

Thursday, January 23, 2014

**SUBMISSION TO:
SCREEN AUSTRALIA ENTERPRISE FUNDING: PROGRAM REVIEW AND
FUTURE OPTIONS**

Open Channel, a member of the national Screen Network acknowledges the operational and program support it receives from Screen Australia and Film Victoria to support the emerging screen sector in Victoria.

Below is our response to the call for submissions and the program review and future options of the Enterprise program, proposing that increased partnership between the Enterprise programs and Open Channel - and other Screen Network organisations - can support capacity building in the sector.

1. Open Channel supports Screen Australia's commitment to, and investment in the development of viable screen businesses in Australia through the slate-funding approach of the **Enterprise Scheme, Feature Enterprise** and **Enterprise Asia** programs.
2. Enterprise programs are significant industry-building initiatives which take a much needed 'long-term view' that is needed to build a sustainable screen industry by recognising the role of the Creative Producer, and providing important balance to other single-project based initiatives by Government.

Attachments and Internships Support

3. Open Channel's role is to support the development of early career screen practitioners in Victoria through both training and production initiatives. Our activities have directly benefited from the investment of the Enterprise programs including:
 - a) launching a paid Internship program (supported through Film Victoria) within Enterprise company Matchbox Pictures in 2012. The participant who received the Internship has remained employed in the industry since being given this opportunity.
 - b) facilitating observational attachments in industry for other Open Channel graduates and members, such as with Enterprise company Playmaker Media's *House Husbands*.
4. Open Channel proposes future Enterprise Program engagement with the Screen Network (Australia) to formally support internship/placement referrals, as a centralised service to find and recommend to Enterprise companies the best graduates from across the education and training sector.

Script Development Partnership

5. Open Channel runs a yearlong script and project accredited development course, known as **SCRIPTSHOP**, a **nationally recognised course** that trains participants in development skills. The course has to date developed over 40 film and television projects (since 2012) by new writers and creatives. Successes of the course include a completed feature and a project picked up under option by Enterprise company Hoodlum Entertainment.
6. There is scope for current and future Enterprise companies under the proposed YOUNG EENTERPRISE and (market) GAP ENTERPRISE programs to partner with the **SCRIPTSHOP** program, and programs like it in other States/Territories.

These programs can provide a number of benefits to the Enterprise companies:

- a) value adding to existing Screen Australia funding by leveraging additional training funds accessible through accredited course offerings
- b) develop early-stage projects up to a stage where the company can evaluate whether to add them to slate, allowing company overheads and limited resources to be targeted at core slate projects, and
- c) meet professional development targets for emerging practitioners employed by the company, on a day-release basis to attend training

In addition to Enterprise companies, there is scope for the Enterprise programs to facilitate Sole Trader production companies (i.e. writers, producers or directors) to address business strategic goals by funded participation in third party development courses such as **SCRITPSHOP**.



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