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ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Television

Ms Fiona Cameron
Chief Operating Officer
Screen Australia
Lvl 4, 150 William Street
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001
Tel. +61 2 8333 1500
abc.net.au

Dear Fiona

I am writing regarding Screen Australia's draft *Convergent Television and All Media Funding Guidelines* issued on 10 March 2011.

The ABC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft guidelines and appreciates the level of consultation with industry undertaken by Screen Australia in the development of the Guidelines. The ABC also appreciates Screen Australia's willingness to engage with and take on board suggestions and comments from industry.

As previously discussed the ABC is broadly supportive of the new Guidelines. In particular the ABC supports the changes introduced to the documentary program since the original Blueprint was issued. A move to envelope based funding for domestic documentary funding will, in our view, provide broadcasters and producers with the certainty required to plan production schedules.

As you are also aware the ABC believes it is unfortunate that Screen Australia has not chosen to renew the Making History Initiative with the ABC. While we disagree on this point the ABC nonetheless understands the reasons Screen Australia has given for this decision.

With regard to the Draft Guidelines the ABC's only concerns relates to the International Documentary Fund. The ABC believes there would be merit in including explicit reference within the International Documentary selection criteria to the value and significance of productions to Australian audiences. This would ensure that documentaries out of the international fund remain relevant and valuable domestically.

Once again thank you for the time and effort Screen Australia has devoted to consulting on these Guidelines. The ABC looks forward to continuing to work with Screen Australia in developing high quality and significant Australian screen content.

Yours sincerely

Kim Dalton
Director of Television