

## First Peoples Writers Workshop - Guidelines

### Essentials

#### *About this Program*

The First Peoples Writers Workshop is an initiative committed to elevating and nurturing Victorian First Peoples creatives within the screen industry. This workshop is targeted for First Peoples writers, to help fast track their professional development as a screenwriter by giving them the tools to craft and refine their story ideas to take to market or a producer.

The successful applicants will learn from experienced industry professionals how to craft an efficient and effective pitch document that accurately represents the intended vision for their project. Successful applicants will also be given the opportunity to refine their own story idea with the guidance of industry professionals.

The workshop will take place in Shepparton, over three and a half days (with an extra half day allocated for travel). It will provide Melbourne-based applicants an opportunity to creatively develop their work in a new environment, while also giving regional Victorians more opportunities to engage with VicScreen.

#### *Key Details*

- Deadline for submissions – 5pm Monday 2 October 2023
- Applicants notified by Friday 20 October 2023
- Workshop will be held Friday 17 November till Monday 20 November 2023
- Shepparton – Venue to be confirmed.

**Successful applicants must be available to attend the workshop in-person. Accommodation will be provided by VicScreen. Lunch will be provided on each day of the Workshop and participants will receive a small allowance as a contribution towards other costs.**

**Applicants will be required to organise their own travel. If you require any travel assistance, please let us know.**

#### *Who is eligible?*

The program is open to aspiring Victorian writers/producers who identify as First Peoples and can demonstrate experience in story development across fiction or factual for any genre, platform, or narrative art-form. The experience can be professional, community cultural development, semi-professional, independent or fringe work.

Applicants must also meet any relevant eligibility requirements, as set out in VicScreen's [Terms of Trade](#).

### ***Who can you talk to about this program?***

- To discuss your application – Production Executive, First Peoples', [Davey Thompson](#), 03 9660 3252
- For technical issues or form submission enquiries – Grants Officer, [Connie Boyce](#), 03 9660 3267

## **The Details**

### ***What do you need to apply?***

- Complete the online application form and provide the below supporting documentation:
  - One paragraph bio
  - Story idea (half page)
  - Personal statement outlining career objectives and how these workshops will help advance their careers in the Screen industry
  - Previous writing sample (script excerpt, article/review on a film/TV show, book chapter etc.)

### ***What happens after you apply?***

- Your application will be assessed by a panel of VicScreen representatives. Selection will be made against the ***Assessment Criteria*** listed below:

### ***Assessment Criteria***

- Previous experience in story development.
- Strength, distinctiveness and quality of the narrative within the submitted materials.
- Commitment to the screen industry and passion for the production of screen stories as a long-term career objective.
- Objectives for undertaking the workshops, including how it will assist their career development and what specific skills they expect to gain from the experience.

### ***How long until a decision is made?***

- You can expect a decision within 4 weeks from the deadline date, via email or phone.

### ***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. Terms underlined in black appear in the website glossary.

- Review the online application form – make sure you have all required documents 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 5pm 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.

VicScreen expects all applicants to adhere to the protocols set by Screen Australia's First Nations Department's [pathways and protocols](#). VicScreen is committed to providing culturally safe working environments for all staff and external stakeholders. We encourage all applicants and workshop participants to get in touch with us at any time throughout the process if they have questions or concerns. Please contact [Davey Thompson](#) – Production Executive, First Peoples.

Please see our [Terms of Trade](#) for more information about Indigenous Cultural, Intellectual Property Rights, Content and Acknowledgement.

## Ready to start your application?

[Start your application](#)