



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd
ABN 43 620 492 300

Bill Warnock Talent Accelerator Initiative Guidelines

The Bill Warnock Talent Accelerator Initiative is a year-long skills development program for an early to mid-career Western Australian writer. This initiative will accelerate a writer's career by:

- Expanding their creative development skills, production knowledge, and industry experience.
- Bridging the gap between their ideas and the market.
- Growing their industry contacts.

The writer will undertake a placement opportunity, with Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films.

Picking Scabs is a See-Saw Films co-venture production label with showrunner Samantha Strauss, telling itchy, addictive stories. Their slate includes Netflix's *Grown Ups*, adapted from Marian Keyes' novel, and *Apple Cider Vinegar*, following a collaboration on *The End*. Projects are led by Strauss, Shay Spencer, Liz Watts, Helen Gregory, Emile Sherman, and Iain Canning.

The successful recipient will assist Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films in the creative development and delivery of projects, while contributing to the broader work of Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films as an active team member. This will provide the recipient with practical experience of the writer, producer, and commissioner relationship across all stages of development, building their understanding of the collaborative processes, decision making and pathways required to successfully progress projects from development and scripting through to production. For a detailed role description, see Appendix One.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically underrepresented groups.

Funding Available

Up to \$100,000 for the year-long opportunity:

- Up to \$80,000 in funding for associated costs related to the placement.
- Up to \$20,000 for project development.

Screenwest funding is limited and competitive. The Funding Recipient's skills development needs and development needs of their slate will determine the level of support provided.

Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Meet the eligibility requirements in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be an early-to-mid-career Western Australian resident writer who has:
 - Received State or Federal screen agency funding in the last three years.
 - Written at least one non-tertiary short film, online-series, or similar content that has been produced in the last three years.
 - Not written a feature film or national broadcast series that has been theatrically distributed or commercially released.

Applicants who have an overdue acquittal for any Screenwest funding programs are not eligible to apply.

Application Materials

All applications must include:

1. Cover letter/proposal (three page maximum) outlining:
 - How will this opportunity advance your writing career.
 - What are the key outcomes to be achieved through the placement.
 - How will this opportunity advance your slate towards production outcomes.
 - How will this opportunity bridge skill and experience gaps.
2. A brief overview of your current slate of projects.

3. A development plan for up to 2 projects on your current slate, for up to \$20,000 in development funding. The plan must address:
 - Project development history
 - Key personnel
 - Strategy to market and pathway to audience relative to market interest
 - Detailed development plan outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken in the next stage of development
 - A budget breakdown.
4. A current CV (two page maximum) including two professional references and a company bio (if relevant).

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by Picking Scabs/See-Saw to expand on their application.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

1. **Track Record:** The applicant's track record including the level of funding and support Screenwest has committed to the practitioner historically and the outcome achieved.
2. **Benefits to Applicant:** The overall benefits to the applicant at this stage in their career.
3. **Creative:** The quality of the overall proposal including the quality and marketability of projects on the applicant's slate.
4. **Planning and Delivery:** The strength of the development plan and the perceived ability and/or track record of the applicant and/or team to deliver outcomes.
5. **Benefits to WA:** The likely benefits and outcomes the opportunity will bring to the Western Australian screen industry.

Screenwest will weigh the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategic priorities of the organisation.

When reviewing applications, Screenwest considers if the applicant has multiple ongoing projects that could affect the quality and timely completion of additional projects.

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](#).

How to Apply

1. Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material. Refer to the 'Application Material' section above.

Contact the [Program Manager](#) if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
- Screenwest retains the right to shortlist applicants.
- A panel consisting of Screenwest Management and Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films will assess all eligible applications.
- Final decisions are made by Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films in consultation with Screenwest Management.
- You can expect a decision within 8 weeks of the round closing date.
- Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

Screenwest funding eligibility restrictions may apply to the successful applicant based on their proposal. Possible funding restrictions will be discussed with applicants during the final assessment process e.g., during the year-long program, the successful applicant may be ineligible to apply for Screenwest travel funding. All funding restrictions will be outlined in the letter of offer to the successful applicant.

Placement

- Funding Recipients are required to enter into a written agreement/s with Screenwest and Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films. This agreement specifies the terms of funding and cash flow details.
- Professional skills development funding is provided as a grant to Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films to facilitate the employment of the Funding Recipient.
- Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films will employ the Funding Recipient under a formal employment agreement for the term of the placement.
- Picking Scabs/See-Saw Films will be solely responsible for paying all fees, expenses and any associated fringe directly to the Funding Recipient for the duration of their placement.
- The Placement Provider shall be solely responsible for purchasing and maintaining all relevant insurances to cover the Funding Recipient during the placement term and for managing and controlling all work health and safety requirements of the Funding Recipient's placement.

Project Development

- Project development funding is provided as a repayable investment to the Funding Recipient.
- Funding Recipients are required to enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding. Payments will be made on satisfactory achievement and delivery of each contracted milestone.

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.

Appendix One – Role Description

Based: See-Saw Films Offices, Paddington NSW
Reports/Mentor): Shay Spencer, Executive Producer, Picking Scabs
Term: One-year fixed term contract

The Activity / Responsibilities

- Assist creatively wherever needed in the execution of project development.
- Provide research support for idea generation, including but not limited to publishing, podcasts, and theatre.
- Read submissions and write coverage.
- Read and breakdown books, novels, manuscripts as required.
- Attend internal development meetings and note take.
- Attend external development calls and meetings and note take as required.
- Attend writers' rooms, where appropriate, either as a note taker, or observer.
- Support the maintenance of logging systems including but not limited to talent tracking, industry trends, submissions, outgoing material.
- Support the drafting of funding applications for script development.
- Assist with pitch and pitch deck development.
- Assist as required to contribute to See-Saw Films as a team member.

Required Skills

- An innate curiosity and understanding of story.
- A love of scripted/narrative content.
- Experience in screen storytelling and reading draft scripts.
- Ability to form opinions on material and relay feedback.
- Organised and detail oriented with follow through skills.
- Ability to work as a productive team member.
- Ability to multi-task and to prioritise key tasks.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently without constant supervision.
- Positive can-do attitude who enjoys collaboration.

- Familiarity with screenwriting software.
- A strong desire for a career in the screen sector.
- Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out detailed written or oral instruction.

Placement Outcomes

- Experience producing first-class notes from writers' rooms.
- Experience producing first-class coverage.
- Experience producing first-class pitch materials.
- An understanding of market constraints and trends in developing story for screen.
- An understanding of the development processes involved in taking a story from concept to screen, with visibility of input from various stake holders along the way.
- Understanding the writer/producer/commissioner relationship in the collaborative process at the various stages of development and scripting.
- Understanding the processes and steps required for successful development, and scripting through production.