



## Screen Australia, ABC and NITV announce Proper Loved Up Short Film Initiative

**Thursday 12 December 2024:** Screen Australia's First Nations Department, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and National Indigenous Television (NITV) are calling for applications from mid-career First Nations producers to apply with an emerging writer and director team for Proper Loved Up, a new romantic comedy short film initiative.

In partnership with Screenwest, Screen Territory, Screen Queensland, Screen Tasmania, VicScreen, the South Australian Film Corporation, Screen NSW and Screen Canberra, this initiative will support up to eight First Nations teams, helping them bring fresh, exciting Indigenous stories to the screen. It will also focus on building producers' business skills to develop projects for both local and global markets.

Head of First Nations at Screen Australia, **Angela Bates** said, "We have a proud history of supporting Indigenous creatives to tell powerful and authentic stories that inspire and travel the world. This program expands on the legacy of my predecessors and their work in creating the Indigenous Producers program. It is designed to empower First Nations producers by providing them with a practical and holistic experience of producing a short film, in addition to offering individual seed funding to expand their project slate for local and international markets. It's bold and ambitious, and we are thrilled to partner with the ABC, NITV and the state and territory agencies to bring this to life."

"We need to nurture and develop more First Nations producers. This is vitally important for cultural safety and the creation of Intellectual Property in the evolving screen landscape. Our writers and directors are in high demand with Indigenous content proving not just its cultural value but commercial value. Developing our talent pool of experienced producers will enhance our storytelling and broaden the reach of our creative voices."

"We've had genre themed initiatives previously like [Shock Treatment](#), which have been very successful, so I'm excited to see what stories our mob will tell in the rom com genre space."

To be eligible, stories must be conceived by an Indigenous creative with the key roles of writer, director and producer held by Indigenous Australians. No experience in screenwriting is required, but applicants must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in this field. Stories that include the use of First Nations languages are encouraged.

ABC Head of Indigenous, **Kelrick Martin** said, "ABC Indigenous is a proud participant of Proper Loved Up, having partnered with Screen Australia's First Nations department to support career pathways and creative opportunities for Indigenous screen practitioners for many years. It's a commitment that is fundamental to the work we do every day. We love that this initiative is focussed on the joyous, socially awkward fun of the rom-com genre, and can't wait to see what these new producers and creative voices will deliver!"

Head of Indigenous Commissioning and Production at NITV, **Dena Curtis** said, "NITV is proud to support the Proper Loved Up initiative, a new look short film program that provides a holistic approach to developing Indigenous producers, writers, and directors. It is vital that we help foster talent within the industry and we are excited to continue to support emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives. We can't wait to showcase short romantic comedy dramas that celebrate stories about black joy and black love."

More details about eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#).





*Proper Loved Up* will be delivered in two stages:

## STAGE ONE:

- Up to \$5,000 in development funding for each project.
- Intensive training program with three in-person workshops and four online masterclasses.
- Following completion of the workshops, successful applicants will deliver a third draft script and be invited to apply for up to \$80,000 in production funding to produce and deliver their short film. The film will have a 12-month festival holdback before broadcast on the commissioning platforms.
- A First Nations Series Producer supported by NITV and ABC will work with producers throughout development and production.

## STAGE TWO:

- Focuses on slate development for local and international markets.
- After completing the third workshop, creatives can apply for up to \$15,000 in seed funding (from Screen Australia and relevant State Agencies) to develop a slate of projects.
- Includes opportunities for [First Nations Travel Grants](#) to take their slate to a local or international market such as Cannes Film Festival or Screen Forever.

## INFORMATION WEBINAR

Applicants are encouraged to attend the webinar hosted by Head of First Nations Angela Bates. The session will provide an overview of the initiative and the application process with insights from Head of Scripted at Blackfella Films Penny Smallacombe and acclaimed writer/director Dylan River. A short Q&A will follow.

- Date: Wednesday 18 December
- Time: 11am-12pm AEDT
- Register: Click [here](#)
- Accessibility: An Auslan interpreter will be made available for the webinar. If you would like to discuss this or other accessibility requirements, please contact [FirstNations@screenaustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNations@screenaustralia.gov.au) or call 1800 507 901.
- A recording of this webinar will be made available on the Screen Australia website soon after.

**Applications close 5pm AEDT Friday 14 February 2025.**

*We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.*

