

Screen Development Investment

SQ Content

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What is Screen Development Investment?

Screen Queensland Screen Development investment provides support for Queensland writers and producers to create high quality screen projects capable of engaging local and international audiences, winning critical acclaim and achieving commercial success. Funding is to support producers, writers and their projects as the foundation of a successful and sustainable screen industry.

Screen Development Investment aims to increase diversity on screen and within the creative teams funded by Screen Queensland, in the process unearthing new voices and new stories that reflect and resonate with who we are as Australians.

Funding may be used for the development of fiction and factual screen projects. Applicants may request support to develop their projects to a production-ready stage, including:

- fees for writers and script editors to complete draft screenplays and series bibles
- sizzle reels
- late-stage project-specific consultant fees including casting, budgeting, scheduling

Screen development investment is administered across two funding streams:

Content Development (rolling fund) – investment of up to \$25,000 for the development of screen projects with an experienced producer attached and demonstrable market interest. See page 5 for more details.

Talent Development (offered twice per year)– investment of up to \$15,000 for writers to develop feature film and broadcast series draft screenplays under the guidance of an experienced script editor or creative mentor/expert. See page 9 for more details.

For **game development** funding see ‘Screen Production & Game Development Guidelines Investment’ on the Screen Queensland website www.screenqld.com.au

What kind of projects are eligible?

Feature Film – Dramatic and factual feature films that will:

- have a theatrical release
- be broadcast on television; and/or
- be released on VOD, SVOD or a streaming service

NB. Finance plans that include the Producer Offset must take into account guidelines affecting offset amounts for different platforms.

Broadcast - Drama and factual series, singles and interstitial content that will:

- be broadcast on television; and/or
- be released on VOD, SVOD or a streaming service.

What doesn't Screen Development Investment fund?

- Short films
- News or current affairs

- Advertising
- Content whose primary purpose is for marketing
- Content whose primary market is the education sector
- Funding for magazine programs and reality shows
- Requests for retrospective funding will not be accepted
- Projects that have been declined once by Screen Queensland previously except where the applicant can demonstrate the application has been significantly reworked prior to submitting
- Projects that have been declined twice are not eligible to apply again
- Games – for game development funding see ‘Screen Production & Game Development Investment’ guidelines.

What documents do I need to provide in my application?

For feature film and broadcast applications we require:

- Synopsis (one paragraph & one page)
- Script or detailed treatment
- Development plan including notes from the writer, producer, director and script editor (where attached), that:
 - describes the team's creative vision
 - outlines the progress of the project to date
 - identifies the current challenges and the tools and approaches that will be used to explore and address these in the next stage of development
 - producers statement addressing audience, finance, marketing strategies and reference projects
- CVs and bios of all key personnel
- Chain of title documents (as well as relevant agreements with all key creatives and consultants)
- Letter of interest from a broadcaster, international sales company or distributor (if applicable)
- Finance plan (if applicable)
- A-Z budget (if applicable)

Applicants are welcome to provide additional material where they believe it will be beneficial to the application, such as links to previous work, samples of the writer’s work, mood boards or other pitch documents.

Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

Screen Queensland will inform you in writing of any missing materials and you will have **two (2) business days** to supply the missing documents, after which the application will be deemed to have been withdrawn.

How will my application be assessed?

Screen Queensland funding is limited, competitive and subject to creative and commercial assessment. Your application will be assessed by two assessors, including Screen Queensland executives and external peer assessors.

The following assessment criteria applies to all applications for Screen Development investment:

- the track record of the applicant and key creative team
- the strength and originality of the idea or concept
- the quality of the storytelling
- the development strategy and the team's understanding of the steps required to take the script/project forwards
- the potential of the project to reach its specified audience (including an assessment, where applicable, of cast and market attachments, marketing and publicity plans)
- the potential of the project to be realised on its specified budget (including an assessment of production and development budgets relative to that audience)
- the potential benefit to the Queensland screen industry
- Applicants should also read Screen Queensland's [Terms of Trade](#) which are applicable to all Screen Queensland programs

What happens if my application is successful?

