



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd  
ABN 43 620 492 300

## Out Now

A Screenwest Initiative in partnership with Screen Australia to assist in the capability development of Western Australian key creatives and the promotion and visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community, onscreen and offscreen.

### What is it?

Screenwest and Screen Australia are looking for original, LGBTQIA+ scripted web series proposals that will cut through on any online platform. Screenwest is seeking LGBTQIA+ identifying emerging to mid-career creatives who have a unique and untold story and who want to be part of shaping the future of storytelling on screen.

The world has moved beyond the standard 'coming out' template, to narratives with nuanced queer characters and plots. Do you have a bisexual vampire genre romance? Awesome. Or maybe you have a lesbian time-travel drama? Great. What about a children's show about a mischievous puppy with two mums? Cute! Think outside the box and stretch the bounds of LGBTQIA+ stories on screen.

In line with Screenwest's current Indigenous Screen Strategy, **Out Now** will support at least one project with an Indigenous team.

The strongest applications will be shortlisted, receive \$2,000 in development funding and will be encouraged to take part in a series of development workshops to get their projects in the best shape possible to apply for \$100,000 in production funding.

### What can I apply for?

- Up to \$102,000.00 in funding per project
  - \$2000.00 – development (if shortlisted)
  - \$100,000.00 – production (up to three projects/teams). Teams must allocate a minimum of \$5,000.00 from the production budget towards a marketing and release strategy, to be approved by Screenwest and Screen Australia.

- Funding is not automatic even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.

## Am I eligible?

To be considered eligible for this initiative:

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a WA resident Key Creative or Production company as per the Terms of Trade.
3. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application. Screenwest funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
4. Warrant that they nor any member of their key creative team is **not** a student at a film school or similar tertiary film, television or digital media course or institution and that the project is not and will not contribute to any course of study.
5. Warrant that they can produce the project for the budget level they have applied for, as per the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
6. Applicants may apply as individuals or on behalf of a team, but in a competitive situation preference will be given to teams.

The team must:

1. Be a WA resident filmmaking team (producer, writer, director).
2. Have an LGBTQIA+ identifying writer, and director attached.
3. If applying for the Indigenous strand, two out of three key creatives (writer/director/producer) must identify as Indigenous. One of these key creatives must be the writer.
4. Be able to complete the series within one year of the date of their contract (including projects that contain animation or CGI).
5. Have a separate producer and director attached to the project. Submissions with director/producer applicants will not be eligible.

## The project must:

1. Be episodic – a minimum of two episodes.
2. Be scripted.
3. Be no longer than 30 minutes in total length.
4. Be suitable for release on an online platform (e.g. YouTube, IGTV, TikTok).
5. Authentically represent the LGBTQIA+ experience.

## General

1. Funding will not be awarded retrospectively, for example, the project must not have already been shot.
2. 100% of production and postproduction must take place in Western Australia.
3. If an application has been previously unsuccessful it cannot be re-submitted for assessment unless it has been substantially and satisfactorily changed, developed or reworked since its last official assessment. If this is the case, a rationale should be included, highlighting the specific changes. If a re-submitted project application has not changed substantially, it may not be accepted.
4. The applicant will need to warrant that they have all relevant Chain of Title (COT) documents in place. Screenwest will request the COT opinion letter at the time of contracting, if successful.

## What do I need to apply?

Applicants will need to provide:

1. **A completed Application Form on SmartyGrants**, including any additional information, documentation and materials listed.
2. **A pitch video** (online link) of no more than 3 minutes consisting of:
  - a. Information on the series format (how many episodes, length of episodes)
  - b. Genre, characters, story arc and brief plot summary

- c. Themes and tone of the project
  - d. The target audience, including demographics and viewing habits
  - e. The team and their past experience creating content
  - f. What is unique and exciting about the project
3. **A pitch document** outlining the series (no more than 3 pages).
  4. **A preliminary marketing and release plan** outlining a thorough understanding of the intended audience, their viewing habits, the intended release platform, and strategy around how this project will attract an audience (minimum 500 words). The Development period can be used to further refine your plan before applying for production funding.
  5. **A clear development strategy** outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken throughout this stage of development (max. 1000 words).
  6. **A preliminary production budget** that includes the following:
    - a. Key creative fees – writer, director, producer
    - b. Locations
    - c. Cast and crew fees
    - d. Marketing (minimum \$5000.00)
    - e. Post-production costs
    - f. Legal fees
    - g. Contingency

The Development period can be used to further refine your production budget before applying for production funding.

7. **A statement from the identifying key creatives** discussing how LGBTQIA+ content will be depicted on screen.
8. **An example of the director's previous work** – limit of one example, maximum of 20 minutes.
9. **An example of the writer's previous work, or a draft first episode script** – maximum 10 pages.

