



Talent Development Investment

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Queensland
Government

SQ Content

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What is Talent Development Investment?

Through Talent Development Investment, writers with exceptional talent and ideas will be supported to develop their project, with the assistance of a script editor or creative mentor/expert, before attaching a producer. Writers will develop their materials to a stage where it is strong enough to secure an experienced producer and attract broadcast/theatrical market interest.

Screen Queensland aims to increase diversity and inclusion on screen and within the creative teams funded, in the process unearthing new voices and new stories that reflect and resonate with who we are as Australians. Gender equality and diversity within teams will be considered as part of the assessment criteria surrounding benefits to Queensland.

Funding for Talent Development Investment will be available in two rounds. Check the Screen Queensland [website](#) for up to date details on application deadlines.

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 unless they are a published writer or commercially-produced playwright using their underlying work as the basis for a screen adaptation (see further details below)

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.

Applications requesting funding for ineligible items or retrospective funding will not be accepted.

Projects based on underlying works such as novels, plays or other materials are encouraged to apply as are writers from other writing disciplines such as novelists and playwrights.

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 fees and up to \$5,000 for a Queensland script editor or creative mentor/expert with experience in the designated format).

SQ will consider applications with interstate or international script editors/mentors/experts attached in the case where work requires specialist knowledge (e.g. genre expertise).

Applications should include a clear rationale for the attachment of an international or interstate practitioner in the development plan.

Screen Queensland Talent 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 \$50,000 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.

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

What documents do I need to provide in my application?

For feature film and broadcast applications we require:

- CVs of writer(s) & script editor or creative mentor/expert
- Synopsis: one paragraph & one page (view Screen Australia's guide [here](#))
- Script (complete draft); or
- If the applicant is a published writer or commercially produced playwright, the applicant can submit the following:
 - A copy of the underlying work (eg. play or novel)
 - Architecture for the screenplay (eg. Treatment or outline)
 - A script sample of the project of a minimum of 10 pages
- Detailed development plan including notes from the writer and script editor (where applicable), that:
 - describes the creative vision
 - outlines the progress of the project to date
 - identifies the story challenges and the tools and approaches that will be used to explore and address these in the next stage of development
- Chain of title documents (as well as relevant agreements with all key creatives and consultants)

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. All markers identifying applicants will be removed prior to initial assessment.

Screen Queensland is unable to discuss applications while they are undergoing assessment.

For assistance in securing a Queensland script editor, please contact the [Queensland Writers Centre](#) and/or the [Queensland Chapter of the Australian Writers' Guild](#).

How do I apply?

1. Check the Screen Queensland website and subscribe to the Screen Queensland newsletter to keep across application deadlines (two rounds each year).
2. Complete the application form at <https://screenqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/>
3. 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.

NB: These guidelines may be updated from time to time. Ensure you have read the latest version prior to submitting your application.