**STRAIGHT OUT OF THE STRAITS**

MULTIPLATFORM FACTUAL CONTENT INITIATIVE

Screen Queensland, ABC and Screen Australia,



**Straight out of the Straits**

*Straight out of the Straits* is a factual web-series initiative for early-career Torres Strait Islander practitioners, designed to capture authentic character-driven Torres Strait Island community stories and authored and crafted by Torres Strait Islander people. The selected projects will be bold, based on strong ideas and exhibit a high level of creative ambition.

Up to four shortlisted teams, of one or two people maximum, will develop their ideas for short factual series in a workshop, with up to two teams going on to make 4 x 5 minute or 5 x 4 minute series for iview, in conjunction with a Production company.

**What type of projects are eligible?**

Applicants should submit ideas that can be developed as short factual series (4 x 5 minutes or 5 x 4 minutes) for the ABC iview platform that bring to life real character-driven stories from the Torres Strait Islands. We are looking for exciting ideas for adventure series in the same vein as ABC iview series ‘Black As’ and ‘Bush Mechanics.

**How much funding is available?**

Screen Queensland, Screen Australia and ABC will fund the core costs of the workshop. Successful participants will be allocated to a production company and each series that goes into production will be funded by Screen Queensland, Screen Australia and ABC up to a maximum of $90,000 per production.

**Who can apply?**

This initiative is open to individuals and teams of early career Torres Strait Islander writers, directors and producers.

* Applicants can apply as individuals, teams or companies.
* Applicants that are individuals must identify as a Torres Strait Islander person and their principal place of residence has been in the Torres Strait Islands or Queensland for the last 6 months prior to application.
* Applicants that are production companies must be:
	+ registered companies in Torres Strait or Queensland that have been in operation for at least six (6) months prior to application; and
	+ creatively driven by Torres Strait Islander persons.

**How do I apply for the workshop?**

You can apply online by visiting <https://screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au>.

You will need to include the following documents in your application:

* An outline of your web-series idea and a one page summary of your main characters (no more than 3 pages in total)
* CVs for each applicant (and links, if available, to previous work)

Attendance at the workshop on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait is mandatory for successful applicants for all four days from 4-7 April 2017.

**When do I need to apply?**

Applications close Monday, 13 March. You can apply online by visiting <https://screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au>

**How are applications assessed?**

Representatives from Screen Queensland, Screen Australia and the ABC will select successful applicants to attend the workshop.

Assessment will be based on:

* the track record and potential of the applicant (and key creative team)
* the strength and originality of the concept
* the potential of the project to reach its specified audience
* the project’s suitability to the ABC iview streaming service
* the potential of the project to be realised on its specified budget
* the potential benefit to the Queensland screen industry

**What happens when my application has been assessed?**

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application via telephone or email.

**What happens when my application is successful?**

Screen Queensland will contact you to confirm arrangements for the workshop which will take place from 4-7 April 2017 on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait.

**What happens after the workshop?**

Screen Queensland, Screen Australia and ABC will assess the projects which have come out of the workshop and pick up to two teams or projects to take forward into production.

Where necessary, successful workshop participants may be allocated to a Producer to take the series into production. The Producer will then enter into a Production Grant Agreement with Screen Queensland and Screen Australia and a license agreement with the ABC, with expected delivery of the productions by November 2017.

Screen Queensland, Screen Australia and the ABC reserve the right to fund fewer than two productions and if no applications are deemed to meet the requisite standard, may choose to fund no productions.

**Terms of funding**

Selected productions must comply with the Screen Australia Terms of Trade <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/about-us/doing-business-with-us/terms-of-trade> and the ABC’s Governing Rules and Editorial Policies accessible at <http://about.abc.net.au/how-the-abc-is-run/what-guides-us/our-editorial-policies/> and will be subject to the ABC’s commissioning guidelines and process, accessible at <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/independent/working_with_us.htm>.

The ABC’s key licensed rights will include:

* 10 free-to-air broadcast runs (including simulcast streaming)
* Unlimited streaming and download rights during the licence period
* 3 year licence period
* Worldwide premiere
* Holdbacks
	+ Free online and mobile rights: for the licence period
	+ Download-to-own rights: midnight following the first 30 day online run
	+ Pay online and mobile rights (including SVOD): 12 months from first online run
	+ Pay television rights: 12 months from first online run

For more detail, please refer to the ABC licence agreement found [here].

**What are the key dates for this initiative?**

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| **STRAIGHT OUT OF THE STRAITS - KEY DATES** |
| **Applications due to SQ** | **13 March 2017** |
| **Development workshop with shortlisted applicants** | **4-7 April 2017** |
| **Successful productions announced** | **June 2017** |
| **Series delivery** | **November 2017** |

**What do I do if I’ve read this and want to talk it through?**

Contact Belinda Miller, VP Development & Production (Indigenous) via telephone 07 3248 0500 or email belinda.miller@screenqld.com.au