



First Nations International Factual Initiative 2026

First Nations Factual Co-production Development Fund: Guidelines

Issued 20 May 2026

Screen Australia reserves the right to change its program guidelines. Please ensure you check the website for the latest version. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade, Information for Applicants](#) and [Information for Recipients](#) on the agency's website.

Accessibility

If you have accessibility requirements related to submitting an application, please contact our Program Operations team via email at firstnations@screenaustralia.gov.au or via phone 1800 507 901 so we can assist.

Table of Contents

1. Funding Program.....	3
1.1. Overview.....	3
1.2. Available support.....	3
2. Eligibility.....	4
2.1. Applicant eligibility.....	4
2.1.1. Eligible applicants.....	4
2.1.2. Ineligible applicants.....	5
3. Application Process.....	5
3.1. How to apply.....	5
3.2. Application form.....	5
3.3. Required materials.....	5
4. Assessment.....	5
4.1. Assessment process.....	6
4.2. Assessment criteria.....	6
4.3. Assessment priorities.....	6
4.4. Decision and notification.....	6
5. Successful Applicants.....	7
5.1. Contracting.....	7
5.2. Terms of support.....	7
6. Contact.....	7
7. Privacy.....	8

1. Funding Program

1.1. Overview

Screen Australia's First Nations Department, in partnership with Screen Canberra, Screen QLD, Screen Tasmania, Screenwest, Screen Territory, Screen NSW, South Australian Film Corporation and VicScreen, (the **Agencies**) are calling on First Nations production companies to submit factual projects with international co-production possibilities for consideration into the newly created First Nations Factual Co-production Development fund.

First Nations people across the globe share experiences and cultural values that resonate across time and place, and factual content offers a rich frame to explore these similar but diverse perspectives on First Nations shared perspectives. This fund aims to capture this potential by stimulating well-crafted, bespoke stories that capitalise on treaty arrangements in a tightening fiscal environment.

More information about Australia's Official Co-production Program can be found [here](#) and details about the countries that Australia currently has a Treaty or MOU with can be found [here](#).

1.2. Available support

Up to five First Nations companies will be supported at \$30,000 each, comprised of funding from the Agencies.

Funding will be comprised of:

- \$20,000 from Screen Australia's First Nations Department (in the form of a development grant agreement for the preparation of treatments, series outlines and pitch decks for a minimum of two factual projects);
- \$10,000 from the relevant State Agency (in the form of a travel grant to cover travel costs to the Toronto International Film Festival 2026 to pitch the developed projects at the market and identify international co-production partners. Please note that this is a funding cap on travel costs of \$10,000 per application, regardless of how many delegates plan to travel).

Applicants are encouraged to view and/or attend 3 x online webinars facilitated by Screen Australia on the subject of international co-productions and other matters. These webinars are*:

- ['Official Co-production Ask Me Anything \(AMA\)'](#)- 21 April 2026 (On Demand recording)
- **'Broadcasters Forum'** – [Date tbc]
- **'First Nations Department Ask Me Anything (AMA)'** – [Date tbc]

*(please note dates & times are subject to change at Screen Australia's discretion).

Attendance at these webinars is not mandatory and will not form part of your application and subsequent assessment, however it is highly recommended applicants attend.

2. Eligibility

Applicants and projects must meet the Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#), any general eligibility or other requirements listed on the agency's website (see [Information for Applicants](#) and [Information for Recipients](#)), as well as the specific eligibility criteria set out in these guidelines.

2.1. Applicant eligibility

2.1.1. Eligible applicants

This program is only open to First Nations owned and operated production companies who will apply with concepts developed and to be led by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander practitioners.

To be eligible, an applicant company must:

- be an incorporated company carrying on business in Australia, with its central management and control in Australia;
- be at least 51% owned by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons;
- have at least have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- be registered for the purposes of GST if required by law.

Eligibility criteria for the proposed delegate/s at the event:

- Be a Producer and/or Director who:
 - identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
 - is at a mid-to-established stage of their career (i.e. not at an emerging stage);
 - has at-least two documentary screen credits that have been publicly released *or* a minimum 60 minutes of factual content that has been broadcast; and
 - are able to attend the TIFF: The Market to pitch projects to potential co-production partners (10-20 September 2026).

