSU Organiser Emma Groube on 02 8204 6912.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadine Flood', written in a cursive style.

Nadine Flood  
Deputy Secretary CPSU