

First Peoples Business Capability Grant Guidelines

Essentials

About this program

- The First Peoples Business Capability Grant is an initiative to support Victorian First Peoples led companies within the screen industry to build capability through securing additional skills and expertise.

What are we looking for?

- First Peoples led businesses that are actively creating and/or producing digital games or narrative screen content (such as documentaries or drama productions) in Victoria.
- We aim to assist these businesses to sustain or grow their output in the short to medium term by supporting them to address identified capability gaps.
- Expected outcomes of this support include one or more of:
 - more sustainable business (longevity beyond the next project)
 - business growth (in terms of project scale or turnover)
 - increased capability within the business
 - greater resilience (i.e. ability to handle changing commercial and economic circumstances).

Who is eligible?

- You must be an Australian company. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements.
- First Peoples led games development and screen production businesses primarily concerned with the creation and production of producing digital games or narrative screen content, and have:
 - a First Peoples company director and/or executive leader resident in Victoria
 - operated as a business in Victoria for at least the last six months

What can you receive funding for?

- Support can be used to build the businesses' capability and secure additional skills and expertise within the company over the next 12-18 months. This can include activities that address:
 - the ability or capacity to drive creative development (including taking projects to market)
 - specific business or operational expertise needed to deliver current projects/commissions

How much can you apply for?

- Grants are available in the range of \$50,000 to \$150,000

Who can you talk to about this program?

- We strongly recommend applicants contact VicScreen before applying:
 - [Davey Thompson](#), Production Executive (First Peoples) - 03 9660 3252
 - [Ross Hutchens](#), Director Content & Talent - 03 9660 3271
- For information or issues regarding submitting an application:
 - [Hanna Tai](#), Grants Officer - 03 9660 3278

The Details**What happens after you apply?**

- Your application will be assessed by a VicScreen nominated panel which include First Peoples representation.
- The selection process for this program will occur in two stages:

Stage 1

- Applicants will submit an outline of the company's capability gaps, a preliminary action plan to address identified gaps, expected outcomes, and an estimated cost.
- Applications will be assessed and shortlisted in accordance with the Assessment Criteria listed below.
- Applications open on 16 April 2025 and close on 7 May 2025.

Stage 2

- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a scoping discussion with VicScreen.
- Then shortlisted applicants will be required to submit a full proposal in line with the outcomes of the scoping discussions, and to provide additional documentation to fully describe their capability gaps and action plan.
- After applicants submit the full proposal, a final assessment against the selection criteria will occur.

Assessment Criteria

- The level of First Peoples control and participation in the business
- The track record of the company (or company principals) in creating and producing digital games or narrative screen content

- How the company plans to address the capability issue in terms of:
 - The identified capability deficit and the demonstrated need for capability development
 - The appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed plan to address the deficit
 - The demonstrated potential benefits for the company in addressing the deficit

How long until a decision is made?

- Applications open on 16 April 2025 and close on 7 May 2025.
- You can expect a final decision 10 weeks from the deadline date, via email or phone.

What happens if you get funding?

- Successful applicants will enter into a standard agreement with VicScreen, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including deliverables and credit requirements.

What happens if you don't get funding?

- We will contact you to let you know if you have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding.
- You are welcome to get in touch with the Program Manager, to receive feedback on your application.

What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and the [Terms of Trade](#) which set out the core terms on which VicScreen conducts its business.
- Review the online application form – make sure you have all required document ready to be submitted with the application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria (set out above)
- VicScreen is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian screen industry and requires applicants to demonstrate diversity and inclusion in their application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to our Gender & Diversity Statement.
- Get your application in on time and check the deadline date for this program. Applications are due by 11 pm AEST on the deadline date unless otherwise stated on the program page on VicScreen's website. Applications not received by the deadline date will not be accepted for that round, as per our Terms of Trade.

Ready to start your application?

[Start your application](#)