VICSCREEN

Originate Slate Guidelines

Essentials

About this program

Originate Slate aims to enhance the development of original IP for the global marketplace by supporting Victorian production companies that have an established track record in creating and financing quality TV drama or narrative live-action comedy through supplementary funding.

By supporting the critical early stages of development, *Originate Slate* will allow companies to be more ambitious in the selection and development of a slate of projects, increase their international competitiveness, and provide them with the flexibility to respond quickly to changing market demands.

The deadline for applications is 11 December 2026.

Who is eligible?

You must be an Australian company with:

- a pre-existing and ongoing operational presence in Victoria for at least six months prior to the funding application - demonstrated by Victorian offices and a track record in producing content in Victoria;
- a track record in producing premium television drama and/or live-action narrative comedy;
- dedicated in-house development staff.

Companies that have previously received Originate Slate funds may apply if they have successfully acquitted their pervious grant and secured further development financing or a commission on one fully financed project from a recognised commissioning platform.

What projects are eligible?

Projects developed with *Originate Slate* funding must be:

- premium drama and/or live-action adult narrative comedy series projects for the global marketplace
- at concept or early stage of development
- led by a Victorian creator or co-creator with Victorian writers and key creatives comprising a majority of the project's development team and/or writers' rooms.
- be shot and post-produced in Victoria.

What can the funds be used for?

VICTORIA State Government

- *Originate Slate* support is intended to supplement the funds companies already devote to early development of concepts and projects.
- Funded activities are expected to add value and elevate the quality and international competitiveness of the concepts or projects being developed. This may include activities such as extending the length of development writer rooms and allowing for additional drafts of bibles, pitch materials, and/or pilot scripts.
- Funding is expected to enable a recipient to support a slate of at least three projects in early development and cover 12-24 months of activity.
- A portion of the funds must be used to support the meaningful participation of emerging key creatives from underrepresented backgrounds across a significant number of the projects on the slate.

How much can you apply for?

- Applicants may apply for up to $50,000 per slate project, capped at $150,000 across the entire slate. Final funding amounts for successful applicants will be determined by the assessors based on the value and impact of the applicant's proposal.
- Applicants are required to match *Originate Slate* funding requests with funds from their own or other resources.
- Applicants acknowledge that a maximum of 20% of their matched funding contribution may be applied to eligible internal costs – including producer fees, development executive fees, overheads, travel and legal costs. Applicants are required to apply at least 80% of their matched funding contribution towards eligible external costs (i.e. writers' rooms, pilots and pitch materials, key creatives, production related activities including budgeting/scheduling/casting).
- Applicants should discuss their funding requests with VicScreen prior to submitting an application.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- Applicants should contact VicScreen before applying

– Mackenzie Lush, Head of Development – 03 9660 3232

The Details

What documents do you need to apply?

- You will need to submit all the required documents in the Application Materials Checklist.

What happens after you apply?

- Assessment of eligible applications will be undertaken by VicScreen assessment panels consisting of qualified staff and external industry specialists.

- Funding is competitive and assessors take into account the Assessment Criteria (see below) and VicScreen's availability of funds, as well as the demonstrated need for VicScreen funds by the applicant.
- Funding recommendations are presented to the VicScreen CEO or Board for approval.

Assessment Criteria

- The track record of the production company in developing, financing and producing premium drama and/or live-action narrative comedy content.
- The applicant's experience in pre-selling or financing projects in the international marketplace.
- The level of operational and creative control held by Victorians (e.g. preference will be given to Victorian owned and operated companies).
- The current commitment of the company to developing premium drama and/or live-action narrative adult comedy content, in terms of:
  - dedicated development expertise/ resources within the company;
  - allocated budget for development from company or other sources* (excluding proposed VicScreen funding).

  *Note: Applicants that have significant access to ongoing development funds from pre-existing relationships (for example, through an international parent company) would need to demonstrate how *Originate Slate* support was value adding and not replacing existing support.
- The proposed development slate in terms of:
  - The quality and feasibility of the projects
  - The proposed level of involvement of Victorian key creatives in the projects across the leadership and the development activities.
  - The scale of the projects either in terms of international competitiveness or growth for the production company.
  - The company's overall commitment to diversity and inclusion, and its plans to engage emerging Victorian creatives from underrepresented backgrounds in the development process on a significant number of the projects on their slate.

How long until a decision is made?

- Applications close on 11 December 2026
- Applicants can expect an outcome in January 2027

Applicants can expect an outcome in January 2027. What happens if you get funding?

- The support will be provided by way of a development grant. VicScreen does not expect to recoup *Originate Slate* funds.
- Companies receiving *Originate Slate* support will be excluded from accessing VicScreen's *Development on Demand* support for the early development of projects targeted under this initiative. They will still be able to apply for script development (beyond pilot stage) for projects, where the development is co-funded by a commissioning platform. This includes projects developed with *Originate Slate* support.

What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and VicScreen's Terms of Trade. Terms underlined in black appear in the website glossary.
- Review the online application form – make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with your application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria (see above).
- VicScreen is committed to building a thriving and inclusive screen industry that celebrates diversity in both content and people. Applications are expected to authentically reflect a diversity of voices across storytelling, teams and audiences. Applications should demonstrate how the diversity represented in their content is meaningfully reflected within the creative team or that collaboration is embedded from the earliest stages of development. Applicants must outline their commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion in their applications. Before applying, please read **VicScreen's DEI Roadmap to 2033**.
- Get your application in on time and check the deadline date for this program. Applications are due by 11pm 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?

Originate Slate Application Form