

Project Development Guidelines

About this Program

- / Project Development supports [Victorian](#) producers, writers and writer/directors to develop [narrative fiction](#) or [documentary](#) projects for any release platform including [cinema](#), [television](#), [online](#) and [virtual reality](#).
- / There are two funding rounds per year.

What are we looking for?

- / This program encourages applications from new voices as well as experienced practitioners.
- / We're looking for strong, vivid and distinct projects with clearly articulated development goals.
- / We're also looking for applications that clearly address the [Assessment Criteria](#).

Who is eligible?

- / You must be [Victorian](#) (this means [applicants](#) and all [key creatives](#)).
- / You must be an Australian individual or company. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements.
- / You can be a producer, writer or writer/director.
 - Writers applying with a **documentary project** must have a producer attached.
 - Writers applying with a **fiction project** can receive one round of funding without a producer but a producer must be attached for any subsequent funding applications.
- / You can only submit one application per funding round.
- / [Key creatives](#) may only be attached to one application per funding round.
- / Prior credits are not required but applicants must demonstrate they have the skills to realise their project.
- / **More experienced producers or writers** should consider if they are eligible to apply to Film Victoria's [Development On Demand](#) program.

What projects are eligible?

- / Television, Online, Feature Film, VR and Short form series (only with a minimum series duration of a commercial half hour – e.g. 6 x 5 minutes) are all eligible.

What is not eligible for this program?

- / [Short films](#) are not eligible for funding from this program.
- / For [documentary](#) applications, Lifestyle, Magazine and Current Affairs concepts are not eligible.
- / Funding is not provided for office overheads.
- / Funding is not provided for option fees.
- / Funding is not provided for the [pre-production](#) activities of budgeting, scheduling and casting.
- / If your project has been declined for funding from Film Victoria for development funding twice, you cannot submit another application for the same project.

What can you receive funding for?

- / Film Victoria funding is a partial contribution to the next stage of development. Applicants are expected to supplement this funding with their own or [third party](#) contributions.
- / Funding can be used to develop a project to secure market attachment or production finance.
- / Funding requests may include:
 - For fiction series or one-off projects – writers room costs, pitch bible to series [bible](#), sample pages to [pilot](#), [draft](#) to draft, [proof of concept](#) activities or [prototyping](#) for [VR](#).
 - For fiction feature projects - [draft](#) to draft.
 - For documentary projects - research, writing of a detailed [treatment](#), creation of a [teaser](#), strategic shooting, [proof of concept](#) activities or [prototyping](#) for [VR](#).

How much can you apply for?

- / Funding for development varies depending on project type. Requested amounts should be appropriate for the development activities proposed, the scope of the final project being developed and aligned with our [Budget Guide](#).
- / Film Victoria funding is provided as a development [investment](#), which must be repaid from the production budget if and when a project proceeds to [production](#).

Who can you talk to about this program?

- / For initial queries, Program Services Officer:
 - Fiction, [Laura Emerick](#) 03 9660 3206
 - Documentary, [Steven Griffin](#) 03 9660 3220
- / For queries about your project, Program Managers:
 - Fiction, [Katherine Slattery](#) 03 9660 3232
 - Documentary, [Andrew Wiseman](#) 03 9660 3281

The Details

Application materials:

You must submit:

- / A completed [application form](#)
- / A project Sample as follows:

Type of project	Sample required
Fiction feature film	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft screenplay
Fiction television or short-form series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pitch bible (5-10 pages) and• script sample (10-15 pages)
Documentary features films, one-offs, television or online series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline or draft treatment
VR projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft treatment or script and preliminary proof of concept

- / **A pitch detailing the creative vision for the project**, supplied as either:
 - a pitch to camera (this is the preferred format), no more than three minutes long and supplied as a video weblink; OR
 - a pitch doc

- / **Next stage development notes**

- The development notes identify challenges within the current project materials and articulate strategies to address these issues in the next stage/s of development

And applications for Fiction Series and Fiction Feature Films must also provide:

- / **Project notes detailing:**

- The project's development history
- Key personnel
- Development steps to be undertaken
- Market overview

What happens after you apply?

- / Your application will be assessed by our Development Assessment Panel for both Stages 1 and 2.
- / Funding is competitive. Assessments will take into account the **Assessment Criteria** listed below, Film Victoria's availability of funds, diversity of the current slate of projects and teams across all platforms, as well as the perceived need for Film Victoria funds by the applicant.
- / Projects will be assessed against the following **Assessment Criteria**:
 - Story
 - The strength and distinctiveness of the narrative, with an emphasis on bold storytelling.
 - 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.
 - Audience and Budget
 - The applicant's demonstration of a clear pathway to audience appropriate to the project's budget size and financing strategy
 - Talent
 - The ability of the individual or team to develop the project.
 - Diversity
 - How your application addresses diversity across one or more core areas:
 - Meaningful on screen representation of diversity in main protagonists, themes and narratives.
 - Project leadership and Key Creatives
 - Industry access and opportunities for training/career progression/mentoring.

Stage 1

- / Film Victoria will review the application materials submitted for each application (with the exception of Fiction feature projects where we will read a portion of the screenplay) to determine if the project is shortlisted for further assessment.
- / Film Victoria anticipates shortlisting applications within eight weeks of the deadline date (depending on the number of applications received). At this stage, Film Victoria will advise all applicants, including those who were not shortlisted of the outcome of their application.

Stage 2

- / Applications will be assessed against the **Assessment Criteria** set out above.

How long until a decision is made?

- / You can expect a decision 16 weeks from the deadline date, via email or phone.

What happens if you get funding?

- / Successful applicants will enter into a standard, non-negotiable agreement with Film Victoria, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including deliverables, credit requirements and any repayment obligations.

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 able to get in touch with our Program Managers who will provide some 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.
- / Read our [Budget Guide](#)
- / 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](#).
- / **Get your application in on time** and check the [deadline date](#) for this program. 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 for that round, as per our Terms of Trade.

Ready to start your application?

[Fiction Application Form](#)

[Documentary Application Form](#)