



Australian Government



PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

Screen Story Development Fund

Date: 3 May 2018

The way screen stories are developed, financed, distributed and, most importantly, consumed by audiences is evolving at a rapid rate. In particular, delivery platforms such as online, TV and cinema are converging which makes definitions of screen content according to an individual platform less relevant.

Through the Screen Story Development Fund, Screen Australia will support screen content creators to develop compelling drama stories,

- for any platform - series or one-off,
- from and with a diversity of creative voices from around Australia,
- to capitalise on current and emerging digital platforms and audience opportunities, and
- with budgets that make sense in terms of the experience of the team and audience reach.

Note: The word 'drama' refers to scripted fiction content of any genre (comedy, action, thriller, etc)

Applications will be open all year round through the application portal from July 1, 2018.

Contact us

Please contact the Program Operations team on 1800 507 901 or development@screenaustralia.gov.au to discuss your proposal before submitting your application.

Generate

WHY

Generate has three primary AIMS:

- **Talent:** to identify and support new and emerging talent and their career progression, as well as create opportunities for experienced practitioners to take creative risks
- **Story & Audience:** to encourage bold and distinctive lower budget drama stories for any platform that can demonstrate a clear pathway to audience
- **Culture & Diversity:** to ensure the storytellers and stories being told reflect gender equity as well as the diversity of people and experiences from around Australia, all of which are important culturally, creatively and economically.

WHO

Applications will be open to anyone who:

- is a new, emerging or experienced screen content creator who demonstrates an ability and passion for storytelling combined with a distinctive and authentic creative voice,
- is an Australian individual or team, unless it is intended to be a co-production,
- is the Australian rights holder whether they are the writer, director or producer and meets our [Terms of Trade](#), and
- can develop, finance and produce the project for the intended platform and audience

WHAT

What you can apply for:

- lower budget be it series or one-off long form drama projects for any platform.
- The development budget can include whatever the project and team need including, but not limited to, a treatment, scriptment, draft script, series bible, research, time critical filming, writers rooms, actors workshops and/or the production of a Proof of Concept (POC): short film, pilot episode, short shareable online content.
- There is no cap on funding but the application must be reasonable and strategic with regards to the project, the amount of funding applied for, the proposed phase of development and any additional sources of development financing.

See [What Makes a Compelling Application?](#) for more information.

HOW

Applications will be open all year round with a two stage process for assessment:

- Stage 1:
 - short materials for your story and a pitch to camera
 - normally 2 week turnaround plus 2 weeks to submit Stage 2 if invited
- Stage 2:
 - Invitation only
 - longer story materials/documents
 - approximately 4 week turnaround

See the [Process](#) document for more information.

Premium

WHY

Premium has four primary AIMS:

- **Ambition & Scale:** to identify and support quality, higher budget drama projects of ambition and scale for any platform
- **Success:** to support successful screen content makers
- **Viability & Market:** to generate viable projects and teams that will attract marketplace finance and be intended for significant audience reach
- **Culture & Diversity:** to ensure the storytellers and stories being told reflect gender equity as well as the diversity of people and experiences from around Australia, all of which are important culturally, creatively and economically

WHO

Applications will be open to anyone who:

- is an Australian individual or team, unless it is intended to be a co-production,
- has a significant track record on projects that have commercial success and/or critical acclaim,
- is the Australian rights holder whether they are the writer, director or producer and meets our [Terms of Trade](#), and
- has the demonstrated know-how to develop the project, raise finance and execute the vision in production for the intended platform and audience.

WHAT

What you can apply for:

- higher budget series or one-off long form drama projects of ambition and scale for any platform.
- The development budget can include whatever the project and team need including, but not limited to, a treatment, scriptment, draft script, bible, research, writers rooms, and/or the production of a Proof of Concept (POC).
- There is no cap on funding but the application must be reasonable and strategic with regards to the project, the amount of funding applied for, the proposed phase of development and any additional sources of development financing.

See [What Makes a Compelling Application?](#) for more information.

HOW

Applications will be open all year round with a 2 stage process for assessment:

- Stage 1:
 - short materials and a pitch to camera
 - normally 2 week turnaround plus 2 weeks to submit Stage 2 if invited
- Stage 2:
 - Invitation only
 - longer story document and supporting material
 - approximately 4 week turnaround

See the [Process](#) document for more information.