

Gender Matters recipients announced

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Sydney

Firstly, I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and pay my respects to the Elders both past and present.

Screen Australis is thrilled to welcome you here today, to announce the successful recipients of our Gender Matters *Brilliant Stories* and *Brilliant Careers* programs, worth \$3million, selected from a record-breaking 452 applicants. The most number of applicants for a program in Screen Australia's history.

When we first announced our \$5 million 5-point plan back in December, we did so with the intention to see meaningful change that will create new opportunities for women in this industry.

As the leading government agency for film, television and online, there is a responsibility to ensure that Australian stories are being told and celebrated on screen – and that means analysing the stats to see where the gaps are and identify what we can do better.

We need do everything we can to encourage and support the outstanding female talent in this country. *Gender Matters* is deliberately designed to tackle the disadvantage at all angles - we want to flood the pipelines and create new opportunities for women both emerging, and established.

Courage, imagination and vision are needed in driving the change to address gender imbalance in the Australian film industry, and we at Screen Australia are up to the challenge.

Now, I know you're all not here to listen to a man talk about gender inequality, so without further ado, let's take a look at the 45 bold, original and compelling successful story concepts (18 features, 11 online and 16 television) and 13 successful proposals from screen businesses that we are here to celebrate.