

## ASSIGNED PRODUCTION INVESTMENT FILM AND TELEVISION

### **About the program:**

Through *Assigned Production Investment - Film and Television* Film Victoria supports the production of high quality, diverse and engaging content for Australian and international audiences, which will generate production activity and employment in Victoria. Film, television, online and [virtual reality](#) projects are eligible to be considered for support.

### **Before applying:**

- / Read these guidelines and the [Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Film Victoria conducts its business and include requirements for recipients of Film Victoria funding to provide a safe workplace environment and comply with workplace legislation and codes of conduct. Terms [underlined in green](#) appear in the [website glossary](#)
- / Read Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#). Film Victoria is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality and diversity and inclusion
- / Check eligibility and application notes for application requirements
- / Check [deadline dates](#) and be aware that there are separate deadlines for feature projects and all other projects
- / Review the [online application form](#)
- / Contact the Production Investment team as early as possible to discuss the readiness of the script and finance plan, and to determine the most appropriate time to submit the application.

All applicants are required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$550 (incl. GST) at the time of application. For feature film projects, the fee will be payable at the initial deadline.

### **Available funding:**

- / Generally between 3-10 per cent of the project's [Victorian spend](#), usually capped at \$500,000
- / Low budget projects and applications for completion funding may request a higher percentage, however no guarantees can be provided. Applicants should discuss their funding requests with the Production Investment Team prior to submitting an application
- / Funding is available as an [Assigned Production Investment](#), where Film Victoria's equity, copyright and recoupment position is assigned to the producer.

### **Eligibility:**

- / Applicants must be an Australian production company with a project that has secured market attachment from a recognised distributor or exhibition platform (e.g. a [broadcaster](#), exhibitor, or [major online content provider](#))
- / Evidence of market attachment must:
  - Demonstrate a formal commitment or intention to distribute or broadcast the project

- Be dated no later than six months from the application deadline date
  - Specify the commercial terms of the attachment
  - Specify the market attachment's level of financial commitment to the project.
- / For low budget feature films (under \$1.5M), online narrative fiction projects, or applications for completion funding, projects unable to meet the above market requirements may be eligible to apply, where a strong business case for an alternate distribution strategy can be demonstrated.
- / Eligible projects are:
- [Feature](#) and [large format](#) films ([narrative fiction](#) and [documentary](#))
  - Television and online projects (both [narrative fiction](#) and [documentary](#)) with a total minimum duration of a commercial half hour
  - [Virtual Reality](#) projects with an underlying [narrative](#) .
- / Film Victoria may consider accepting an application for a non-narrative children's series or scripted sketch comedy series where the producer can demonstrate significant benefit to Victoria and the Victorian screen industry
- / Projects where pre-production commences prior to the Board decision date are only eligible to apply for completion funding
- / Documentary projects where some preliminary shooting has been undertaken because of time critical issues relating to the subject matter may still be considered for production funding on a case by case basis. Applicants should contact the Production Investment team before applying
- / Applications for completion funding will be accepted, where the principal production process has been completed and a [rough cut](#) or equivalent produced. In such cases Film Victoria will not fund any costs incurred prior to the approval of an application, but the entire Victorian spend will be taken into consideration when assessing benefits to Victoria
- / Completion funding can be applied to post-production expenses from rough cut through to delivery and costs associated with marketing and distribution.

### **Application notes:**

- / Applicants who are eligible to receive [Producer Offset](#) (Offset), [Post Digital and Visual Effects Offset](#) (PDV Offset) or [Producer Equity Program](#) (PEP) payments are expected to include these in the finance plan and:
- Warrant that the project is eligible for the Offset, PDV Offset or PEP and provide evidence of eligibility if requested
  - Confirm how these will be cashflowed
  - Include the costs of cashflowing these (including interest and fees) in the budget.
- / Applicants will need to provide evidence of the following:
- The attachment of other investors to the project and their intended or committed level of financial support
  - Sales estimates and a waterfall or narrative statement demonstrating the potential financial returns for the project if it is a feature film (narrative fiction or documentary)
  - Any other distribution arrangements that are in place
  - A completion bond (unless otherwise agreed by Film Victoria).
- / The budget must include allocations for:
- Repayments of development investments due to Film Victoria

- All usual and customary insurances
  - Digital marketing and additional content creation
  - Captioning and audio description for [theatrical release](#)
  - Captioning for DVD release
  - Delivery of the project to the NFSA.
- / Applicants seeking an Assigned Production Investment of \$150,000 or more, are required to engage at least one [Professional Attachment](#) and include the cost of this in their budget as follows:
- An allocation for one or more professional attachments for a minimum of five weeks, plus an additional week for every \$50,000 over the \$150,000 threshold
  - An attachment program administration cost of 0.5% of their Film Victoria funding request.
- / Film Victoria expects 100% of the shoot and post-production to occur in Victoria, but acknowledges that co-productions and story content may sometimes require otherwise.

### ***Assessment process and timelines:***

- / There are two deadlines for each funding round; an early deadline specifically for feature films (narrative fiction and documentary) and another deadline for all other projects
- / For feature projects, a meeting will be held with the creative team to discuss the vision for the project. Teams will need to be available (in person or via Skype) on the days nominated by Film Victoria. Following this meeting Film Victoria will discuss the readiness of the project to progress through the assessment process
- / Returning television series previously supported by Film Victoria can apply for funding out of advertised rounds if production dates are time critical.

Applications are presented to the [Evaluation and Advisory Committee](#) (EAC) and their recommendations are presented to the Film Victoria Board for approval. When assessing applications the following criteria are considered:

- / The script/treatment for the project including:
- The strength and distinctiveness of the idea
  - Its readiness to move into production.
- / The creative team's ability to realise the project both creatively and financially
- / The cultural and economic benefits of the project to Victoria and the Victorian screen industry. Economic benefits measured by the total [Qualifying Victorian Expenditure](#) and the creation of employment opportunities for Victorian screen industry practitioners
- / The number of Victorians in key creative positions
- / The strength of market attachment to the project and its ability to reach its clearly defined audience
- / The availability of Film Victoria's investment program funds
- / How the subject content/storylines and selection of cast, key creatives and crew (confirmed or planned) encompass gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness

Preference is given to applications submitted by [Victorian producers](#) and to projects creatively driven by [Victorians](#), particularly in the roles of producer, director, writer and other Heads of Department.

Feature applicants can expect to be advised of the outcome of an application within 14 weeks of the deadline. All other applicants can expect to be advised of the outcome of an application within 10 weeks of the deadline.

### **Successful applicants:**

- / Are expected to engage Victorians in all [head of department](#) roles and will be required to demonstrate they've genuinely sought to employ Victorians in all [head of department](#) and key creative roles
- / Will be required to enter into an [Assigned Production Investment](#) agreement which will specify conditions, including how the investment will be cashflowed, and deliverables Film Victoria require. The commitments made in the application, particularly with regard to minimum Victorian Spend and employment, will be a contractual obligation
- / Should check the [Terms of Trade](#) for more details.

### **Contacts:**

#### Initial queries:

Program Services Officers [Natalie Williams](#) (feature projects) 03 9660 3206 and [Denise Bohan](#) (television/online projects) 03 9660 3261

Manager, Production Investment: [Cathy Rodda](#) 03 9660 3260

Production Executives: [Franco Di Chiera](#) 03 9660 3281 and [Alicia Brown](#) 03 9660 3223

Head of Screen Industry Programs: [Ross Hutchens](#) 03 9660 3271.