

## DOCUMENTARY FUNDING 2010/11

Screen Australia's funding for all facets of documentary production and development will be approximately \$16.5 million in 2010/11, allocated as follows:

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**Documentary Development (Single Project) \$500,000**

- There will be **four decision meetings**:
  - July 2010 (closed)
  - 6 October 2010 (deadline 10 September 2010)
  - 2 February 2011 (deadline 17 December 2010)
  - 18 May 2011 (deadline 22 April 2011).
- Time-critical applications will be assessed outside the development tranche **only in genuine and exceptional circumstances**. At a minimum, producers need to demonstrate strong broadcast or marketplace interest. Producers should consult with an Investment/Development Manager to assess whether their project is suitable before applying for time-critical funds.
- All applications will be assessed by a panel made up of the Head of Production Investment and at least two Investment/Development Managers.

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**Domestic & International Documentary \$7.5 million**

| Decision        | Closing date      | Split       |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Mid July 2010   | Closed            | \$3,900,000 |
| 3 November 2010 | 10 September 2010 | \$1,800,000 |
| 6 April 2011    | 18 February 2011  | \$1,800,000 |

Funds for the Domestic and International programs will be pooled and allocated on the dates above. Preference will be given to International documentaries; however, Screen Australia will assess all projects on their merits, taking into account:

- strength of proposal
  - production readiness with all elements of production and finance plan in place
  - variety of practitioners and broadcasters;
- as well as the criteria previously noted in the guidelines:
- strength of marketplace (ie. major territory; percentage level of advance)
  - percentage and quantum of non-Screen Australia finance
  - balance between one-off programs and series
  - diversity of slate.

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**Special Documentary Fund (SDF) \$800,000**

An opportunity for projects that fall outside the potential requirements of broadcaster commissioning and Screen Australia market requirements. At least two Documentary Investment/Development Managers, Head of Production Investment and an external assessor from the documentary industry will consider applications. Projects are accepted once a year.

| Decision   | Closing date   |
|------------|----------------|
| 2 December | 5 October 2010 |

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**triple jtv docs5****\$200,000**

A joint initiative of ABC TV and Screen Australia that seeks fresh approaches to broadcast documentaries that explore contemporary issues, ideas and culture through the eyes of generations X, Y and Z. Applications closed 4 April 2010.

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**National Documentary Program (NDP)****\$5 million**

Under this program Screen Australia aims to provide a comprehensive and strategic slate of projects across a period of time, involving a diversity of practitioners, styles, formats and budgets.

The NDP has a close association with the Screen Australia Library and stock footage in Australia. The NDP and Making History projects are the main supplier of new footage and stills to the Library.

There will be a notional budget split of 40 per cent to the ABC, 40 per cent to SBS, and 20 per cent to other broadcasters, both free-to-air and subscription channels as well as digital media.

The projects will be framed broadly around four content areas:

- art and culture
- contemporary and social issues (including social history)
- science and the environment
- national history and identity (see also Making History Initiative below).

Other points worth noting when applying to the NDP are:

- Applications can be submitted at any time through the online submission form.
- The value of the Producer Offset, plus the Screen Australia investment, cannot exceed 75 per cent of the budget of the film.
- Projects are assessed internally by the Head of Production Investment and the Investment Development Managers.
- Projects are assessed against the four content areas to ensure a diversity of projects and content and relevance to the NDP collection.
- Screen Australia requires an extensive list of delivery items accompanied by a non-exclusive right to retain the production in the NDP collection in order to:
  - make up to 10 minutes of the production and 40 stills available to other documentary makers for the purpose of documentary production through the Zero Fee Licence Initiative;
  - stock footage sales; and
  - non-commercial exploitation of the production for educational and learning purposes.

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**Making History Initiative****\$2.5 million**

The Making History Initiative is a three-year initiative currently in its third year. Making History aims to produce a series of epic stories, which feature significant people and events that made a lasting impression on the Australian character and nation.

Assessment is by way of discussions between the producer, the ABC and Screen Australia as to the appropriate projects to be funded under this initiative. Projects produced under this program are subject to NDP conditions.

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**Screen Australia guidelines for documentary production financing are available at: [www.screenaustralia.gov.au/documentary](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/documentary)**