

Curious Australia: Initiative Guidelines

About this Initiative

Curious Australia is a joint initiative between Screen Australia, SBS and NITV, Film Victoria, Screen NSW, Screenwest, Screen Tasmania, South Australian Film Corporation, Screen Queensland and Screen Territory to produce exciting and innovative documentaries for SBS and NITV platforms.

This initiative aims to support practitioners from under-represented backgrounds and projects that reflect gender equity and/or the diversity of people and experiences from around Australia, all of which are important culturally, creatively and economically.

For the purposes of this initiative, we recognise '**Under-represented Backgrounds**' as: those identifying as First Nations Australians; women; those with diverse age backgrounds; people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds; people living with disability; people of diverse sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQIA+); people from under-represented locations (including regional and remote areas); and people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Up to three projects from Victoria may be commissioned as part of this initiative for broadcast on SBS On Demand, SBS Viceland and SBS & NITV.

What are we looking for?

Eligible projects must be unscripted documentaries that reflect the SBS Charter. Projects must be focussed on contemporary Australian issues and promise to be compelling and engaging. Projects must be achievable within budget and suitable for the target audience in accordance with the SBS Codes of Practice and SBS Editorial Guidelines.

Specifically, we are looking for:

- Unscripted documentary projects suitable for SBS On Demand, SBS Viceland and for those relevant projects, NITV.
- An awareness of who the project is for and why it is relevant for this audience.
- Unique stories that add to the cultural landscape of Australian content
- Stand-alone documentaries suitable for half hour television slot (22 minutes)
- Authentic stories that will engage and enlighten
- Projects which can be ready for production in the 2021/2022 financial year

Who is eligible?

- / Curious Australia is targeted at emerging to mid-career creators working on lower-budget, exciting and risk-taking projects.
- / Experienced producers who are working with emerging and/or mid-career key creatives are also encouraged to apply
- / Applicant teams must consist of at least two key creatives from Under-represented Backgrounds. For Curious Australia, key creative roles are defined as: producer, director, writer, editor, DOP. Other key roles will be considered if a strong case is made.

- / To be eligible for NITV/SBS co-productions, teams must adhere to NITV's requirement that two out of three key creatives must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island peoples.
- / Applicant teams must consist of at least a director and a producer, one of whom has had at least one screen credit in their respective role on a project which has been broadcast and/or screened at a recognised film festival or distributed on a significant curated online platform. Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out by Film Victoria's [Terms of Trade](#) as well as Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#)
- / You must be a director or producer that is an Australian individual or company. View Film Victoria's [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements.
- / Applicants must be [Victorian](#).
- / Preference will be given to all [Victorian](#) key creative teams
- / Project must be substantially shot and/or completed in Victoria.
- / Please note that while you can be attached to more than one project under the Curious Australia initiative, we strongly recommend you carefully consider which project or projects are best suited to your skill set when choosing your applicant team.

What is not eligible?

- / Funding is not provided for option fees.
- / If your project has been declined for funding from Film Victoria for development funding twice, you cannot submit for this application for the same project.
- / Unsuccessful applications for this fund may apply to other Film Victoria development programs.

What is the budget?

Each documentary should be working to an indicative budget of up to \$120,000 from Film Victoria, SBS and Screen Australia.

Applicants may include additional funding through private investment or philanthropy but those funds must be confirmed and/or underwritten at the time of application in order for contracting to commence as soon as projects are selected.

*If an EP/Mentor is required that will be an additional cost determined at the time of selection and will be provided on top of the indicative budget.

The Details

How do I apply?

Applications close midnight Monday 9 August 2021 and can be made through Film Victoria's application portal. Application materials and information will be made available to SBS and Screen Australia as part of the assessment process.

Applicants will need to provide:

- / **A completed [application form](#)**
- / 1 page treatment
- / Detailed outline/shooting script
- / Supporting reel (either character reel or sizzle) maximum duration 3 minutes
- / Supporting evidence of any significant relevant access required (ie. if an observational documentary in a hospital, a letter confirming access to said hospital is required)
- / CV's of the key creatives and team involved and their past experience creating content.

Optional materials:

- / A pitch video detailing the creative vision for the project, no more than three minutes long and supplied as a video weblink

SBS First and Last Rights:

- / In applying for the 'Curious Australia' initiative, applicants agree and acknowledge that a condition of being selected for the initiative is that Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS) and/or NITV has an Exclusive First and Last Right to acquire on standard SBS terms all Free Communication Rights in Australia in respect of their project. Key rights include Worldwide Premiere, Free Television for 8 runs and FVOD/AVOD for a licence period of 5 years as more fully outlined in the SBS/NITV Presale.

Funding Terms:

- / Funding will be provided as Assigned Production Investment.
- / Successful applicants will enter into separate written agreements with Screen Australia, SBS/NITV and Film Victoria, in accordance with their respective Terms of Trade and specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.
- / Applicants must detail how they plan to utilise local crew and the amount to be spent in Victoria
- / Recipients are required to provide a written acquittal report detailing the outcomes achieved as a result of funding. Aspects of these may be published following consultation with the applicant.
- / It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain and keep current, all necessary permissions, permits, insurances and Chain of Title documentation for the development, production and exploitation of the Project. Screen Australia, SBS and NITV and/or the relevant screen agency, reserves the right to sight and approve the above at any time, upon written request to the Producer.

Assessment Criteria:

Each eligible application will be assessed taking into consideration the following Assessment Criteria:

- The creative strength of the project, and its ability to successfully engage the relevant audience
 - The track record of the key team members and the likelihood that this program will develop their skills
 - The standard of the supplied creative deliverables
 - The alignment of the team and project with the diversity and inclusivity aims of the initiative with Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#) and with the SBS Charter, SBS Codes of Practice and Editorial Guidelines.
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- / Your application will be assessed by Screen Australia, SBS and NITV and Film Victoria.
 - / Funding is competitive.

What is the timeline?

- Applications Open: 02 June 2021
- Applications Close: 9 August 2021
- Film Victoria will endeavour to notify successful Projects by email or phone around 6 August 2021 (approximately)

- / Screen Australia, SBS and Film Victoria acknowledge and appreciate the effort that goes into applications, however given the anticipated volume of applications will not be able to provide individual feedback on each individual application.

What will help your application?

- / 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.
- / Review the online application form – make sure you have all required documents ready to be submitted with the application.
- / Make sure your application speaks to the **Assessment Criteria** (set out above).
- / Film Victoria is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian Screen Industry and expects applicants to demonstrate diversity and inclusion in their application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to our [Gender & Diversity Statement](#).
- / Read SBS Australia’s guidelines and program details.
- / Read the SBS [Codes of Practice](#) and SBS [Editorial Guidelines](#) and ensure your project aligns with these principles

Who can you talk to about this initiative?

- / For initial application enquiries, Program Services Officer, [Steven Griffin](#) 03 9660 3220
- / To discuss your project, Program Manager, [Andrew Wiseman](#) 03 9660 3281

Ready to start your application?

[Start your application](#)