Criteria for eligible credits:

- screened on broadcast television or streamed on a subscription-based platform, or
- streamed online on any reportable platform, with evidence of audiences/views in excess of 1 million or other evidence of trending on YouTube at time of release; and
- must be documentary/factual.

2.1.2. Ineligible applicants

Applicants are **not** eligible for this program if they are:

- linked by common management, ownership or control with any company incorporated in the relevant co-production partner country/ies (such as a parent company).

Preference will be given to applicants that do not have a parent company with offices outside of Australia.

3. Application Process

3.1. How to apply

Applications can be made via the [application portal](#). Applications close **5pm AEST Thursday 4 June 2026**.

3.2. Application form

Through the application form, you must:

- provide all the information requested and answer the application questions;
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria; and
- include all required supporting materials.

3.3. Required materials

Applicants must upload the following materials with their application form:

- CV, including credits applicable to the required credit criteria and details of any commercial, significant viewership and/or major festival or awards success.
- Two short-written treatment of the story ideas; no more than 1 typed page per idea.
- Proposal, including any intended professional development objectives or other goals for the trip (max 2 pages).

4. Assessment

4.1. Assessment process

Once we receive your application, staff from Screen Australia will review your application to ensure it is (i) complete; and (ii) meets all eligibility requirements. If required, you will be contacted with any further questions or requests for additional information.

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed by Executives from Screen Australia and the relevant State Agency, and [external industry specialists](#) as required.

4.2. Assessment criteria

Screen Australia will take the following equally weighted criteria into account when considering applications for the program:

- **Proposal:** The strength of the strategy outlined in the proposal.
- **Co-production proposal:** The stage of development, suitability and strength of the co-production(s) being put forward for this event (and the creative talent attached to them).
- **Experience:** The experience and knowledge of the applicant/team in the factual space.
- **Concept:** Strength and distinctiveness of idea.

4.3. Assessment priorities

Priority will be given to applicants that:

- have executed long form scripted or documentary series and/or features of reasonable budget;
- can demonstrate ability to leverage significant recent success for their completed work; and/or
- have upcoming slates with multiple projects at various stages of development and some with evidence of momentum towards production;

4.4. Decision and notification

All applicants will be advised of the outcome no later than 30 June 2026.

Where an application is unsuccessful, the Agencies will advise the applicant of the decision in writing.

The Agencies recognise the significant work that goes into the preparation and submission of applications. Due to the anticipated high volume of applicants, we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

5. Successful Applicants

5.1. Contracting

Screen Australia and/or the relevant State Agency will send an approval via email to successful applicants with information about contracting.

5.2. Terms of support

If your application is successful, the following key terms and conditions will apply:

- Screen Australia and the relevant State Agency funding is provided as a grant. See Screen Australia's and your relevant State Agency Terms of Trade for more detail;
- Each successful applicant team will need to enter into two agreements: **(i) Development Grant Agreement (DGA) (Screen Australia); (ii) Travel Grant Agreement (State Agency).**
- This program is a standalone development fund, and if successful in attaining development funding under this program it does not guarantee future production funding from either Screen Australia or the relevant State Agency.
- Delivery materials must be delivered to Screen Australia and the relevant State Agency at the end of the development cycle (for each of the two projects) which will be outlined in the DGA and the Travel Grant Agreement;
- Each successful applicant and listed team members must be available to attend in person for the full duration of TIFF 2026 Market;
- Where there is First Nations community participation or content involved in a project, written confirmation of the involvement of both the subject/s and the community is essential once the application has been approved for selection and will be required prior to issuing the DGA; and
- Screen Australia and the relevant State Agency will be granted the non-exclusive right to promote and communicate each of the five developed factual projects to potential international co-production partners, including by liaising with the Indigenous Screen Office (Canada) to facilitate matched meetings with production companies at TIFF 2026;

6. Contact

If you are unsure about your eligibility for this initiative or have questions about the application form, please email us at firstnations@screenaustralia.gov.au call Program Operations on 1800 507 901. Please note that we are not able to provide creative advice or suggestions to strengthen your application.

7. Privacy

Screen Australia collects personal information from individuals in different ways, including via funding applications, acquittal reports, or supporting material supplied with forms. Screen Australia will handle any personal information provided in connection with a funding application in accordance with its [Privacy Notice](#) relating to funding applications and its [Privacy Policy](#).