



AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FOUNDATION

INVESTMENT/DISTRIBUTION

GUIDELINES

Aim

The Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) is a national, non profit organisation. It aims to provide Australian children with entertaining media made especially for them, which makes an enduring contribution to their cultural and educational experience. Australian children deserve to see local stories and their culture on their screens.

The ACTF considers that a healthy children's production industry will help create better programs for the child audience. Accordingly, it provides a multifaceted assistance program for producers and writers including: project development and production funding, industry training, industry networking events, international market representation and recoupment.

These guidelines set out the ACTF's requirements for its production investment and distribution advance/market representation assistance.

Funds for these purposes are extremely limited. The ACTF does not necessarily provide finance for these purposes each year.

Audience

All projects must primarily target the Australian child audience.

Feature film projects should be aiming for a 'G' or 'PG' rating from the Classifications Board.

Subject matter

Projects may be based on an original idea, or adaptations of a novel or other work.

The project must be, in the opinion of the ACTF, likely to be of interest to Australian children.

Format and genre

The ACTF provides finance for television series, one-off television programs, telemovies and feature films.

Finance is open to all genres, but preference will be given to drama content which typically has higher production budgets and therefore is more difficult to finance through the marketplace.

Project Assessment

Applications are initially assessed by the ACTF staff. A recommendation on whether or not to provide finance for the project is then made to the ACTF's Board of Directors who will make the final decision. Recommendations to the Board are made on the basis of:

- quality of the project;
- potential local audience appeal to the targeted age group;
- experience and track record of the creative team;
- cultural relevance;
- production budget and amount of finance requested;
- proposed rights/recoupment/participation by the ACTF;
- level of commitment from broadcasters and other financiers (evidenced by appropriate licence agreements and deal memos); and
- any other issues the ACTF considers relevant.

Applications

There is no application form for this form of assistance. Interested applicants should discuss their projects prior to any application with the ACTF's [Head of Production & Development](#).

The ACTF's Head of Development and Production will advise the applicant of all documentation required in order for the Board to make its decision.

The deadlines for applications are set out in the Funding section of the [ACTF website](#).

If all the material requested by the [ACTF's Head of Production & Development](#) is not delivered to the ACTF by the application deadline, participation will not be considered at the relevant Board meeting.

The ACTF is a national body and applications are accepted from all States and Territories.

The ACTF will contract with the production company for the project.

Production companies must be incorporated in Australia and have Australian-based management and control. The ACTF may require a personal company director's guarantee when contracting with companies.

The production company must have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

All applicants should retain copies of material submitted, as the ACTF will not be in a position to return documentation.

Funding decisions

Both successful and unsuccessful applications will be advised within five working days after the relevant Board meeting.

If the ACTF Board agrees to participate in the project, the applicant will be provided with a deal memo for the production company setting out the ACTF's terms of participation. The ACTF will not be legally bound to participate in the project until execution of a long form production and investment agreement, co-production agreement or distribution agreement.

Any offers of finance will be limited to a reasonable time period. If an agreement is not executed by the ACTF and the applicant before this time, the offer of finance will be withdrawn.

Indigenous content

Any project containing indigenous content, themes or storylines must be accompanied by written permission from the relevant indigenous community authorising the Applicant's use of such material.

Copyright

Copies of all contractual documentation demonstrating that the applicant has obtained the necessary legal rights to deal with the material on which the project is based must accompany the application. It may also be necessary for the applicant to provide a letter from its solicitors confirming that all necessary rights are held.

The ACTF will own a share of the copyright in the production as is appropriate to the type and level of its participation.

Credits

The ACTF will receive a credit in the production as is appropriate to the type and level of its participation.

Confidentiality

The ACTF will respect the confidentiality of applications.

However, it does have the right to:

- provide development materials to external assessors; and
- include details of the name of the project, the applicant, the creative team and a brief synopsis in its own documents and publications.

Changes to guidelines

The ACTF can change these Guidelines at any time by placing a notice on the [Funding section](#) of the ACTF website.