

The eligibility criteria for documentary in the draft guidelines currently states that individual applicants (or the producer or director of a team) require at least three broadcast documentary credits (half hour or longer).

Here in the ACT (and I'm sure in many other Australian locations) we have many very experienced professional documentary producers and directors that have gained their experience through avenues such as the government corporate route, or have online, or direct to DVD credits; but do not specifically have three 'broadcast credits'.

I appreciate these criteria have been formulated to demonstrate that candidates possess professionalism and have a track record. But perhaps there could be more flexibility in what constitutes a 'track record'? Many practitioners that have not had the benefit of working in Australia's larger cities find accessing roles that will gain them broadcast credits very difficult, yet they still have a substantial body of work they can demonstrate.

We note Screen Australia state they will encourage innovation, the incorporation of digital media, and the use of cross media platforms. If they are serious about this then surely, as we move into a world of ever expanding delivery options, it is taking a somewhat narrow view to insist on television broadcast credits as proof of competence.

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