



Documentary Production Fund Guidelines

The Documentary Production Fund provides funding support to Western Australian Producers for feature length documentary films, factual one-offs, and series with significant marketplace attachments.

Funding Available

Screenwest will match the amount of cash funding provided by legitimate, at arms-length, market partner/s up to a maximum of \$300,000 or 25% of the total Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (or 1:4 ratio), whichever is less.

Additional funding (outside the 1:4 ratio) may be available via the below incentives, to projects that support Screenwest's Indigenous and diversity and inclusion objectives.

To note: companies can only access one allocation under each of the categories per project, an individual cannot be used to access more than one category and the cumulative amount cannot be over \$50,000.

Categories	Max. Amount
A WA Indigenous Production Company (the company must have at least 50% Indigenous ownership and profit share in the project).	\$50,000
A WA Indigenous Director or a Director who identifies as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or a Director who identifies as living with disability, directing at least 50% of the series or the sole director on a single/feature.	\$25,000
A WA Female Series Producer or Series Director on a series and credited for the entirety of a series.	\$25,000
A WA Director, Series Director, Series Producer who is performing the role for the first time and will be credited for the entirety of a series.	\$25,000

In exceptional circumstances the Screenwest Board may fund Feature Documentary outside these guidelines.

To note: funding support is not automatic – support depends on the competitive strength of the application and the availability of funds.

Eligibility

The applicant / company must be a:

- Western Australian resident company.
- Western Australian resident company in a Genuine Co-production Partnership with a non-WA resident company (as defined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#)); or a
- Western Australian resident company in an Official Treaty Co-production relationship with a non-WA resident company.

The project must:

1. Satisfy the documentary definition test outlined in the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#) (ACMA) Documentary guidelines.
2. Be a feature, single, series, large format (eg IMAX) or innovative project (VR, AR, Mixed Reality)
3. Have not entered pre-production or production prior to Screenwest’s funding decision.
4. Have confirmed marketplace (via a Letter of Offer) from a recognised distributor or exhibition platform for one or more of the following:
 - Australian theatrical release
 - Australian television broadcast in free to air or cable TV
 - International broadcaster with Australian audience footprint
 - Online platform with significant audience reach in Australia (e.g. Netflix, Amazon, Google, Vice, The Guardian).
5. Have a minimum Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of \$300,000.
6. Reach a minimum of 10 points, from the WA Elements Point Allocation Table below:

Ref	Position	Points
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A	WA Production Company with at least joint creative control	2
Ref	Position	Points
B	Original concept with at least 50% copyright owned by WA Production Company	2
C	Identifiable WA location/setting or character	2
D	Series - WA Series Producer and Series Director. 1 point awarded per position. Single – WA Director. 2 points awarded.	2
E	WA Supervising Post Producer and WA Supervising Post Director (or demonstrated equivalent). 1 point awarded per position.	2
F	WA Writer/s; at least 50% of the writers (receiving full credit) attached must be filled by West Australians to receive this point.	1
G	WA Editor	1
H	Post: 75% of your post budget spend in WA	1
I	75% of crew to be West Australian to get 2 points. Points cannot be pro rata'd.	2
J	Flexible Point*	1

To note:

- The maximum number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the 'Points' column. For example, a series that has a WA Series Producer and a WA Series Director attached will receive a maximum of two points (one point per position).
- Individuals can receive points in multiple categories.
- *Flexible Point – this is a floating point that can be attributed to a variety of outcomes that align with Screenwest Strategic Plan, and that haven't been accounted for in other areas of the points table. For example – Diversity, significant ex-pat attached, high profile West Australian talent attachment. It will be up to the Producer to make the case for these points.

Post-Production

Applications for post-production funding may be eligible where:

1. a production has received market or significant festival interest or support by way of a presale and/ or a distribution agreement at rough cut stage; and
2. the post-production work has not commenced. Only work and expenditure undertaken after Screenwest funding approval is received is eligible.

Applicants will need to show that any deferred payments, options or clearances have been paid or have been funded.

Funding for post-production work that has already commenced cannot be sought retrospectively.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Track record of the applicant(s) and key creatives.
2. Cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia (as highlighted in the total points accumulated in the WA Elements Point Allocation Table).
3. Priority will be given to those projects that highlight Western Australia locations and talent. Projects that have a higher level of production in WA will be more competitive than those that shoot outside of WA.
4. Economic benefits including the amount of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) and the employment of key Western Australian crew.
5. Strength of the market attachments (as appropriate to the market).
6. Quality and rigor of the supporting materials.
7. Overall diversity of projects (e.g. documentary vs scripted) and companies funded by Screenwest.
8. Availability of Screenwest funds.
9. How the project aligns with the relevant strategic priorities as set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.

Indigenous Story Content and Participation

Screenwest supports the telling of Indigenous stories by Indigenous creatives and storytellers.

We expect meaningful and genuine collaboration and consultation with the Indigenous communities whose stories they are.

The requirements below apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.

Whenever there is Indigenous content and/or Indigenous community participation in the project or when there are Indigenous members of the team who do not have the authority to speak for the people or place being represented in the story, you will need to follow the checklists from [Pathways & Protocols: a film maker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

This includes a statement on how you are approaching the Indigenous content, (even if you believe the content is not specific to a community or individual), evidence of your collaboration to date and where relevant, signed letters of consent confirming community and/or individual's willingness to participate.

All projects involving Indigenous content will be assessed by Indigenous Assessors.

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

Below the Line Crew Capacity Program

Productions that receive Screenwest production funding over \$100,000 must budget for Attachment or Mentorship opportunity/ies in consultation with Screenwest. The number of opportunities will be determined by the amount of Screenwest production funding a project receives.

Refer to the [Below-The-Line Crew Capacity Program – Production Funding Terms of Reference](#) for more information.

Assessment Process

Applying:

- Prior to applying, read these guidelines and the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program contact
- Submit your application through the Screenwest [SmartyGrants online portal](#).

If you are unable to apply online or are having difficulties submitting your application, contact your Screenwest Program Contact during business hours.

After you Submit:

- A panel consisting of Screenwest Management, a Board Director and experienced industry representatives will assess applications.
- The panel's funding recommendations will be presented to the full Screenwest Board for approval.
- Final decisions are made by the Board of Directors of Screenwest.
- The assessment process will take approximately 6 – 8 weeks.

Closing Date:

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

Please ensure you allow plenty of time to submit your application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Program Contacts

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