

Victorian Screen Rebate – Program Guidelines

Essentials

About this program

The Victorian Screen Rebate (**VSR**) program is an economic development initiative that offers grants to support screen work undertaken in Victoria.

The VSR supports three streams of activity:

1. Physical Production;
2. Digital Games, Animation, Post-Production and Visual Effects; and
3. Filming in regional Victoria.

The objectives of the VSR are to:

- Attract interstate and international screen production projects and businesses to Victoria;
- Increase employment and skills development opportunities for Victorian-based screen industry practitioners.
- Support screen business growth and employment.
- Increase business and employment opportunities for Victorian based companies, including screen industry services, equipment providers and allied industries.
- Promote Melbourne and regional Victoria as filming locations to local and international producers of screen content.

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be:
 - A company with the rights to produce the project or a part of it, and/or;
 - A company with the rights to undertake post-production, animation, visual effects or digital games work on the project.

What projects are eligible?

- Projects must be one of the following:
 - Fiction – feature film, large format feature, telemovie, mini-series, pilot or series.

- Documentary – feature film, large format feature, television one-off or series.
- Light entertainment, including reality and lifestyle shows. Please note current affairs programs, quiz shows and variety or panel shows are not eligible.
- A digital game that is designed primarily for entertainment.
- Additionally, projects must:
 - Be fully financed.
 - Have a genuine marketplace interest for commercial release or distribution of the project at the time of application.
 - Have a budget that includes, at least, minimum Australian industry award rates for industry practitioners involved in the Victorian work.
- Projects must also meet specific minimum expenditure requirements:
 - AUD\$3.5m of [Qualifying Victorian Expenditure \(QVE\)](#) for Physical Production projects.
 - AUD\$0.5m of QVE for Digital Games, Animation, Post-Production and Visual Effects projects.
 - AUD\$0.1m of [Qualifying Regional Victorian Expenditure \(QVRE\)](#) for regional production projects, which must also complete a minimum five days of filming in regional Victoria and have the majority of cast and crew accommodated in a regional area close to the filming location.
- For physical production projects, projects must be considered footloose, meaning there are genuine interstate or international destination alternatives for the proposed activities.

What is not eligible for this program?

- The following projects and applicants are not eligible for the VSR program:
 - Screen content which, in the opinion of VicScreen’s assessors, is exploitative or which may harm an individual or group.
 - Digital Games designed primarily for educational or training purposes.
 - Digital Games where, in the opinion of VicScreen’s assessors, monetisation and data collection strategies are implemented in an unethical manner.
 - Digital Games involving gambling, as defined in Clause 4 of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (Cth).
 - Projects designed to market or promote a product or service.
 - Projects or components of a project approved for funding under VicScreen’s Victorian Production Fund, other than an application for filming in regional Victoria (Stream 3).
 - Applications from federal or state government departments or entities.

What can you receive funding for?

- VSR grants are calculated on a case-by-case basis as a percentage of QVE and/or QVRE on the project as follows:
 - Physical production projects may be awarded a VSR grant of up to 10% of QVE.
 - Digital games, animation, post-production and visual effects projects may be awarded a VSR grant of:
 - » up to 15% of QVE, if the Applicant is a majority Victorian-owned company; or
 - » up to 10% for all other eligible Applicants.
 - Regional production projects (including on a project that falls within one of the categories above) are awarded a VSR grant as percentage of QVRE determined on assessment of your application.

Qualifying Expenditure

- All VSR grants are subject to a minimum QVE/QVRE, which will be determined on assessment of your application.
- QVE and QVRE are calculated from the time that you submit your complete application (including all required documentation and information to support program eligibility) and VicScreen has acknowledged receipt.
- A complete list of QVE and QVRE can be found on the [VicScreen website](#). Key examples include:
 - Payments to Victorian individual and companies for work completed in Victoria.
 - Salaries and expenses paid to, or incurred in relation to, any Victorian residents engaged for the project in Victoria.
- To be eligible as QVE or QVRE, expenditure must be incurred in connection with the type of work on the project for which the grant has been awarded.

The Details

What happens after you apply?

- Your completed application will be assessed by the [Victorian Screen Economic Development Committee \(VSED Committee\)](#).
- The assessment will take into account the *Assessment Criteria and Value-Add Considerations* listed below. The VSED Committee will also consider the amount and availability of VSR program funds, generally.

Assessment criteria

- Budgeted Qualifying Victorian Expenditure and/or Qualifying Victorian Regional Expenditure.
- Employment opportunities for Victorian screen industry practitioners and associated businesses.
- Evidence of the project being fully financed.