Successful applicants will enter into a contractual agreement with Screen Queensland and a drawdown schedule for payment of funding, including delivery and reporting milestones, will be agreed. If the requirements of the contract are not met, all team members will be ineligible for further funding from Screen Queensland.

Funding payments cannot be made without a fully executed contract and on receipt of a valid tax invoice.

All investment is 110% repayable on the first day of principal photography or – where Screen Queensland is an investor in a resulting production – the investment plus 10% will be subtracted from the first funding drawdown.

Content Development

Funding to support the development of Queensland screen projects with experienced producers and clear pathways to local and international audiences.

Applications may be submitted for projects at conceptual, early or late stage development.

Content Development - Who can apply?

Experienced Queensland producers or interstate producers collaborating with Queensland talent in key creative roles. The majority of key creative roles should be occupied by bona fide Queensland talent and applicants should be aware that Screen Queensland will direct a majority of its funding towards elements that directly benefit Queensland talent.

An 'experienced Australian producer' is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and must have at least one credit as producer on a:

- feature film that has been screened on five or more commercial screens; or
- telemovie aired on network television or SVOD
- television series aired on network or cable television or SVOD.

The track record of the creative team should demonstrate their ability to deliver a high-quality project. Applicants without sufficient credits or experience in the appropriate platform are advised to partner with more experienced practitioners before applying. Writers who do not have a producer attached to their project can apply through the Talent Development stream (see page 9).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories will only be eligible for Screen Queensland support where some or all of the Intellectual Property is owned by members of these communities.

Applicants may only have two different projects undergoing Screen Development Investment assessment and/or awaiting delivery of agreed items from previous funding at any one time.

Applications with team members in default with Screen Queensland are **not eligible** to apply until all previous funding has been acquitted. If you are not sure whether you are in default, contact Screen Queensland (07) 3248 0500 / content@screenqld.com.au.

In addition to meeting the requirements of this funding program, all applicants must adhere to the Screen Queensland Terms of Trade available at www.screenqld.com.au

Content Development - How much can I apply for?

Up to \$25,000 per application may be requested.

Applicants should keep in mind that this is an upper limit and that the average successful application for development funding in 2016-17 received approximately \$14,000.

The following caps exist depending on the stage of development:

Development stage	Max. total request allowed	Broadcast	Feature Film
Conceptual	Up to \$7,500	<p>Funding can be used to develop materials to a point where they can secure marketplace investment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • series bible • episode outlines • pilot screenplay • sizzle reel • research • proof of concept <p>Applications should demonstrate interest from</p>	<p>Funding to take film from treatment to first draft, including writer, script editor and producer fees</p> <p>Applications should demonstrate interest from an arms-length marketplace entity.</p>

		an arms-length marketplace entity.	
Early Stage	Up to \$25,000	Funding to conduct writers rooms and create series screenplays. Must be match-funded by broadcaster or equivalent arms-length market attachment	Funding to take film from early to late draft, including writer, script editor and producer fees. Applications require letter of intent from an arms-length marketplace entity, a distribution guarantee or equivalent.
Late Stage	Up to \$25,000	Funding to finalise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shooting script/s • casting • budgeting • scheduling Must be match-funded by broadcaster or equivalent arms-length market attachment	Funding to finalise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shooting script/s • casting • budgeting • scheduling Applications require at least a letter of intent from an arms-length marketplace entity, a distribution guarantee or equivalent.

Screen Queensland Screen Development is a contribution to the costs of a project. No project will be 100% funded by Screen Queensland.

Applications requesting retrospective funding will not be accepted.

Over its lifetime, Screen Queensland will not invest more than \$100,000 total in the development of a project, unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated.

All funding is an investment, 110% repayable on the first day of principal photography or – where Screen Queensland is an investor in a resulting production – the investment plus 10% will be subtracted from the first funding drawdown.

Content Development - What costs can I apply for?

