

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

About the program:

Through the *Project Development* program Film Victoria supports [Victorian](#) producers, writers and writer/directors to develop [narrative fiction](#) or [documentary](#) projects for any release platform including [cinema](#), [television](#), [online](#) and [VR](#).

Before applying:

- / Read these guidelines and Film Victoria's [Terms of Trade](#). Terms [underlined in green](#) appear in the website glossary.
- / Review the online application form.
- / Read the [FAQs](#) which include details on what you need to provide in the application
- / 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.
- / Check the [deadline date](#) for this program.
- / More experienced producers or writers should consider if they are eligible to apply to Film Victoria's [Development On Demand](#) program.

Funding available:

- / Up to \$30,000 is available for project development, depending on the project type. For guidance on budgeting for development, refer to Film Victoria's [Budget Guide](#).
- / Film Victoria funding for project development is an investment, to be repaid from the production budget if and when a project proceeds to production.
- / 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.
- / Requested funding:
 - must be reasonable for the proposed development activities, and the scope and budget of the final project being developed; and
 - may be used to develop the project through the stages required to secure market attachment or production finance, including funding for pitch bible to bible, treatment to advanced treatment or draft script, and/or draft to draft (however, treatment to draft funding is not available for fiction feature projects).
- / For documentary projects, applicants may request funding for sizzle reels, or strategic shooting and editing.
- / For projects at an advanced stage of development where visual materials are essential (such as animation, CGI/VFX or VR projects), applicants may request funding for previsualisation activities like a proof of concept teaser or prototyping.

Eligibility:

- / [Applicants](#) can be an individual or a company
- / Applications can be received from producers, writers or writer/directors
- / Applicants may only submit one application per funding round
- / Applicants must demonstrate they have the skills required to realise their project, however prior credits are not required
- / Applicants and all members of the creative team must be [Victorian](#)
- / Writers applying with:
 - a documentary project must have a producer attached; or
 - a fiction project can receive one round of funding without a producer, but a producer must be attached for any subsequent funding
- / Web series must have a minimum series duration of a commercial half hour (e.g. 6 x 5 minutes)
- / This program specifically excludes funding for:
 - office overheads, options and the pre-preproduction activities of budgeting, scheduling and casting; and
 - projects previously submitted to Film Victoria twice for development funding that have not been supported

Application process and timelines:

The application process has two stages:

Stage 1

Applicants submit:

- / a completed [application form](#)
- / a pitch:
 - detailing:
 - core idea, story engine or argument for the project
 - the experience of the project team and their vision for the project
 - supplied as either:
 - written text; *OR*
 - a pitch to camera (this is the preferred format), no more than three minutes long and supplied as a video weblink
- / an extract/sample of the proposed project (maximum 15 pages)

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 applicants whose projects were not shortlisted that their application was unsuccessful.

Stage 2

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to submit the following further materials within five business days of notification:

- / next stage development notes, and

- / For fiction feature films – screenplay
- / For documentary features or one-offs – a detailed outline or draft treatment
- / For television or online series projects (fiction or documentary) – series treatment or pitch bible
- / For VR projects – draft treatment or script and preliminary proof of concept

If Film Victoria requires further information to consider a shortlisted project for funding, applicants may be invited to meet with the Project Development assessment panel to discuss their project.

Film Victoria anticipates advising shortlisted applicants of the outcome of their application within 6-8 weeks of receiving their materials (depending on the number of applications received).

Fiction projects shortlisted for *Project Development* funding may also be considered for Film Victoria's [Incubator Script Intensive](#).

Assessment:

Funding is competitive. When assessing applications, Film Victoria will consider at the relevant assessment stage:

- / 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
- / Talent – The ability of the individual or team to develop the project, execute the vision
- / Diversity – How the content/storylines and creative team (confirmed or planned) promote and support gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness
- / Development Plan – The degree to which the development plan identifies and articulates the challenges present in the current material while also offering strategies to address them in the next phase(s) 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

Successful applicants:

Successful applicants will enter into a Development Agreement with Film Victoria, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including deliverables and repayment obligations.

Additional resources:

- / For additional information about the program, check the [website](#) for FAQs, the online Application Form and Budget Guide documents.

Contacts:

For **initial queries**, contact the Program Services Officers

- / Fiction, [Sarah Pratt](#) 03 9660 3229
- / Documentary, [Steven Griffin](#) 03 9660 3220

To **discuss the project**, contact the program managers:

- / Fiction, [Erin Bretherton](#) 03 9660 3232
- / Documentary, [Andrew Wiseman](#) 03 9660 3281