



Documentary Production Fund Guidelines

This fund provides funding support to Western Australian (WA) Producers for feature length documentary films, factual one-offs, and series with significant marketplace attachments.

Competitive application rounds will be advertised throughout the financial year.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to \$350,000 per project.

Screenwest will match 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 (1:4 ratio), whichever is less.

Additional funding may be available to projects that support Screenwest's First Nations and diversity and inclusion objectives via the incentives below.

Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant meets all the criteria.

Funding Incentives

Companies can only access one incentive allocation under each category per project. An individual cannot be used to access more than one category. The total cumulative incentive amount an applicant can receive is capped at \$50,000.

Funding Incentives Table

Ref	Categories	Potential Incentive
A	A WA First Nations Production Company (the company must have at least 50% First Nations Australian ownership and profit share in the project).	\$50,000

B	A WA First Nations Director or a WA Director who identifies as culturally and linguistically diverse or a WA Director who identifies as living with disability, directing at least 50% of the series or the sole director on a single/feature.	\$25,000
C	A WA Female Series Producer or WA Series Director on a series and credited for the entirety of a series.	\$25,000
D	A WA Director, WA Series Director or WA 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.

Eligibility

Applicant / Company 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
- Western Australian resident company in an Official Treaty Co-production relationship with a non-WA resident company.

Project Eligibility

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 (e.g. 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 bonafide distributor or exhibition platform for one or more of the following:
 - Australian theatrical release;
 - Australian television broadcast in free to air or cable television;
 - International broadcaster with Australian audience footprint; or
 - Online platform with significant audience reach in Australia e.g. Netflix, Amazon, Google, The Guardian.
5. Have a minimum Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of \$300,000.
6. Score a minimum of 10 points in the 'Western Australian Elements Table'.

Western Australian Elements Table (explanatory notes provided under the table)

Ref	Western Australian Element	Total Points
A	WA Production Company with at least joint creative control.	2
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 must be West Australian to get 2 points. Points cannot be pro rata'd.	2

J	Flexible Point*	1
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Explanatory Notes:

- The total number of that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the ‘Total Points’ column. For example, a series that has a Western Australian Series Producer and a Western Australian Series Director attached will receive a maximum of two points.
- 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.

Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment

After receiving production funding through this fund and upon approval of the post-production drawdown milestone, the Western Australian Resident Producer with projects that have exceeded \$1 million in QWAE will be invited to apply out of round for:

1. Project development investment funding:

Funding available - up to \$30,000 across a maximum of two Screenwest Development Investment Agreements. Funding will be provided in tranches of up to \$25,000.

- Screenwest’s [Documentary Development Investment Fund](#) guidelines and agreement terms will be used to assess and contract this funding.
- Development funding caps apply as per the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

2. Travel funding:

Funding available - up to \$10,000 per financial year, per production company. Funding will be provided in a minimum of two tranches.

- Travel funds are a contribution towards the cost of attending business meetings or events that fall outside of the current ‘Eligible Travel Destinations’ and activities listed in the Travel Guidelines.

- These funds are in addition to the maximum number of trips permitted under the Travel Fund Guidelines.
- Travel Fund Guidelines and agreement terms will apply.

In the instance of co-productions with two Western Australia resident producers, funding can be shared by mutual agreement between both parties. The overall maximum caps still apply.

All agreements must be executed within 12 months of commencing post-production on the project that was supported through this fund.

Funding is not automatic and is subject to the availability of Screenwest funds and management discretion.

Post-Production Funding

Applications for post-production funding may be eligible where:

1. a production has received bonafide 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.

Projects that receive post-production funding only are not eligible for the Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment or Travel funding.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. *Team*: track record of the applicant(s) and key creatives.
2. *Cultural and Creative*: cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia (as highlighted in the total points accumulated in the Western Australian Elements Table).

Priority will be given to projects that highlight Western Australia locations and talent. Projects that have a higher level of production in Western Australia will be more competitive than those that shoot outside of Western Australia.

3. *Economic*: benefits including the amount of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) and the employment of key Western Australian crew.
4. *Commercial*: strength of the market attachments (as appropriate to the market).
5. *Quality and Feasibility*: quality and rigor of the supporting materials.
6. *Strategic Alignment*: how the project aligns with the relevant strategic priorities set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.
7. *Diversity*: how the project supports Screenwest’s commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation, including overall diversity of projects funded by Screenwest.
8. Availability of Screenwest funds.

First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

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

Diversity Statement

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

It is important that you / your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in the project.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly 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 socio-economic status.

Production Budget Requirements

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.

Fees

Productions are required to budget for:

- Screenwest administration fee of 2% of the funding amount capped at \$5,000.
- Repayment of any Screenwest project development investment funding plus premiums (applies to projects that receive Screenwest project development investment funding).

Application Process

- Before applying, read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
- Review the online application form on the [SmartyGrants portal](#). Make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with the application.

Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact.

How To Apply

1. Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material.

Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

1. Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
2. A panel consisting of Screenwest Management, a Board Director and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
3. Panel funding recommendations are presented to the Screenwest Board for approval.
4. Final funding decisions are made by the Screenwest Board.
5. You can expect a decision within 8-10 weeks of the funding round closing date.
6. Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Production funding and travel funding are provided as a grant.
- Project development funding is provided as a repayable investment.
- Any Screenwest project development investment repayment obligations must be met.
- Successful applicants will enter into a Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.
- Receipt of funding should not lead to any expectation of continued assistance from Screenwest beyond the term of the project PGA.

Program Contacts

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