

Pitch to Pilot: SBS and Film Victoria Drama Development Initiative Guidelines

About this Program

- / This joint initiative between SBS and Film Victoria aims to support [Victorian](#) writers and producers to develop Australian drama series
- / Up to four teams will be selected to develop a scene breakdown for the [pilot](#) episode and an updated series pitch document for a 4x1 hour drama series and present their materials to SBS for commissioning consideration
- / One team may be selected to further develop their scene breakdown into a [pilot script](#)
- / We are looking for teams with at least one suitably qualified [key creative](#) from a diverse background:
 - SBS and Film Victoria recognise diversity as differences in gender, age, Indigenous identity, cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD), disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographic location and socioeconomic status
 - Read Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#) and SBS's [Charter](#).

What are we looking for?

- / Projects that respond to the [Creative Brief](#)
- / Applications that clearly address the [Assessment Criteria](#).

Who is eligible?

- / You must be an Australian individual or company. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements
- / Writers must be [Victorian](#)
- / Other [key creatives](#) involved in the development or production of the project are expected to be Victorian
- / Non-[Victorian](#) producers may apply if they are prepared to enter into a co-production arrangement with a Victorian producer for the project beyond the development stage
- / All projects must be intended to substantially shoot and/or be completed in Victoria
- / [Key creatives](#) may only be attached to a maximum of two applications to this initiative
Note: if shortlisted, writers can only be attached to one project and will be required to indicate their preferred project
- / Prior credits are not required but applicants must demonstrate they have the skills required to realise their project
- / At the time of application, the entire writing team need not be finalised. Film Victoria will accept applications where some members of the team are still to be confirmed.

What projects are eligible?

- / Drama series that:
 - meet the [Creative Brief](#)

- have sufficiently developed project materials
- have not been previously attached to another commissioning platform.

What projects are not eligible for this program?

- / [Feature films](#), [telemovies](#), [short films](#), short form series (minimum series duration of a commercial half hour – e.g. 6 x 5 minutes), [online](#), [VR](#)
- / [Documentary](#) projects
- / If your project has been declined for funding from Film Victoria through our core development programs twice, you cannot submit another application for the same project
 - This does not include unsuccessful applications for the *Stan and Film Victoria Development Fund* initiative.

What can you receive funding for?

- / Funding requests may include: writer and producer fees, the costs of holding a development workshop and other expenses (such as a consultant, script editor and/or note taker)
- / We strongly recommend including an allocation in the development budget for legal fees.

How much can you apply for?

- / Up to \$20,000 per project
- / Depending on the requirements of each application, the budget breakdown could include:
 - \$10,000 for a writers' room
 - \$8,000 for writing costs
 - \$2,000 for legal and workshop fees
- / For further guidance on budgeting for development, refer to Film Victoria's [Budget Guide](#)
- / Requested amounts should be appropriate for the development activities proposed, the scope of the final project being developed
- / Film Victoria and SBS funding is an [investment](#), to be repaid from the production budget if and when a project proceeds to production.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- / Program Services Officer - [Heather Scott](#), 03 9660 3254
- / Program Manager - [Katherine Slattery](#), Fiction Development Manager, 03 9660 3232

The Details

Application materials:

- / You must submit a completed application form including:
 - A pitch to camera no more than three minutes long and supplied as a video weblink
 - A 5-10 page series pitch document including:
 - series synopsis (one paragraph)
 - series outline (approx. half page per episode)
 - character descriptions (approx. paragraph per character)
 - tone and world.
 - 10-15 page script sample – can be any sample or the concept you are proposing

- Statement articulating how the members of the creative team can contribute to more diverse and inclusive storytelling on screen with reference to their background and/or experiences e.g. cultural background, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity or First Nations status
- Applications may also include additional materials such as episode outlines.

What happens after you apply?

- / Your application will be initially assessed by Film Victoria's Development Assessment Panel
- / Shortlisted projects will be assessed by a panel comprising representatives from Film Victoria and SBS
- / Decisions will take into account the **Assessment Criteria** listed below, Film Victoria's availability of funds, diversity of the current slate of projects and teams, as well as the perceived need for Film Victoria funds by the applicant.

Assessment Criteria

- / Story
 - The strength and distinctiveness of the narrative, with an emphasis on bold, innovative and fresh storytelling concepts
 - The execution and quality of the submitted materials.
- / Development Plan
 - The degree to which the development plan diagnoses the story challenges in the current material, while also offering strategies to address them in the next phase of development.
- / Talent
 - The ability of the individual or team to develop the project and ultimately realise the production.
- / Diversity, refer to Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#) and SBS's [Charter](#)
 - How your application addresses diversity across these core areas:
 - Meaningful on screen representation of diversity in main protagonists, themes and narratives
 - Project leadership and [Key Creatives](#).
- / Audience and Budget
 - The project's alignment with SBS's Charter and audience
 - A target audience appropriate to the project's budget size.

How long until a decision is made?

- / You can expect a decision 10 weeks from the deadline date, via email or phone.

What happens if you get funding?

Phase One:

- / Successful applicants will be expected by 12 June 2020 to deliver:
 - a scene breakdown of the pilot episode
 - an updated series pitch document including:
 - series synopsis (one paragraph)
 - series outline (approx. one page per episode)
 - character descriptions (approx. half page per character)

- tone and world.
- / Successful applicants will enter into standard, non-negotiable [investment](#) agreements with both Film Victoria and SBS, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including deliverables, credit requirements and any repayment obligations.
 - SBS will take a standard 10% copyright interest in the project, and requires an 18 month option upon decision date, with option to extend. SBS also takes a first right to commission for production based on its standard terms and free communication rights.
 - Film Victoria will not take a copyright interest in the project.

Phase Two:

- / SBS and Film Victoria will jointly determine which project that successfully delivers under Phase One of this initiative is eligible to receive additional funding of \$20,000 to deliver a first draft of the pilot script. Expected delivery for Phase Two is September 2020.

What happens if you don't get funding?

- / We will contact you to let you know if you have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding
- / You are welcome to get in touch with the Program Manager, to receive feedback on your 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 document ready to be submitted with the application
- / Make sure your application speaks to the [Assessment Criteria](#) (set out above)
- / Read Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#). Film Victoria is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian Screen industry
- / Read SBS's [Charter](#)
- / **Check the [deadline date](#) for this program and submit your application on time.** Applications are due by 11pm AEST on the deadline date unless otherwise stated on the program page on Film Victoria's website. Applications not received by the deadline date will not be accepted, as per our [Terms of Trade](#).

Ready to start your application?

[Start your application](#)