

## **Comment on Screen Australia draft program guidelines from The St Kilda Film Festival**

The St Kilda Film Festival wishes to voice its concerns around the lack of funding available through the Screen Australia Program Guidelines for short films other than animation or digital media projects.

Screening 100 Australian short films each year the Festival has had the privilege of seeing many of Australia's talented filmmakers develop from experience they have gained in producing short films - including not only craft development but also skills in sourcing funding and investment, marketing, liaising with the industry and much more. Furthermore, short film gives more established filmmaker the creative freedom to experiment with new forms, trends and ideas without the restrictions and expectations of feature filmmaking.

The guidelines show that short animation projects continue to be eligible for funding "to assist in the professional development of talented animation directors at an early stage of their career". These same principles apply to short film production across the board, and we strongly feel that the development of future filmmakers is worth valuing and fostering, to assist filmmakers in gaining the experience that will enable them to later engage with the film industry in other projects and indeed be eligible for these same guidelines in future projects.

Further to the development aspect of short films, the success of Australian short film as a form in itself should be recognised and invested in as a key contributor to outstanding Australian content, both domestically and internationally, as many high profile international festivals will attest to.

The St Kilda Film Festival congratulates Screen Australia on the generally positive direction of these guidelines and looks forward to working together in the future. We would also like to voice our specific support for the workshop and professional development opportunities outlined and to express our interest in partnering any of these programs where relevant or appropriate.

Thank you,  
The St Kilda Film Festival