Eligible costs include:

Eligible Cost	Maximum Request	Conditions
Writers Fees	\$20,000	Fee appropriate to experience of writer and scope of work
Script Editor Fees	\$5,000	Fee appropriate to experience of script editor and scope of work
Director Fees (Pass)	\$5,000	Late stage only unless it can be demonstrated that the director will play a significant creative role in

		the development stage under assessment
Producer Fees	\$7,500	
Option Fees	Up to \$1,000	Must be matched
Initial Option Fees	Up to \$3000	Must be matched. Option periods should be appropriate to project and intended platform
Research Fees	Up to \$1,000	Fee appropriate to experience of researcher and scope of work
Legal fees	Up to \$2500 for features and series and up to \$1000 for one-off projects	

Ineligible costs include:

- Overheads
- Payments to international talent or companies, unless for the supply of specialist services (eg. Script Editor)
- Travel and accommodation
- Retrospective payments.

Applications requesting funding for ineligible items will not be assessed.

Screen Queensland will direct the majority of its funding towards elements that **directly benefit Queensland talent**. Applications with interstate elements should ensure that the requested amount has a direct benefit to local practitioners.

Content Development - How do I apply?

1. Read the guidelines, paying special attention to the eligibility and assessment criteria for the fund. Your team must pass all eligibility and strongly satisfy all assessment criteria to have a competitive application.
2. Contact Screen Queensland's Content team to discuss your application. Email content@screenqld.com.au or phone (07) 3248 0500.
3. Complete the application form at <https://screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/>
4. Screen Queensland will notify the applicant via email of any missing materials. These materials will need to be submitted within two (2) business days of notification or the project **will not proceed to assessment and will be deemed withdrawn**. An application will only proceed to assessment when all sections of the form are complete and all requested materials and documentation have been submitted satisfactorily. Allow at least six (6) weeks to receive notification of your application's outcome.

Talent Development

Through the Talent Development stream, writers with exceptional talent and ideas have an opportunity to develop their work before a producer is attached to their project. Funding for Talent Development will be available in two rounds per year. Check the Screen Queensland website (www.screenqld.com.au) for up to date details on application deadlines.

Talent Development - Who can apply?

Talented bona fide Queensland writers/writing teams whose project does not have a producer attached. Writers must have an existing draft screenplay for the project requiring development prior to their application.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories will only be eligible for Screen Queensland support where some or all of the Intellectual Property is owned by members of these communities.

Applicants and projects may only be successful once through the Talent Development stream. Only one application per person will be accepted per round.

Talent Development - How much can I apply for?

To ensure creative talent is best supported, SQ will fund up to \$15,000 (up to \$10,000 for writing and up to \$5,000 for a Queensland script editor or creative mentor/expert with experience in the designated format).

Screen Queensland Screen Development investment is a contribution to the costs of a project. No project will be 100% funded by Screen Queensland.

Over its lifetime, Screen Queensland will not invest more than \$100,000 total development in a project.

Applications requesting retrospective funding will not be accepted.

All funding is an investment, 110% repayable on the first day of principal photography or – where Screen Queensland is an investor in a resulting production – the investment plus 10% will be subtracted from the first funding drawdown.

Talent Development - How do I apply?

Twice per year, writers will have the opportunity to apply for Talent Development Investment. Applicants will be required to submit a one-page synopsis, completed draft screenplay and development plan for consideration by Screen Queensland.

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, initial assessments will be made based on the submitted one-pager and the first ten pages of the screenplay.

Up to ten (10) writers per year will be supported to develop their project to a stage where it is strong enough to attach an experienced producer and attract broadcast/theatrical market interest.

1. Check the Screen Queensland website and subscribe to the Screen Queensland newsletter to keep across application deadlines (two rounds each year).
2. Contact Screen Queensland's Content team to discuss your application. Email content@screenqld.com.au or phone (07) 3248 0500.
3. Complete the application form at <https://screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/>
4. Screen Queensland will notify the applicant via email of any missing materials. These materials will need to be submitted within two (2) business days of notification or the project **will not proceed to assessment and will be deemed withdrawn**. An application will only proceed to assessment when all sections of the form are complete and all requested materials and documentation have been submitted satisfactorily. Allow at least six (6) weeks from the round close date to receive notification of your application's outcome.

What do I do if I have read all of this and want to talk it through?

Contact the SQ Content team by telephone (07) 3248 0500 or email content@screenqld.com.au.