



Australian Government

SCREEN
AUSTRALIA

DOCUMENTARY FUNDING 2009/10

Screen Australia's funding for all facets of documentary production and development will be approximately \$16.5 million in the year 2009/10. \$16.4 million will be allocated as follows, (the remaining \$100, 000 includes small amounts for digital learning and a contingency.)

Documentary Development (Single Project) \$700,000

- Applications can be received at any time.
- Turnaround time for application decisions is approximately eight weeks.
- Applications for time-critical shooting are fast-tracked to the first available meeting.
- Applications are assessed by a panel comprised of the Investment/Development Managers and the Head of Production Investment.

Domestic Documentary \$3.6 million

Closing date	Decision	Split
N/a	July 2009	\$900,000
4 Sep 09	October 2009	\$900,000
16 Oct 09	December 2009	\$900,000
TBA	March/April 2010	\$900,000

In the domestic door there will be a notional allocation of 40% to the ABC, 40% to SBS and 20% to other broadcasters, both free-to-air and subscription channels.

International Documentary \$3.6 million

Closing date	Decision	Split
N/a	July 2009	\$900,000
4 Sep 09	October 2009	\$900,000
16 Oct 09	December 2009	\$900,000
TBA	March/April 2010	\$900,000

Special Documentary Fund (SDF) \$800,000

Closing date	Decision
2 Oct 09	December

The SDF is an opportunity for projects that fall outside the potential requirements of broadcaster commissioning and Screen Australia market requirements. Applications are considered by the Investment Development Managers, the Head of Production Investment and an external industry assessor.

jtv docs \$200,000

A joint initiative of ABC TV and Screen Australia that seeks fresh approaches to broadcast documentaries that explore contemporary issues, ideas and culture through the eyes of generations X, Y and Z. Closing date to be announced for 2010.

National Documentary Program (NDP)**\$5 million**

Under this program Screen Australia aims to provide a comprehensive and strategic slate of projects across a period of time, involving a diversity of practitioners, styles, formats and budgets.

The NDP has a close association with the Screen Australia Library and stock footage in Australia. The NDP and Making History projects are the main supplier of new footage and stills to the Library.

There will be a notional budget split of 40 per cent to the ABC, 40 per cent to SBS, and 20 per cent to other broadcasters, both free-to-air and subscription channels as well as digital media.

The projects will be framed broadly around four content areas:

- art and culture
- contemporary and social issues (including social history)
- science and the environment
- national history and identity.

Other points worth noting when applying to the NDP are:

- Applications can be submitted at any time through the online submission form.
- The value of the Producer Offset, plus the Screen Australia investment, cannot exceed 75 per cent of the budget of the film.
- Projects are assessed internally by the Head of Production Investment and the Investment Development Managers.
- Projects are assessed against the four content areas to ensure a diversity of projects and content and relevance to the NDP collection.
- Screen Australia requires an extensive list of delivery items accompanied by a non-exclusive right to retain the production in the NDP collection in order to:
 - make up to 10 minutes of the production and 40 stills available to other documentary makers for the purpose of documentary production through the Zero Fee Licence Initiative;
 - stock footage sales; and
 - non-commercial exploitation of the production for educational and learning purposes.

History Initiative**\$2.5 million**

This is a three-year initiative that is currently in its second year. Making History aims to produce a series of epic stories, which feature significant people and events that made a lasting impression on the Australian character and nation.

Assessment is by way of discussions between the producer, the ABC and Screen Australia as to the appropriate projects to be funded under this initiative. Projects produced under this program are subject to NDP conditions.

Screen Australia guidelines for documentary production financing are available at:
www.screenaustralia.gov.au/documentary