



South Australian **Film Corporation**

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Chris Oliver
Senior Manager
State and Industry Partnerships
Screen Australia
Level 4, 150 William St
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

Dear Chris,

Re. Enterprise Funding Program Review and Future Options.

The South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) would like to congratulate Screen Australia on the Enterprise Program. The impact of Enterprise funding and the flow on of broader industry benefits has changed the production landscape significantly- the best example perhaps being Matchbox whose critical and commercial success has been meteoric. The SAFC would also like to commend Screen Australia on opening up a process of review and actively seeking input to this important process of reflection and renewal.

For the SAFC the most telling statistic to emerge from the review is that no South Australian (SA) companies received Enterprise funding and this is something that we would obviously like to address. To this end we would like to encourage a deeper understanding of the SA screen industry and a stronger engagement by the SA industry with Screen Australia.

In some ways the SA industry isn't comparable to any other state. We have very few companies involved in the type of activity commonly associated with recipients of Enterprise funding, such as ongoing factual entertainment or drama television slates or distribution or a combination of these. As you will be aware, South Australia has generated (and continues to generate) many sustainable production companies of note which are producing quality work.

The recent critical success of a number of SA companies such as *Closer Productions* (Sophie Hyde, Bryan Mason, Matt Bate and Rebecca Summerton), *Triptych Pictures* (Kristian Moliere, Jennifer Jones and Julie Byrne), *Hedone Productions* (Kate Croser and Sandy Cameron), and *Projector Films* (David Ngo and Nick Matthews) has been well documented but gives clear evidence of the enviable amount of talent in South Australia (especially given our population size). There are also notable anomalies such as *Dinosaur* (Dario Russo) which is producing the second series of *Danger 5* for SBS, *Vicious Productions* (Luke Jurevicius) which has a healthy slate of animated content including *Figaro Pho*, and the talented young team at *Epic Films* who are developing *Wastelander Panda* in conjunction with *Madman*.

However, South Australian success is not just limited to critical acclaim; we also produce companies which are commercially driven and successful - by way of example *The People's Republic of Animation* has recently been acquired by Halfbrick while managing to maintain its principal office in South Australia, and Mario Andreacchio's *AMPCo Films* significant Sino-Australian partnerships make it a world leader in this important and rapidly emerging market.

We feel strongly that these (and other) South Australian companies, which may not necessarily be comparable with East and West coast production company models, but which nevertheless run sustainable businesses and produce work of critical and commercial value, deserve federal support and recognition. To this end, we would encourage any moves to structure Enterprise programs which take into account multiplicity between the states and embraces this diversity when making funding assessments of companies across borders.

We acknowledge that this is far from a one-way street and recognise the crucial need for more regular contact between Screen Australia and the SA industry. It almost goes without saying that the key to any successful partnership is trust, which can only be built up over time through positive dealings. We believe that to foster successful partnerships between Screen Australia and SA companies a deeper level of engagement is required, something that goes further than intermittent contact at conferences, festivals and road shows.

We are confident that having a regular presence in South Australia would contribute to a greater understanding by Screen Australia of the SA production landscape and ultimately produce an increase in both the number of applicants, the quality of applications and number of recipients of Enterprise funds. The SAFC is open to partnering with Screen Australia to support this by offering to facilitate meetings and provide office space, internet access and a computer at the Adelaide Studios to visiting representatives from Screen Australia.

The SAFC would like to reiterate its support for Screen Australia's Enterprise fund, and working together with the support of Screen Australia, we are confident that South Australia can continue to offer a great deal to the national production landscape by providing exciting and innovative work of all genres.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Viron Papadopoulos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'V' and 'P'.

Viron Papadopoulos
Acting CEO
South Australian Film Corporation.