

# First Peoples Content

VicScreen supports the telling of First Peoples stories by First Peoples creatives and storytellers, including not supporting projects with significant First Peoples' content without a member of the key creative team coming from an appropriate background.

If this is not the case, you must meaningfully consult and collaborate with the First Peoples communities whose stories they are.

First Peoples content can mean that your project:

- Is based on or includes First Peoples stories
- Has First Peoples characters or focuses on a First Peoples community.
- Has First Peoples communities or land as locations
- Features representations of First Peoples culture i.e. draws on or refers to First Peoples culture and heritage in any form.

Whenever there is First Peoples content and/or First Peoples community participation in the project or when there are First Peoples members of the team who do not have the authority to speak for the people or place being represented in the story you will need to engage in the appropriate protocols. Protocols can be found within [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a film makers guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

All projects involving First Peoples content or participation will be assessed by First Peoples Assessors.

If your project includes First Peoples content, you must also include in your application:

- **First Peoples content statement:** A statement setting out how you are approaching the First Peoples content or participation with regard to appropriate protocols, even if the content is not specific to a particular community or individual. This will depend on your project and team, but points to consider are:
  - The Indigenous languages or language groups that your project content relates to
  - Details of the First Peoples content, including themes, characters, locations, that you intend to include in this project, and rationale for their inclusion
  - Your approach to ensuring any First Peoples content is represented respectfully and authentically
  - An outline of how you have collaborated with the First Peoples community on this project to date, and a description of your collaborative process during the next stage of development
  - If your project has Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property components in the storyline, how you will protect these rights

- If the project is based on a real person or on a true story from a First Peoples community, confirmation that you hold the necessary rights to the story and / or you have spoken to the relevant peoples about their representation in this project, including sharing of any creative materials submitted
- **Evidence of First Peoples consultation:** Where available, signed evidence of consultation to date
- **Evidence of First Peoples consent:** Where available, signed letters of consent from First People individuals or communities confirming their willingness to participate