VICSCREEN

Project Development Guidelines

About this program

Project Development supports <u>Victorian</u> producers, writers and writer/directors to develop <u>narrative fiction</u> or <u>documentary</u> projects for any release platform including <u>cinema</u>, <u>television</u>, <u>online</u> and <u>virtual reality (VR).</u>

Applicants can apply any time.

Project Development (Fiction and Documentary) is currently under review. Applicants wishing to apply for support through this program are encouraged to do so before the deadline of June 30 2022.

What are we looking for?

- This program encourages applications from new voices as well as experienced practitioners.

- We're looking for strong, vivid and distinct projects with clearly articulated development goals.

- We're also looking for applications that clearly address the Assessment Criteria.

Who is eligible?

- You must be <u>Victorian</u> (this means <u>applicants</u> and all <u>Key Creatives</u>).

- You must be an Australian individual or company. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements.

- You can be a producer, writer or writer/director
    - Writers applying with a documentary project must have a producer attached
    - Writers applying with a fiction project can receive one round of funding without a producer but a producer must be attached for any subsequent funding applications.

- Applicants may only submit one application at a time. Further applications will not be accepted while the current application is being processed. Prior credits are not required but applicants must demonstrate they have the skills to realise their project.

- More experienced producers or writers should consider if they are eligible to apply to our [Development On Demand](#) program.

What projects are eligible?

- Television, online, feature film, VR and short-form series (only with a minimum series duration of a commercial half hour – e.g. 6 x 5 minutes) are all eligible.

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What is not eligible for this program?

- Short films are not eligible for funding from this program.

- For documentary applications, lifestyle, magazine and current affairs concepts are not eligible.

- Funding is not provided for office overheads.

- Funding is not provided for option fees.

- Funding is not provided for the pre-production activities of budgeting, scheduling and casting.

- If your project has been declined for funding from VicScreen for development funding twice, you cannot submit another application for the same project.

What can you receive funding for?

- VicScreen funding is a partial contribution to the next stage of development. Applicants are expected to supplement this funding with their own or third-party contributions.

- Funding can be used to develop a project to secure market attachment or production finance.

- Funding requests may include:
  - For fiction series or one-off projects – writers room costs, pitch bible to series bible, sample pages to pilot, draft to draft, proof of concept activities or prototyping for VR
  - For fiction feature projects - draft to draft
  - For documentary projects - research, writing of a detailed treatment, creation of a teaser, strategic shooting, proof of concept activities or prototyping for VR.

How much can you apply for?

- Funding for development varies depending on project type. Requested amounts should be appropriate for the development activities proposed, the scope of the final project being developed and aligned with our Budget Guide.

- VicScreen funding is provided as a development investment, which must be repaid from the production budget if and when a project proceeds to production.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- For initial queries, Program Services Officer:
  - Fiction, Denise Bohan 03 9660 3261
  - Documentary, Rachel Duffy 03 9660 3285

- For queries about your project, Program Managers:
  - Fiction, Mackenzie Lush 03 9660 3232
  - Documentary, Samantha Dinning 03 9660 3281

The Details

What documents do you need to apply?

You must submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A project sample as follows:

Type of project	Sample required
Fiction feature film	− Draft screenplay
Fiction television or short-form series	− Pitch bible (5-10 pages), and − Episode script of the proposed project, or − Script sample (10-15 pages)
Documentary feature films, one-offs, television or online series	− Outline or draft treatment
VR projects	− Draft treatment or script, and − Preliminary proof of concept

3. A pitch detailing the creative vision for the project, supplied as either:
    −   a pitch to camera (this is the preferred format), no more than three minutes long and supplied as a video weblink, or
    −   a pitch document.
4. Next stage development notes
    −   The development notes identify challenges within the current project materials and articulate strategies to address these issues in the next stage/s of development.
5. Applications for Fiction Series and Fiction Feature Films must also provide project notes detailing:
    −   The project's development history
    −   Key personnel
    −   Market overview
    −   Target audience.

What happens after you apply?

•   Your application will be assessed by our Development Assessment Panel.

- Funding is competitive. Assessments will take into account the Assessment Criteria (see below), VicScreen's availability of funds, diversity of the current slate of projects and teams across all platforms, as well as the perceived need for VicScreen funds by the applicant.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Story
    - The strength and distinctiveness of the narrative, with an emphasis on bold storytelling
    - The execution and quality of the submitted materials.
- Development plan
    - The degree to which the development plan diagnoses the story challenges in the current material, while also offering strategies to address them in the next phase of development.
- Audience and budget
    - The applicant's demonstration of a clear pathway to audience, appropriate to the project's budget size and financing strategy.
- Talent
    - The ability of the individual or team to develop the project.
- Diversity
    - How robustly the application advances diversity across one or more core areas:
        » Meaningful on-screen representation of diversity in main protagonists, themes and narratives
        » Project leadership and <u>Key Creatives</u>
        » Industry access and opportunities for training/career progression/mentoring
    - We require applications to deliver on one or more of the core areas listed above and your project will be uncompetitive if it fails to do so
    - VicScreen does not currently support projects with significant First Peoples' content without a member of the key creative team coming from an appropriate background.

How long until a decision is made?

- For Fiction projects, you can expect a decision 9-10 weeks from the date of submission, via email or phone.
- For Documentary projects, you can expect a decision 7-8 weeks from the date of submission, via email or phone.

What happens if you get funding?

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

What happens if you don't get funding?

- We will contact you to let you know if you have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding.

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 document ready to be submitted with the application.

- Read our [Budget Guide](#).

- Watch the informative session: [Top Tips for crafting a competitive Project Development application](#).

- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria.

- 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](#).

Ready to start your application?

[Fiction Application Form](#)

[Documentary Application Form](#)