

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](#).

Film Victoria expects that projects funded through this program will be developed and produced in Victoria.

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.
- / Film Victoria strongly recommends that all applicants 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. Late applications will not be accepted.

More experienced producers or writers should consider if they are eligible to apply to Film Victoria's [Development On Demand](#) program

Eligibility:

- / [Applicants](#) can be an individual or a company
- / Applications can be received from producers, writers or writer/directors
- / Applicants and all [key creatives](#) must be [Victorian](#)
- / Applicants may 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
- / 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

Project Eligibility:

- / Short form series must have a minimum series duration of a commercial half hour (e.g. 6 x 5 minutes).
- / Short films are not eligible for funding from this program.
- / Treatment to draft funding is not available for fiction feature projects.
- / Projects submitted to Film Victoria for development funding that are not supported on two occasions cannot be resubmitted.

Funding available:

- / Funding for development varies depending on project type. For guidance on available funding for project development, refer to Film Victoria's [Budget Guide](#).
- / Funding is not provided for office overheads, option fees and the pre-preproduction activities of budgeting, scheduling and casting.
- / 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 (e.g. for fiction projects pitch bible to bible, draft to draft or funding for a writers' room or for documentary projects a detailed outline or treatment).
- / In addition, 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.

Application materials:

All Applicants must submit:

- / a completed [application form](#)
- / 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
- / a sample of the proposed project as follows:

Type of project	Sample required
Fiction feature film	Draft screenplay
Fiction television or short-form series	Pitch bible and script sample
Documentary features films, one-offs, television or online series	Outline or draft treatment
VR projects	Draft treatment or script and preliminary proof of concept

Assessment:

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

- / 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

Shortlisting

Film Victoria will read the project sample 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.

Selection

Shortlisted applicants may be contacted by Film Victoria and/or invited to meet with the assessment panel to discuss their project, if further information is required to consider a shortlisted project for funding.

Film Victoria anticipates advising successful and unsuccessful shortlisted applicants of the outcome of their application within 6-8 weeks of notification of shortlisting.

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

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