



## First Nations VR Truth-Telling Documentary Initiative

This initiative is for Western Australian First Nations creative teams with original, short (5-10mins) VR documentary ideas. Ideas must explore the theme of 'Truth-Telling' and how it relates to current First Nations conversations.

The core objectives of this initiative are to:

- Uncover distinctive WA First Nations voices and stories.
- Support the career progression of WA First Nations key creatives.
- Enable WA First Nations key creatives to explore new story-telling mediums and markets.

The initiative will take place over three stages, starting with a compulsory online workshop open to all WA First Nations creatives who want to explore Truth Telling story development and working in the VR space. No prior experience is needed to participate in this workshop.

### 1. Stage One - Compulsory Online Workshop

The workshop will be held the early October 2024. The workshop will cover the methods and technology required to make short VR documentaries.

Creatives **must** attend this workshop to be eligible for 'Stage Two' funding.

### 2. Stage Two - Concept Development

Up to 5 creatives will be selected to receive funding to develop their projects over a three-month period. During this time teams will be given access to VR headsets and hardware for content testing to determine methodology and refine stories.

**Funding Available:** up to \$10,000 per project.

### 3. Stage Three – Production

Up to three teams will be selected to receive production funding.

**Funding Available:** up to \$150,000 per project.

Screenwest funding is limited and competitive. Funding is not automatic even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.

An Executive Producer or advisor may be appointed to mentor teams and/or oversee the production and delivery of projects to Screenwest.

## Eligibility

### Stage One

The compulsory online workshop is open to:

- All WA First Nations creatives; and
- Anyone who is intending to work with a WA First Nations team.

### Stage Two

- **Applicant Eligibility**

The applicant must:

- Be a First Nations Western Australian. This person must:
  - hold the underlying rights to the project; and
  - have taken part in the Stage One workshop.
- Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

### Stage Three

- **Applicant Eligibility**

The applicant must:

- Be the same person that applied to Stage 2.
- Be a First Nations Western Australian. This person must:

- hold the underlying rights to the project; and
  - have taken part in the Stage One workshop.
- Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

- **Team Eligibility**

The team:

- Must be a predominantly WA First Nations team i.e. WA First Nations creatives must fill two of the three roles of producer, writer and director.
- The Writer and Director must be First Nations.
- Producers must each have at least one short form project credit.
- Directors must each have at least one short form project credit.
- Key creative team members can only be attached to one successful project.
- Must warrant they can produce the project for the budget level they have applied for and can commit to the development and production timeframes.

- **Project Eligibility**

The project:

- Must go into production and be delivered in 2025.
- 100% of production and postproduction must take place in Western Australia.

## Application Materials – Stages Two and Three

- Applicants will be provided information as they progress through the initiative.

## Assessment Criteria – Stages Two and Three

All eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. How the project addresses the theme of 'Truth Telling'.
2. The originality, strength and distinctiveness of the project, including the track record of the key creative team.
3. How the project will elevate the careers of the WA First Nations creatives.
4. Quality and rigor of the application materials, including consideration of the audience.
5. The viability of the budget, schedule and production methodology.

## First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

There must be strong First Nations Australian representation on all projects that tell First Nations Australian stories, through the involvement of First Nations Australian key creatives and thorough consultation, incubation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

## Diversity Statement

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on and off screen, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

It is important that your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in your application.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly as differences in gender; age; Indigenous identity; cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD); disability; sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+); location (including regional and remote regions) and socio-economic status.

## Application Process

### Before Applying

- Read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
- WA First Nations Creatives who attend the Stage One workshop will be forwarded a link to the online application form on the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact.

## How To Apply – Stage 2 and Stage 3

1. Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material.

Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

## After You Apply

All applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.

### Stage Two applications

1. Eligible applications are assessed by a panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives.
2. You can expect a decision within 8 weeks of the funding round closing date.

### Stage Three applications

1. A panel consisting of Screenwest Management, and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
2. Panel funding recommendations are presented to the Screenwest Board for approval.
3. Final funding decisions are made by the Screenwest Board.
4. You can expect a decision within 8-10 weeks of the funding round closing date.
5. Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

## Terms of Funding

- Production funding is provided as a grant.
- Project development funding is provided as a grant.
- Successful applicants will sign a written Agreement with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.
- Receipt of funding should not lead to any expectation of continued assistance from Screenwest beyond the term of the funding agreement.

## Program Contacts

### General Enquiries

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### Program Manager

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