

What is needed for an "Australian film industry" is transparency, and a level playing field. Part of this article and intention is about to varying degrees that some "applicants get, compared to another applicant".

In line with investment in development and production, Screen Australia should have a fixed budgetary amount for all of its programs and all projects receive the same amount.

Just for example, locally produced television documentary \$250,000. Locally produced feature film \$2 million. International productions and additional 25%. Then producers and production companies would know exactly where they stand in relation to raising finances and budgets for a given project.

It would cut down on submissions, paperwork, interviews, and the variance of one production getting \$50,000 and another production getting \$350,000? While aiding the notion of a sustainable industry as producers and production companies would be able to tailor their production plan to the required and fixed finances.

Financial assistance that is set and are a given, and not at the vagaries of a individual "investment manager/s" bringing personal preferences; and what is often raised in this multimillion dollar taxpayer funded "industry" nepotism.

If a producer-production manager requires more funds they have a listed benchmark to then go to various international broadcasters and private investors to raise additional funds above the prescribed set amounts for all qualifying productions.

Recently there was articles on the success of the "enterprise program". It is very easy for a production company to be "profitable", when receiving hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars of production funding on a quasi-regular basis.

Compared to producers and production companies investing vast amount of resources into applications only to have the "fat trimmed" or the overall budget reduced without adhering to the very subjective and it seems to be highly flexible guidelines?

Give the industry fixed amounts. The same for broadcast licensing fees and then producers will be able to make their own financing decisions, by tailoring their programs, budgets and expectations to the fixed SA subsidised amounts. With the option to borrow and or raise additional funds if an when required for a project and develop some entrepreneurial spirit.

We need certainty and the removal of red tape and bureaucratic influences to have any possibility of creating an industry. This will only be achievable if there is transparency and equality for all budgets and projects within a given genre or program category.

Then more experienced producers will have the ability to raise more overseas funds for more ambitious projects and all producers and production companies will work within a known given budget to produce programs rather than producing speculative paperwork.

Kind regards

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