



First Nations VR Truth-Telling Documentary Initiative

This initiative is for Western Australian First Nations creative teams with original, short (5-10mins) VR documentary ideas. Ideas must explore the theme of 'Truth-Telling' and how it relates to current First Nations conversations.

The core objectives of this initiative are to:

- Uncover distinctive WA First Nations voices and stories.
- Support the career progression of WA First Nations key creatives.
- Enable WA First Nations key creatives to explore new story-telling mediums and markets.

The initiative will take place over three stages, starting with an information session.

1. Stage One - Online Information Session

The information session will be held Monday, 15 September 2025. It will cover the methods and technology required to make short VR documentaries.

The information session is open to all WA First Nations creatives who want to explore Truth Telling story development and working in the VR space. No prior experience is needed.

2. Stage Two - Concept Development

Up to five creatives will be selected to receive funding to develop their projects over a three-month period. During this time teams will be given access to VR headsets and hardware for content testing to determine methodology and refine stories.

Funding Available: up to \$10,000 per project.

3. Stage Three – Production

Stage Two recipients will be invited to submit for Stage Three funding. Up to three teams will be selected to receive production funding.

Funding Available: up to \$150,000 per project.

Screenwest funding is limited and competitive. Funding is not automatic even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.

An Executive Producer or advisor may be appointed to mentor teams and/or oversee the production and delivery of projects to Screenwest.

Eligibility

Stage One

The online information session is open to:

- All WA First Nations creatives; and
- Anyone who is intending to work with a WA First Nations team.

Stages Two and Three

- **Applicant Eligibility**

The applicant must:

- Be a First Nations Western Australian
- Hold the underlying rights to the project
- Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
- Be the same individual across both Stage Two and Stage Three applications.

- **Team Eligibility**

The team:

- At least two of three key creative roles – producer, writer, or director – must be held by First Nations Practitioners
- The Writer and Director must be First Nations.
- Producers and Directors must each have at least one short form project credit.

- Key creative team members can only be attached to one successful project.
- Must warrant they can produce the project for the budget level they have applied for and can commit to the development and production timeframes.

- **Project Eligibility**

The project:

- Must go into production in 2026 and be delivered in Q1 2027.
- 100% of production and postproduction must take place in Western Australia.

Application Materials – Stages Two and Three

- Applicants will be provided information as they progress through the initiative.

Assessment Criteria – Stages Two and Three

All eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. How the project addresses the theme of 'Truth Telling'.
2. The originality, strength and distinctiveness of the project, including the track record of the key creative team.
3. How the project will elevate the careers of the WA First Nations creatives.
4. Quality and rigor of the application materials, including consideration of the audience.
5. The viability of the budget, schedule and production methodology.

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 your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in your application.

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.

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.
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact.

How To Apply

- **Stage Two**
 1. Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
 2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material.
- **Stage Three (invitation only)**
 1. Recipients of Stage Two funding will receive a link to the online application form on the [SmartyGrants portal](#).

Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

All applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.

Stage Two applications

1. Eligible applications are assessed by a panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives.
2. You can expect a decision within 8 weeks of the funding round closing date.

Stage Three applications

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

Terms of Funding

- Production funding is provided as a grant.
- Project development funding is provided as a grant.
- Successful applicants will sign a written Agreement 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 funding agreement.

Program Contacts

General Enquiries

Madeline Small, Funding Team Coordinator

T: +61 6169 2121

E: madeline.small@screenwest.com.au

Program Manager

Irma Woods, First Nations Program Manager

T: +61 6169 2112

E: irma.woods@screenwest.com.au

Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (WA regional callers only).