**To note:** A COVID risk management plan may be requested at any time during the application or assessment process.

## How is my application assessed?

### Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The originality, strength and distinctiveness of the project, including clarity of the story and quality of submitted pitch materials.
- The strength and diversity of the project's key creatives.
- The strength of the development strategy and the applicant/team to take the project through to the next stage.
- The potential to enhance the career opportunities and skill-base of the key creatives involved, and the benefits to the WA screen industry.
- How the project will enhance positive LGBTQIA+ representation on screen.

In evaluating the application, Screenwest will take into account any information provided and weight the above criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategy of the organisation.

### Assessment Process

Screenwest will be following this process in assessing an application:

- Screenwest will check the application's eligibility.
- Any applications found ineligible will be reviewed by a Screenwest Manager.
- Screenwest and Screen Australia will shortlist applications at an assessment meeting.
- Shortlisted applicants/teams will receive \$2,000 in development funding and will be encouraged to participate in a short series of development workshops, to get their projects in the best shape possible to submit for production funding.

- At the conclusion of the development workshops, and acquittal of development funding, all shortlisted applicants will be invited to resubmit their updated applications to Screenwest for production funding.
- Screenwest and Screen Australia will assess the updated applications in conjunction with at least one industry assessor and select up to three projects for production.
- Successful applicants will then be required to submit a formal application through Screen Australia's SmartyGrants Online Production Fund for a portion of their production funding.

## Proposed Timeline

- Development workshops for shortlisted applicants: **February/March 2021**
- Shortlisted applicants resubmit following development workshops: **April 2021**
- Application re-assessment and project selection: **April/May 2021**

## Detailed Stage Timeline

**Call for applications:** November 2020 - 25 January 2021

Screenwest will announce a call-out for proposals to be considered for development, prior to production.

**Shortlisting & Development Workshops:** February – March 2021

Screenwest and Screen Australia will assess and shortlist applications against the assessment criteria. Shortlisted applicants will receive \$2,000 in development funding, receive specific application feedback from Screenwest assessors, as well as participate in development workshops, prior to submitting for production funding.

**Application Resubmission & Project Selection:** April – May 2021

Following the development workshops and acquittal of development funding, applicants will submit their applications to Screen Australia for production funding. Screenwest and Screen Australia assess applications with at least one external industry assessor and select up to three successful projects for production funding.

## Diversity

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

Screenwest recognises diversity as differences in:

- Gender
- Age
- Indigenous identity
- Cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD)
- Disability
- Sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+)
- Location (including regional and remote regions) and
- Socioeconomic status.

## Indigenous Content and Participation

Where there is Indigenous content or participation in any project, Screenwest requires that each applicant complies with protocols related to the treatment of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP). For more information on ICIP, please refer to the [Arts Law Centre of Australia](#).

There must be strong Indigenous representation on all projects that tell Indigenous stories, through the involvement of Indigenous key creatives and thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for consultation so that people giving consent can more fully understand what they are consenting to.

**Please note, these requirements apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.**

For information on what Content, Consent and Consultation means, please refer to the Screenwest website for more information on [Filming with Indigenous People, Content and Land](#).

For more detailed information on Indigenous Content and Participation protocols, please refer to [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

## Terms of Funding

1. Funding will be provided as a grant.
2. Successful applicants will enter into a Development Grant Agreement (DGA) for development with Screenwest, and Production Grant Agreements (PGAs) for production with Screenwest and Screen Australia (separately), specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.
3. Filmmaking teams will not be permitted to enter pre-production or receive any drawdown funding until all the funding conditions have been met.
4. Recipients are required to provide a written acquittal report detailing the outcomes achieved as a result of the funding. Aspects of these may be published on the Screenwest website following consultation with the applicant.
5. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain and keep current, all necessary permissions, permits and Chain of Title documentation for the development, production and exploitation of the Project. Screenwest reserves the right to sight and approve the above at any time, upon written request to the Producer.

Screenwest and Screen Australia will have final approval over the following:

- Development budget/plan
- Final script
- Cast, Key Heads of Department
- Budget and Shooting schedule
- Rough cut and Fine cut
- Cost reporting

## How to Apply

### What is the application deadline?

Applications must be complete and be submitted by **5:00pm AWST on Monday, 25 January 2021**.

### How do I submit my application?

Applications will be accepted through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal](#), with application forms going live **Monday, 2 November 2020**. Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.

You can start your application at any time once the portal opens. You can save your progress and return to it at any time before the deadline. **Do not start your application the day it is due.**

An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants 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 two working days.**

If you are unable to submit an application online or having difficulties, please call Screenwest on [+61 8 6169 2100](#) or 1800 463 043 (regional callers).

**Please note:** the submission portal for all funding programs close automatically at **5:00pm AWST sharp** on the specified due date.

Allow plenty of time to submit your application in case of unanticipated problems. **Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

## Who can I speak to about this initiative?

**Chantal Chateauneuf, Interim Talent Development Manager**

**Screenwest**

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**Stephanie Cole, Development and Production Assistant**

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**Please note** that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand, so it's best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.