



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd
ABN 43 620 492 300

Documentary Production Fund Guidelines

This fund provides funding support to Western Australian (WA) Producers for feature length documentary films, singles, 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 \$400,000 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 via the funding incentives below, capped at \$100,000.
- Applicants can access a maximum of \$1 million per financial year from the Screenwest Documentary Production Fund and West Coast Visions Documentary Fund combined.

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

Funding Incentives

The total incentive amount an applicant can receive is capped at \$100,000 per project.

Only one incentive can be claimed per category. The same individual cannot be used to claim incentives in multiple categories.

Funding Incentives Table

Ref	Categories	Potential Incentive
A	WA First Nations Production Company (company must have at least 50% WA First Nations Australian ownership and profit share in the project).	Up to \$50,000
B	WA Key Creative (e.g., Director, Writer, Editor, or Cinematographer) who is First Nations, or identifies as culturally and linguistically diverse or living with a disability, and is credited in that role for at least 50% of a series or solely on a single documentary or feature.	Up to \$30,000
C	WA Female Series Producer or WA Female Series Director on a series and credited for the entirety of a series.	Up to \$30,000
D	WA Series Producer or WA Series Director who is performing the role for the first time and will be credited for the entirety of a series.	Up to \$50,000
E	WA Producer or WA Director performing the role for the first time and solely credited in that role on a feature documentary.	Up to \$30,000
F	Documentary (single, series or feature) with the potential to drive social change on issues related to diversity, inclusion, and equity relevant to Western Australians, featuring WA-specific narratives or a clear social impact strategy with partnerships involving WA community organisations.	Up to \$50,000
G	Flexible Western Australian incentive for outcomes that haven't been accounted for above, demonstrating significant alignment with Screenwest's Strategic Plan priorities. The Applicant must present a compelling case for this Incentive.	Up to \$30,000

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; or a co-production between producers that are Western Australian Residents.

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 or large format (e.g., IMAX).
3. Have not entered pre-production or production prior to Screenwest's funding decision.
4. Have confirmed marketplace via a current Letter of Intent, which includes intended financial commitments that align with the finance plan, from a bona fide distributor, broadcaster, or exhibition platform, for one or more of the following:
 - Australian theatrical release;
 - Australian television broadcast on free to air or pay/cable television;
 - International broadcaster with Australian audience footprint; or
 - Streaming platform with significant audience reach in Australia e.g. Netflix, Amazon, Google.
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/feature: WA Director - 2 points awarded.	2
E	WA Post Producer and WA 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

Explanatory Notes:

- The total number of points 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 the 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.

Projects are expected to have applied for the Producer Offset. A provisional certificate will be required during the contracting process.

Where a Project is eligible for the Producer Offset, an agreed portion of the expected Producer Offset must be included in the Project's finance plan and cash flowed alongside other production funding. The agreed portion must be at least 85% of the projected value of the Producer Offset for documentaries.

Post-Production Funding

Applications for post-production funding may be eligible where:

1. A project 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 related to the funding ask 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.

Application Materials

Refer to the [SmartyGrants application form](#). The form can be viewed in 'preview' mode and downloaded. Contact the [Program Manager](#) if you require accessibility assistance.

Screenwest has the right to request further information from you to demonstrate that services provided by third parties are arm's length transactions.

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.

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 \$10,000.
- Repayment of any Screenwest project development investment funding plus premiums (applies to projects that receive Screenwest project development investment funding).

Application Process

Before You Apply

- 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 Manager](#) before you apply.

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 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.

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

Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment and Travel Funding

After receiving production funding through this program and approval of the post-production drawdown milestone, a Western Australian Resident Producer with a project that has 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 one tranche.

- Travel funds are a contribution towards the cost of attending business meetings or events that solidify financing and market partnerships for a project or slate of projects.
- This can be applied to destinations and activities outside of the current 'Eligible Travel Destinations' list and activities listed in the 'Travel Fund' Guidelines – both available in the [Travel Support](#) section of the Screenwest website.
- 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 Australian 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.

Terms of Funding

Documentary Production Funding

- Production funding is provided as a grant.
- 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.

Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment Funding

- Project development funding is provided as an investment, that is repayable if and when the project goes into production, as set out in the Terms of Trade.

- Successful applicants will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.

Western Australian Producer: Travel Funding

- Travel funding is provided as a grant.

Enquiries

Email: info@screenwest.com.au

Phone: +61 8 6169 2100.

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

[Click here](#) to contact the Program Manager.