Value-add considerations

- The VSED Committee will also take into account the following value-additive considerations:
 - The long-term benefits to Victorian businesses and screen practitioners, including the creation of relationships, development of capabilities and opportunities for future work.
 - Whether the project is creatively driven by Victorians and/or involves Victorian-owned intellectual property.
 - The pipeline of production activity in Victoria and the demands on crew and infrastructure.
 - The contribution towards screen infrastructure.
 - The opportunities to showcase Victorian locations and/or talent.
 - The need for skills and experience development in the Victorian industry.
 - Planned expenditure by the project on training for local screen industry practitioners, including any training delivered in Victoria to meet obligations connected with the Federal Location Offset.
 - The contribution to Victorian tourism by highlighting Victorian destinations, culture and/or lifestyle.
 - The value of any planned work and/or other engagement in regional Victoria (for example, any economic and/or cultural value add).
 - Endeavours to promote diversity and inclusion through the project – applicants are encouraged to review VicScreen’s [Gender and Diversity Statement](#) and [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Roadmap](#).
 - Any other aspects of the project which the VSED Committee considers relevant to the objectives of the VSR program and VicScreen’s functions as a whole.

What happens if you get funding?

- Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer from VicScreen, which will detail the VSR grant that has been awarded and any conditions.

- VSR grants are subject to a standard agreement which will be entered into by VicScreen and the applicant. The terms and conditions of the standard agreement include:
 - The minimum QVE or QVRE which must be expended on the project to receive payment of the grant.
 - VicScreen’s credit and promotional requirements.
 - Publicity and media requirements to promote the work on the project in Victoria and the VSR funding awarded, including that the applicant must assist VicScreen and the Victorian Government to make the first public announcement about the project proceeding in Victoria.
 - For relevant projects, any training, Professional Attachment, Specialist Placement or Key Talent Placement requirements ([further details about Attachments and Placements are available on the VicScreen website](#)).
 - For relevant projects, any benefits to the Victorian screen industry arising from the applicant fulfilling training and/or infrastructure obligations under the federal Location Offset.
 - VicScreen’s deliverable requirements and the list of [standard deliverables](#) (which include an audited expenditure report, an acquittal report, schedule and a copy of the project).
 - Before final payment of the grant, that the applicant can demonstrate to VicScreen’s satisfaction that the project has been publicly released or that a public release is planned and will occur within a reasonable timeframe (for example, by providing an enforceable distribution agreement).
 - That VicScreen may withhold or vary the grant (or any instalment) if the applicant does not meet the relevant conditions (such as meeting the minimum QVE/QVRE or delivery of the required deliverables).
- VSR grants are paid in arrears once all conditions are met, and all deliverables have been received. VicScreen will consider requests to pay part of the grant before completion of the work on the project in appropriate cases if the applicant is a majority Victorian-owned company with a digital game or animation project and the work will exceed 12 months, or for regional filming activities.
- VSR applications and approved grants (and their associated documents) are commercial in confidence. Applicants must maintain confidentiality at all times. VicScreen will not publicly release application or project details without the applicant’s approval.
- VicScreen does not participate in production financing arrangements for VSR projects, and it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that those arrangements comply with these guidelines and the VSR grant agreement, including the confidentiality requirements.
- Please note, VicScreen may vary its standard terms and conditions from time to time.

What happens if you don't get funding?

- We will contact you to let you know if your application has been unsuccessful.
- If you would like feedback on your application, you are welcome to get in touch with the Incentives team (contact details below).

What will help your application?

- Make sure you read these guidelines thoroughly and check your eligibility. Terms underlined in black appear in the [glossary on the VicScreen website](#).
- Review the online application form and ensure you have all required documents ready before you submit.
- Discuss your application with a VicScreen team member (contact details below).
- Make sure your application addresses the *Assessment Criteria* and the *Value-Add Considerations* (listed above).

How do you commence an application and when will you receive the outcome?

- Contact the VicScreen Incentives team to commence your application.
- Projects seeking a VSR Grant of:
 - less than AUD\$2m are assessed within approx. 6 weeks; and
 - AUD\$2m and above are assessed within approx. 6 - 16 weeks.
- If a project is time critical, you should contact the Head of Incentives or the Incentives Coordinators as soon as possible before applying.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- Head of Incentives - [Joe Brinkmann](#) (+61 3 9660 3255)
- Incentives Coordinators - [Tess Hamilton](#) (+61 3 9660 3254) and [Emma Ramsay](#) (+61 3 9660 3241)
- Incentives Officer - [George Macfarlane](#) (+61 3 9660 3220)
- For technical issues or form submission enquiries, please contact the Incentives Grants Officer, [Nadia Macaulay](#) (+61 3 9660 3206).

About these guidelines

- These guidelines are subject to change. Please ensure that you are reviewing the latest version, which will be available on the [VicScreen website](#).