FEATURE FILM DEVELOPMENT

About the program:

The *Feature Film Development program* supports Victorian writers and producers to develop high quality, marketable, narrative fiction feature films for Australian and international audiences. More experienced producers or writers may be eligible to apply for Film Victoria's *Development On Demand* program.

Before applying:

/ Read these guidelines and the Terms of Trade, which set out the core terms on which Film Victoria conducts its business. Terms underlined in green appear in the website glossary

/ Read Film Victoria's Gender & Diversity Statement. Film Victoria is committed to working with stakeholders to increase the representation of women practitioners working across all disciplines in the Victorian Screen industry

/ Check the eligibility and the deadlines for this program

/ Review the online application form.

Funding available:

/ Up to $30,000 to develop a project from draft to draft

/ Up to $30,000 to support sufficiently well-developed animation or CGI/VFX-dependent projects for pre-visualisation activities like proof of concept teaser or other visual materials to aid in securing market and/or cast attachments

/ Applicants can submit up to two projects per deadline, but only one project can be funded.

Requests should be appropriate for the development activities to be undertaken and the experience level of the team, with the understanding that Film Victoria offers a contribution to the next stage of development rather than funding it outright.

Eligibility:

/ Applicants can be an individual or a company and must have credits as a writer, co-writer, producer or co-producer on at least one of the following:

- A fiction feature film that has been theatrically released, screened at an approved festival or been commissioned or acquired by a major online content provider

- Two hours of narrative fiction that has been broadcast on television or commissioned or acquired by a major online content provider (including series or telemovies, but not serials).

/ Writer applicants must be Victorian

/ Non-Victorian producer applicants must engage a Victorian writer for draft to draft applications

/ Writers are eligible to receive funding for one draft of a project without a producer. To be eligible to apply for subsequent funding with the same project, an eligible producer must be attached

/ Applicants may submit projects previously supported by us for development, as long as they were funded within the last seven financial years from the date of the current application.

Exclusions:

/ Funding is not provided for treatment to draft costs, office overheads and pre-preproduction activities such as budgeting, scheduling and casting

/ If applying as a producer, qualifying credits must be as a producer or co-producer, not as an associate producer or executive producer

/ Projects that have previously received late stage or market ready Film Victoria funding cannot be submitted to this program

/ Projects submitted to Film Victoria for fiction development that are not supported at assessment on two occasions cannot be resubmitted.

Application process and timelines:

The application process consists of two stages:

Stage 1
Applicants need to submit a completed application form, a two-page synopsis and the first 10-15 pages of the screenplay and next stage development notes by the advertised deadline. Film Victoria anticipates shortlisting applications within 4-6 weeks.

Stage 2
Shortlisted applicants will be asked to submit the full draft screenplay.

Applicants can expect to meet with the assessment panel and be advised of the outcome within 3-4 weeks of being shortlisted.

Assessment:

Funding is competitive. When assessing applications Film Victoria will consider:

At stage 1:

/ The strength and distinctiveness of the idea, with an emphasis on bold and fresh concepts

/ The execution and quality of the writing sample

/ The development notes and how they demonstrate awareness of the script's development's needs

/ The project's potential in the marketplace

/ The applicant's understanding of the market for the project

/ Any previous Film Victoria funding the applicant has received for the project

/ The number of current projects the applicant has in development with Film Victoria.

At stage 2:

/ The execution and quality of the full draft script

/ The development notes, and how well they:

- Articulate the issues to be faced in the next stage of development

- Outline strategies to address these issues.

/ The ability of the team to successfully deliver:

- The proposed stage of development

- The final project.
/ Where a producer is attached to the project, their ability to:
  - Secure market attachments and production finance
/ The project's:
  - Potential to reach its target audience
  - Ability to be realised for an appropriate budget relative to its audience.
/ The strength and calibre of market attachment (where applicable).
/ How the subject content/storylines and selection of cast, key creatives and crew (confirmed or planned) address diversity and gender equity.

Successful applicants:

Funding terms and conditions, including deliverables and repayment obligations will be set out in the Development Agreement.

Access to further opportunities

If an applicant has successfully delivered a project through this program, subsequent applications for further development of that same project through *Feature Film Development* may be prioritised for shortlisting.

Projects supported through *Feature Film Development* may later be invited to apply to the *Development on Demand – Features* program.

Projects shortlisted for *Feature Film Development* may also be considered for participation in Film Victoria's *Incubator Feature Script Intensive*.

Contacts:

Initial queries:
Program Services Officer Sarah Pratt 03 9660 3229

Program Manager
Manager - Fiction Development Erin Stam 03 9660 3232.