



**Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Strategy
2016-2019**

> *Goldstone*



> FOREWORD



> *Our Stories Our Way* - NITV



> *Mabo*

Queensland has long been enriched by the deep storytelling traditions of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander first peoples. These rich and ancient cultures elevate not just the business of storytelling but society as a whole. Screen Queensland is a proud partner to many passionate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners whose talent and achievements have brought diverse and powerful stories to our screens, and acclaim to our local screen industry.

Screen Queensland invested around \$1,200,000 in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander talent and stories in 2014-15, and in 2015-16 has invested more than \$1,785,000. Support has been for early career talent to grow skills and experience by making short films aimed at the festival circuit, one-off documentaries (many

for NITV), developing film drama scripts in a workshop setting and working on attachment on prominent Queensland productions, including acclaimed writer-director Ivan Sen's *Goldstone*. Investment has also been made into mid career and established talent to develop projects and businesses, including: Carbon Media's landmark footy show *League Nation Live* and its Network Ten children's television series *The Timeshifters*; Bunya Productions' *Blue Water Empire* – a history of the Torres Straits for the ABC; and in the development of NITV's first drama series *Grace Beside Me*, staffed by a writers' room that brought together established and early career talent.

As we look to the future – creating new opportunities while demanding innovation through advances in technology, developing platforms, new audiences and fresh approaches to storytelling – Screen Queensland is committed to moving forwards in partnership with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander companies and creatives.

The focus of the *Screen Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2016-19* will be to advance the distinct storytelling voice of our state and reflect its unique culture in diverse screen stories that are valued and celebrated by Australian and international audiences and are shared through mainstream media and innovative platforms. It will seek to unearth, nurture and empower new and existing talent as we grow

a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander industry that collaborates with, connects to, and creatively challenges, the mainstream screen production sector.

Screen Queensland would like to thank all the producers and screen practitioners, community leaders and industry experts who contributed to the thinking that underpins the *Screen Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2016-19*.

We look forward to continuing to work with Queensland's incredible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and industry partners and to moving forwards together to grow and strengthen the sector and our industry.

Tracey Vieira
Chief Executive Office
Screen Queensland

> Goldstone

> STRATEGIC
DIRECTION
2016-2019





> *Ella*

> VALUES

> VISION

To advance Queensland's distinct storytelling voice and reflect its **unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** culture through diverse screen stories that are **valued** and **celebrated** by Australian and international audiences and are shared through mainstream media and innovative platforms.

For the Queensland screen industry and Screen Queensland, thriving in today's environment requires **creativity, courage** and **discipline**. Screen Queensland follows a set of guiding principles that underpin this; a supportive culture, progressive thinking, ideas and innovation, collaborative partnerships with industry stakeholders and each other, and professional leadership.

In addition to these core values, Screen Queensland is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a spirit of:

Empowering creatives to retain authenticity, independence and narrative control.

Encouraging storytellers to be bold and courageous in challenging perceptions of what Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories are and can be.

Respecting and **upholding** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life and cultural knowledge.

> 5 Kangaroos - Sesame Street/Carbon Media

> KEY
OBJECTIVES

Discover new stories and new storytellers from Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Nurture talented creatives and crew to develop a sector comprised of committed professionals.

Innovate through support of new technologies, new platforms and new ways of telling stories.

Invest in talent, project development, production and businesses to ensure career momentum and industry growth.


Celebrate great work and outstanding talent that promotes the distinctive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice and is part of defining Queensland and the stories it has to share.





> MEASURES
OF SUCCESS

> *League Nation Live*



> *Blue Warrior: Gary Thompson*

SCREEN QUEENSLAND IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING ITS STRATEGIC GOALS BY ENSURING:

- ❑ A **sustained and growing number of early career** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners telling stories from Queensland.
- ❑ At least 10 per cent of Screen Queensland Production Investment in projects with at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in a **key creative role** (writer, director, producer).
- ❑ **Significant and progressive inclusion** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners in Screen Queensland-funded initiatives, with a commitment to a goal in which 50 per cent of all early career initiatives include projects / participants with at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in a key creative role (writer, director, producer). Note: All funding available through the Indigenous Program will be directed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects and practitioners.
- ❑ **Clear pathways** to guide the career and skills development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and their relationships with relevant partners and stakeholders.
- ❑ Significant and progressive **increase in the development and production** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen stories for new platforms and new audiences.
- ❑ Significant and **progressive increase** in numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crew signed up to the Screen Queensland crew database and employed by and/or attached to Screen Queensland-funded productions.
- ❑ Significant and progressive increase in Queensland-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners **selling work to Australian and international broadcasters and distributors**, including at least one feature film, one international co-production, one factual series for any platform, one drama series for any platform and one innovative project for any platform.
- ❑ Significant and progressive increase in the numbers and strength of **Aboriginal-and Torres Strait Islander-owned screen businesses** in Queensland.
- ❑ Significant and progressive inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen **stories, created and told by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders**, in Indigenous and non-Indigenous festivals and showcases in Australia and internationally.
- ❑ A fresh showcase for Queensland-made Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories that exploit the **power of new platforms to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories** with **global audiences**, including an online Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Film Festival that shares work and ideas from Queensland's first peoples to first nation populations in other parts of the world.



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