



Documentary & Television Development Fund Guidelines

Program overview

Documentary and Television Development Investment funding is designed to support Western Australian companies and individuals by investing in the development of factual programming and scripted television series.

Funding available

There are a minimum of two rounds per financial year. Successful applicants may be offered up to a maximum of \$25,000 per application. The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Please note:

- There is a Production Company limit per financial year of \$50,000 across all project development funds (except Matched Development): Feature Film Development, Emergency Development and Documentary and Television Development.
- Funding will not be awarded retrospectively, for example, fees for drafts written prior to submitting an application are not eligible.
- The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Eligibility

An application must first meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be competitively assessed for funding through this program.

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian resident or company. (Non-Western Australian productions will only be considered where the Production Company brings demonstrated strong economic and/or ongoing creative opportunities to the State.)
3. Hold the underlying rights at the time of application. Screenwest's Development Investment funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
4. Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants who have an outstanding acquittal report and/or deliverable(s) or have not fulfilled their contractual obligations relating to prior Screenwest funding are not eligible to apply unless an alternative arrangement is agreed with Screenwest prior to application. Applicants should contact Screenwest directly for advice on their specific situation.

PO Box 3275, East Perth, Western Australia 6892
30 Fielder Street, East Perth Western Australia 6004
Tel: +61 8 6169 2100 Toll Free: 1800 463 043
Email: info@screenwest.wa.gov.au www.screenwest.wa.gov.au

Eligible formats:

- Factual Programs
- Scripted Drama/Comedy Series.

If an application has been unsuccessful in receiving support in the past, it cannot be re-submitted to Screenwest unless it has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. A document must be included with the application listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application. Screenwest may not accept a re-submitted application if the Development Manager determines the project has not changed substantially.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring the Western Australian Government or Screenwest into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest.

Terms of funding

Funding is provided as an investment. Successful applicants will enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project, (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited. Whilst Screenwest approval or sighting of these agreements may not be required at the time of contracting, Screenwest reserves the right to verify them at any point.

Failure to fulfill acquittal and/or meet deliverable requirements as specified within the funding agreement is a breach of contract. If contractual obligations are not met, Screenwest has the right to recoup funds already paid to the applicant and it may disqualify the recipient from being eligible for future Screenwest funding until outstanding funds are paid back and the matter resolved with Screenwest.

How to apply

The applicant will need to submit the following:

1. A completed Application Form.
2. Cover letter listing all submission materials submitted.
3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. A document containing a log line, one paragraph synopsis and a one-page detailed synopsis.
5. A development budget that breaks down the investment from all investors, including the Applicant. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget. Screenwest has created a guide for [Acceptable Budget Figures](#) to assist in preparing an application.
6. The latest draft script, preliminary treatment or a detailed concept document including character outlines and episode synopses (in the case of scripted drama/comedy series).

7. A clear development strategy outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken (e.g. writer's notes and a clear strategy from the producer on how they are going to move the project forward to commissioning).
8. CVs (one page) of the project principals and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in developing and producing projects.
10. Letters or emails of intent or other documentation giving proof of marketplace interest.

Applicants must ensure all requested material is completed and submitted together. Applications that do not include all requested material may not be accepted for assessment.

Assessment criteria

Screenwest competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. Market interest and likely audience appeal.
2. The applicant and creative team's track record.
3. The quality of the overall proposal or concept.
4. The participation of a local producer (Screenwest will give priority to projects that have a local producer as an active part of the team).
5. The likely chance of the project being realised in Western Australia considering budget, locations, and creative elements.
6. Potential cultural and economic benefits to Western Australia.

Screenwest will take into consideration whether the applicant has a number of concurrent outstanding projects in development or production that may impact on the quality and timely delivery of further projects as part of its assessment of the application.

Screenwest seeks to reflect the diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through projects funded and practitioners supported. The funding panel will take into consideration diversity elements of a submission during the assessment process.

Closing date

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest newsletter. To subscribe to the newsletter go [here](#).

All application materials must be submitted by 5:00pm on the specified closing date.

Applicants should allow plenty of time to submit an application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Submitting an application

Emailed applications

Applications can be emailed to funding@screenwest.wa.gov.au. Applicants should forward all required application materials in a single email and should not email application materials directly to individual staff members.

For emails larger than 8MB, please send via Screenwest's Hightail Account by following this link: <https://www.hightail.com/u/screenwest>.

Hard copy applications

Post applications to:

Attn Funding Admin Officer - Development
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
East Perth WA 6892

Hand deliver applications to:

Attn Funding Admin Officer - Development
Screenwest
30 Fielder Street
East Perth WA 6004

Screenwest recommends that mailed applications are sent via registered post. No responsibility is taken for unregistered mail.

Application receipt confirmation

An application receipt will be forwarded to the applicant within two working days to confirm that Screenwest has received the application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within this timeframe.** Application material(s) will not be returned by Screenwest.

Program Contact

Alan Payne

Development Coordinator

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Toll free: 1800 463 043 (WA country callers only)

Applicants should note that just prior to a closing date consultations can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email the program contact for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.