



SCREEN DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

Response to

SCREEN AUSTRALIA

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Monday 10th November 2008

SDA OVERVIEW RESPONSE to DRAFT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

SDA notes Screen Australia's clarification of its overall policy shift towards dealing primarily with the significantly credentialed sector of the industry, and applauds in general terms the programs to be provided for that end of the industry. However we note it omits, inexplicably in this context of development and production, comment on or provision for the early-career to mid career, independent sector of the industry.

SDA acknowledges that the final phase of policy development, as advised in public meetings around the country but not mentioned in documents to date, appears to have been reserved for the matters pertaining to this sector. However this itself is concerning, considering the indisputable fact that the early- to mid-career sector is integral to the whole of development and production, particularly to the task of industry development. In this context it is also very concerning that the principal national system for developing this sector of the industry, Screen Development Australia (SDA), a joint federal and state initiative, has also been omitted from discussions and policy to date.

SDA also questions the developmental logic of removing short film and other early- to mid-career developmental production from the national slate, and the validity of the research on which this decision was based.

SDA welcomes the fact that this matter is about to be discussed, given the Ministers specific call in his SOE for support for first-time filmmakers, which clearly also implies early- to mid-career, independent filmmakers, understanding as he does the critical need for the industry to be continually replenished with new talent. SDA trusts the coming discussions will be meaningful, and will resolve these omissions.



www.wideangle.org.au



www.mrc.org.au



www.metroscreen.org.au



www.openchannel.org.au



www.fti.asn.au



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RECOMMENDATIONS

As the representative body of the early to mid-career independent sector, the site of the future major players of the Australian screen industry, SDA recommends the following:

1.

The SDA network be recognized as a critical component of the new industry development landscape, the bridge between the education and training sectors, and the industry itself, and integrated into SA policy as such.

2.

The SDA network continue to be funded by SA to deliver its development services to the industry and to federal government, and for that funding to be enhanced in keeping with increasing costs and the need for each SDA centre to step its clients up into the HD, IPTV and multiple-platform environments.

3.

The SDA network be selected and funded to provide intensive industrial-style development & production programs, and production support programs such as internships and mentorships, to the independent, early- to mid-career sector in short films, documentaries, ultra-low budget features and multiple-platform product.

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