

Documentary Production Fund Guidelines

This fund supports Western Australian companies for the production of documentary series, singles and features with significant market attachment.

Read these guidelines together with the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#) and [Glossary of Terms](#). The Terms of Trade outline our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as the terms and conditions on which we do business.

Eligibility

Applicant

The Applicant must:

1. Meet the eligibility requirements in the Terms of Trade.
2. Be applying as a Western Australian Resident Company as defined in the Terms of Trade; or
3. Be applying as a Western Australian Resident Company in an Eligible Co-Production as defined in the Terms of Trade.

Where the Applicant is a Western Australian Resident Company in a Genuine Co-Production with a non-Western Australian Resident Company, the Western Australian Resident Company must hold at least 50% Copyright in the Project.

Project

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 our funding decision.
4. Have confirmed Market Attachment 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:
 - a. Australian theatrical release;
 - b. Australian television broadcast on free to air or pay/cable television;
 - c. International broadcaster with Australian audience footprint; or
 - d. 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. Reach a minimum of 10 points in the Western Australian Elements Table:

Table 1 Western Australian Elements Table

Ref	Position	Points
A	Western Australian (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 Western Australian 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 Western Australians to receive this point.	1
G	WA editor.	1
H	Post: 75% of your post-production budget spend in WA.	1
I	75% of crew must be Western Australian to get 2 points. Points cannot be prorated.	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 '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 Western 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, at least 85% of the projected value of the Producer Offset must be included in the Project's finance plan and cash flowed alongside other production funding.

Post-Production Funding

Applications for post-production funding may be eligible where:

1. A project has received a bona fide Market Attachment 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.

How much funding is 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.

Table 2 Funding Incentives Table

Ref	Incentive Category	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

Explanatory notes:

- Only one incentive can be claimed per category.
- The same individual cannot be used to claim incentives in multiple categories.
- The total incentive amount an applicant can receive is capped at \$100,000 per project.

Applicant production funding caps apply. Caps are listed in the Terms of Trade.

Production Budget Requirements

Below-the-Line (BTL) Crew Capacity Program

Projects that receive more than \$100,000 in Screenwest production funding must budget for attachment or mentorship opportunities agreed with Screenwest. The number required depends on the amount of production funding a Project receives.

Read the [BTL Crew Capacity Program - Production Company Guidelines](#) for more information.

Fees

Productions must budget for:

- Any repayable Screenwest development investment or slate obligations; and
- Administration fees set out in the Terms of Trade.

Western Australian Producer: Project Development Investment and Travel Funding

Where a Funding Recipient of Documentary Production funding has incurred \$1 million in QWAE on that Project and received Screenwest approval of the post-production drawdown, an invitation will be sent to apply through SmartyGrants, out of round, for Project development investment and travel funding.

Project development investment funding

Up to \$30,000 of funding is available across up to two Screenwest SmartyGrants applications (up to \$25,000 per application).

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

Travel funding

Up to \$10,000 of funding is available per financial year, per production company. Funding will be provided through one Screenwest SmartyGrants application.

- Our Travel Fund guidelines and agreement terms will be used to assess and contract this funding, subject to the below terms which will prevail:
 - 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](#).
 - These funds are in addition to the maximum number of trips permitted under the Travel Fund guidelines.

In the instance of co-productions between two Western Australian Resident companies, 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 the Documentary Production fund.

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

Terms of Funding

Documentary Production Funding

Production funding is provided as a grant. Funding Recipients will enter into a Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest.

Funding offers are valid for three months unless otherwise approved by us. Any specific funding conditions will be outlined in the letter of offer.

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.

Funding Recipients will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest for each successful application.

Western Australian Producer Travel Funding

Travel funding is provided as a grant.

Assessment Criteria

We will assess all eligible applications using 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. (including 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:** Economic benefits of the Project to Western Australia, including the amount of QWAE and the employment of key Western Australian crew and post personnel.
4. **Commercial:** Strength of the Market Attachments (as appropriate to the market).
5. **Quality and feasibility:** Quality and rigor of the application materials including strength of the creative materials and statements, production methodology, and appropriateness of the finance plan.
6. **Strategic alignment:** How the Project aligns with the relevant strategic initiatives as set out in the [Screenwest Strategic Plan](#).
7. **Diversity:** How the project supports our commitment to driving greater diversity, inclusion and equity in the Western Australian screen industry.
8. **Funding:** Availability of our funds.

We will weight the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best support our strategic purpose.

When reviewing applications, we also consider whether the applicant has multiple ongoing Projects that could affect the quality or timely delivery of additional Projects.

Application Process

Read the [SmartyGrants](#) application form which lists the materials you will need to submit as part of your application.

We recommend you discuss your application with the [program contacts](#) before applying and let them know if you require any accessibility assistance to complete your application.

How to apply

- Submit the online application form in SmartyGrants.
- Upload all required documents and supporting materials.

After you apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements above and in the Terms of Trade.
- Your application will be assessed by a panel of Screenwest management, a board director and experienced industry representatives who assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria.
- The panel funding recommendations are presented to the Screenwest board.
- The Screenwest board makes the final funding decisions.
- We will notify applicants of the outcome of their application by email or phone within 10 weeks after applications close.

Ready to start your application?

[Apply here](#)

Contact the team

Contact the team listed [here](#), or by emailing funding@screenwest.com.au.

Phone: +61 8 6169 2100

Toll free for WA regional callers only: 1800 463 043

Screenwest (Australia) Ltd ABN 43 620 492 300

Screenwest sincerely thanks all its valued partners for their committed and ongoing support of our organisation and the Western Australian screen industry.

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