

First Nations Project Development Fund Guidelines

This fund supports Western Australian First Nations writers and producers to develop a scripted feature or television series, or a documentary feature, series or single. It supports strong, distinctive ideas that are well developed and that show a clear pathway to reaching an audience.

Read these guidelines together with the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#) and [Glossary of Terms](#). The Terms of Trade outlines 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 a Western Australian Resident or a Western Australian Resident Company as defined in the Terms of Trade.
3. Be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander key creative.
4. Hold the underlying rights in the Project at the time of application.
5. Hold 100% copyright in the Project or be in a co-production and at a minimum hold equal rights and profit share with any other producer/s on the Project.

Project

The Project must be a scripted television series or feature, or a documentary series, single or feature.

In the case of television Projects, the Applicant must supply evidence of market interest in the Project from a bonafide broadcaster, network or streaming service.

For feature Projects, the Applicant must supply evidence of market interest or provide a compelling pathway to audience strategy.

In exceptional circumstances applications outside of the above criteria will be considered if the Applicant can demonstrate significant benefits to the Western Australian First Nations screen sector.

What can I receive funding for?

Our funding is a contribution towards your Project's next stage of development. It aims to assist the Project towards a commercial production outcome.

Funds may be used for the following activities, including but not limited to:

Documentary

- Creation of pitch documents (e.g. outlines, treatments, pitch decks)
- Undertaking strategic filming and/or editing required to create a sizzle reel
- Working with specialised researchers/writers
- Attachment of producer/executive producers to secure market investment and/or advance the Project to production
- Developing production schedules and budgets.

Your development budget costs should reflect the costs of the activities necessary to create the deliverables you have outlined in your application.

Scripted

- Work with a writers' room to write series episodes or a full series bible
- Write a new draft of a pilot episode or feature length screenplay
- Work with story developers
- Work with executive producers to secure matched market investment and/or advance the Project to production
- Work with casting agents to attach talent.

How much funding is available?**Documentary**

Up to \$25,000 per Project application.

Scripted

Up to \$35,000 per Project application.

Funding caps

- An Applicant can access a maximum of \$50,000 per financial year across all our development programs excluding the Matched Development Investment Fund.
- A Project can only receive funding from this fund once.

Funding is provided as an investment that is repayable if and when the Project goes into production.

Assessment Criteria

We will assess all eligible applications using the following criteria:

1. **Track record:** Previous experience and/or track record of the Applicant and key creatives including the demonstrated ability to advance this Project.
2. **Creative:** The originality, quality and strength of the Project.
3. **Commercial and economic impact:** Strength of the market interest and how well the Project will contribute to the long-term sustainability and commercial goals of the Applicant and/or team.
4. **Planning and delivery:** The strength and suitability of the Project development plan.
5. **Benefits to Western Australia:** Cultural and creative benefits of the Project to Western Australia and likelihood of the Project to deliver production outcomes in the state.
6. **Diversity and inclusion:** How the Project supports our commitment to driving greater diversity, inclusion and equity in the Western Australian screen industry.

We will weight the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best support its 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 with 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 and experienced industry representative who assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria.

- We will notify Applicants of the outcome their application by email or phone within 6 weeks after submission of an application.
- Funding Recipients will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest.

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.

This program is supported by

