



Curious Australia Initiative

Curious Australia is a joint initiative between Screen Australia, SBS and NITV, Screen NSW, Film Victoria, Screenwest, Screen Tasmania, South Australian Film Corporation, Screen Queensland and Screen Territory to produce exciting and innovative documentaries for SBS and NITV platforms.

This initiative aims to support practitioners from under-represented backgrounds and projects that reflect gender equity and/or the diversity of people and experiences from around Australia, all of which are important culturally, creatively and economically.

For the purposes of this initiative, we recognise 'Under-represented Backgrounds' as:

- those identifying as First Nations Australians;
- women;
- those with diverse age backgrounds;
- people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- people living with disability;
- people of diverse sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex (LGBTQI+);
- people from under-represented locations (including regional and remote areas); and
- people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Up to thirteen documentaries will be commissioned as part of this strand to be broadcast on SBS On Demand, SBS Viceland and SBS & NITV.

Eligibility

What projects are eligible?

Eligible projects must be unscripted documentaries that reflect the SBS charter.

Projects must be focussed on contemporary Australian issues and promise to be compelling and engaging.

Projects must be achievable within budget and suitable for the target audience in accordance with the SBS Codes of Practice and SBS Editorial Guidelines.

Specifically, we are looking for:

- Unscripted documentary projects suitable for SBS On Demand, SBS Viceland and for those relevant projects, NITV.
- An awareness of who the project is for and why it is relevant for this audience.
- Unique stories that add to the cultural landscape of Australian content.
- Stand-alone documentaries suitable for half hour television slot (22mins).
- Authentic stories that will engage and enlighten.
- Projects which can be ready for production in the new financial year.

Decisions on production funding will be made and announced by **6 August 2021**.

Who is eligible to apply?

Curious Australia is targeted at emerging to mid-career creators working on lower-budget, exciting and risk-taking projects.

Applicant teams must consist of at least two key creatives from underrepresented groups. For the purposes of the Curious Australia initiative, key creative roles are defined as: Producer, Director, Writer, Editor, DOP. Other key roles will be considered if a strong case is made.

To be eligible for NITV/SBS co-productions, teams must adhere to NITV's requirement that 2 out of 3 key creatives must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island peoples.

Applicant teams must consist of at least a director and a producer, one of whom has at least one screen credit in their respective role on a project that has been broadcast and/or screened at a recognised film festival or distributed on a significant curated online platform.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in their relevant screen agency Terms of Trade and Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

Please note that while you can be attached to more than one project under the Curious Australia initiative, we strongly recommend you carefully consider which project or projects are best suited to your skill set when choosing your applicant team.

Budget

Each documentary should be working to an indicative budget of \$120,000* based on the following:

- SBS/NITV \$55,000
- Screen Agency \$50,000
- Screen Australia \$15,000

Applicants may include additional funding through private investment or philanthropy, but those funds must be confirmed and/or underwritten at the time of application in order for contracting to commence as soon as projects are selected.

*If an EP/Mentor is required that will be an additional cost determined at the time of selection and will be provided on top of the indicative budget.

Application Process

How Does it Work?

Applications close on **Monday, 12 July 2021** and can be made through your relevant screen agency portal. Applications submitted through Screenwest will close at **5:00pm AWST sharp**.

Application materials and information will be made available to SBS and Screen Australia as part of the assessment process.

What Do I Need to Apply?

Applicants will need to provide:

- A completed Application Form
- 1 page treatment
- Detailed outline/shooting script
- Supporting reel (either character reel or sizzle) maximum duration 3 mins
- Supporting evidence of any significant relevant access required (ie. if an ob doc in a hospital, a letter confirming access to said hospital is required)
- CV's of the key creatives and team involved and their past experience creating content

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

SBS First and Last Rights

In applying for the 'Curious Australia' initiative, the Applicant (s) agree and acknowledge that a condition of being selected for the initiative is that Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS) and/or NITV has an Exclusive First and Last Right to acquire on standard SBS terms all Free Communication Rights in Australia in respect of their project.

Key rights include Worldwide Premiere, Free Television for 8 runs and FVOD/AVOD for a licence period of 5 years as more fully outlined in the SBS/NITV Presale.

Funding Terms

- Funding will be provided as grant.
- Successful applicants will enter into a separate written Agreement with Screen Australia, SBS/NITV and the relevant screen agency, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.
- Applicants must detail how they plan to utilise local crew and the amount to be spent in the relevant state or territory.

- Recipients are required to provide a written acquittal report detailing the outcomes achieved as a result of funding. Aspects of these may be published following consultation with the applicant.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain and keep current, all necessary permissions, permits, insurances and Chain of Title documentation for the development, production and exploitation of the Project. Screen Australia, SBS and NITV and/or the relevant screen agency, reserves the right to sight and approve the above at any time, upon written request to the Producer.

Assessment Criteria

Each eligible application will be assessed taking into consideration the below criteria:

- The creative strength of the project, and its ability to successfully engage the relevant audience.
- The track record of the key team members and the likelihood that this program will develop their skills.
- The standard of the supplied creative deliverables.
- The alignment of the team and project with the diversity and inclusivity aims of the initiative and with the SBS Charter, SBS Codes of Practice and Editorial Guidelines.

Applications will be assessed by Screen Australia, SBS and NITV and the relevant screen agency.

Timeline

- **Applications Open:** 2 June 2021
- **Applications Close:** 12 July 2021
- **Successful Projects notified by:** 6 August 2021
- **Complete projects delivered to SBS/NITV:** 18 March 2022

Screen Australia, SBS and the screen agencies acknowledge and appreciate the effort that goes into applications, however given the anticipated volume of applications will not be able to provide individual feedback on each individual application.

Screenwest Diversity Statement

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 broadly 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 (LGBTQI+)
- location (including regional and remote regions) and
- socio-economic 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. **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 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](#).

Deadlines and How to Apply

Applications must be completed in full and submitted **before 5:00pm AWST on Monday, 12 July 2021**.

Acceptance of any additional application materials after this date is subject to Screenwest's discretion.

Applications will be accepted through the Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal, with application forms going live **2 June 2021**. 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](tel:+61861692100) or [1800 463 043](tel:+6181800463043) (WA 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?

For more information about this program, please contact:

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Please note that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand. 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.