

The Stan & Film Victoria Comedy Fund Guidelines

About this initiative

- / This joint initiative between Stan and Film Victoria aims to support [Victorian](#) writers and producers to develop Australian comedy with world-class scope and scale.
- / We want stories that respond to Stan's [Creative Brief](#) and feature relatable characters with unique dilemmas fuelling the comedy for a multi-season run.
- / Up to four teams will be given the opportunity to participate in a comedy series workshop with a preeminent comedy writer.
- / The selected teams will deliver a pilot script and series outline which they will then present to Stan for commissioning consideration.

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.
- / Writer applicants must be [Victorian](#).
- / If the producer is not Victorian, a Victorian writer must be engaged and the project must be substantially shot and/or completed in Victoria.
- / [Victorian producers](#), may engage a non-Victorian writer.
- / You do not need to have a producer attached or prior credits to be eligible for this initiative, however applicants must demonstrate that they have the skills required to realise their project. Stan and Film Victoria reserve the right to team less experienced practitioners up with more experienced personnel.
- / 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?

- / Comedy series that:
 - meet the [Creative Brief](#)
 - have sufficiently developed project materials

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 development programs and/or initiatives twice, you cannot submit another application for the same project.

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 \$30,000 per project.
- / Depending on the requirements of each application, an allocation of funding may look as follows:
 - \$18,000 for writing costs
 - \$10,000 for a story producer / producer / writers' room
 - \$2,000 for legal and contingency costs
- / 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 Stan 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 – [Sarah Pratt](#), 03 9660 3229
- / Manager – Fiction Development – [Katherine Slattery](#), 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
 - Pitch document (5 pages) including:
 - series synopsis (1 page)
 - series outline (approx. 1 paragraph per episode)
 - character descriptions (approx. 1 paragraph per character)
 - tone and world
 - target audience and the hooks of the show that will engage viewers
 - creative team
 - Comedy script sample (10 pages)
 - Funding is competitive and applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a writing sample of the proposed concept
 - Film Victoria will accept writing samples from other projects, provided the tone and genre are not dissimilar to the proposed project
 - Writing samples should demonstrate narrative comedy ability
 - Film Victoria will not accept stand-up / sketch / improvisational material

- Development notes (1 page)
 - The development notes identify challenges within the current project materials and articulate strategies to address these issues in the next stage/s of development
- Project notes detailing:
 - The project's development history
 - Key personnel
 - Development steps to be undertaken
 - Market overview
- Applications may also include additional materials such as episode outlines

What happens after you apply?

- / Your application will be assessed by our Development Assessment Panel and representatives from Stan
- / 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 comedy, 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](#)
 - 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 Stan's [Creative Brief](#) and audience
 - A target audience appropriate to the project's budget size

How long until a decision is made?

- / Film Victoria anticipates notifying applicants of the outcome within 10 weeks of the deadline date (depending on the number of applications received).
- / Applications will be assessed against the **Assessment Criteria** set out above.

What happens if you get funding?

Phase One:

- / Successful applicants will be expected to deliver:
 - a pilot episode
 - a series outline
- / Successful applicants will enter into separate non-negotiable [investment](#) agreements with both Film Victoria and Stan setting out their standard terms and conditions of funding, including deliverables, credit requirements, option periods and any repayment obligations.

Phase Two:

- / After teams deliver their creative materials for Phase One, Stan and Film Victoria, will determine which project/s will be selected to progress to Phase Two.
- / Phase Two of this initiative would include deliverables to be determined by Stan and Film Victoria, dependent on the needs of the project.

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
- / **Check the [deadline date](#) for this program and submit your application on time.** Applications are due by 11pm AEDT 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](#)