



AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FOUNDATION

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT

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 project development investment assistance.

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 funding 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 development requirements than other genres.

Funding

Funding is provided in stages aligned with the development of the project.

ACTF funds cannot be spent on purchasing the rights to use existing works (for example, book options).

Project Assessment

ACTF funds for project development are limited. As a result, funding rounds are competitive.

Applications are initially assessed by an external assessor and a representative of the ACTF. A recommendation on whether or not to invest in 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 existing development materials;
- potential local audience appeal to the targeted age group;
- experience and track record of the creative team;
- cultural relevance;
- existing interest from local and international broadcasters, distributors and investors;
- proposed production budget (projects should have a production budget that is capable of being financed largely out of Australia);
- likelihood of the applicant and/or attached team being able to take the project from scripting, through financing and into production; and
- any other issues the ACTF considers relevant.

Applications

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

Applicants should permanently reside in Australia or be Australian citizens. If the applicant is a company, it should 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 ACTF requires that all applicants provide an Australian Business Number (ABN).

All applicants must fill out TWO copies of the relevant application form together with TWO copies of the supporting material which must consist of:

- a one page synopsis of the project;
- existing development materials (such as concept document, series bible, episode scripts, feature film or telemovie treatments or scripts);
- a CV for the applicant and any attached creative team; and
- all relevant documentation such as rights/option agreements and consents from indigenous communities (see below).

The deadlines for applications are set out in the Funding section of the ACTF website.

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

Feature Films

Special rules apply to applications for development funding for feature films.

Only creative teams, consisting of at least a producer and writer, may apply for development funding for feature films. A director attached to the project will assist the application.

Preferably more than one member of the creative team should have a track record in feature films.

One member of the creative team should be the primary applicant for the purposes of performing the obligations under the deed of funding, and receipt and disbursement of funds. Alternatively, teams can formalise their relationship in a company structure.

Funding decisions

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

Any offers of funding 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 funding 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

If the project is based on an existing work, the applicant must have secured all necessary rights *prior* to making the application.

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.

The ACTF will own a share of the copyright in funded projects, until development funds are repaid (including a 15% administrative premium). Funds can be either repaid voluntarily by the applicant, or compulsorily from the production budget for the project on the first day of production.

Further explanation of these terms can be provided by the ACTF's legal department. Applicants should satisfy themselves that they can accept these repayment conditions, prior to submitting an application, as these conditions are not negotiable.

If you have any doubt over copyright issues, it is strongly recommended that applicants obtain independent legal advice prior to making the application.

Credits

If a project proceeds to production, the ACTF is entitled, at its discretion, to receive a full frame end credit, comprising the ACTF's logo and the words "Developed with the assistance of the Australian Children's Television Foundation".

Further involvement

The ACTF will have the first and last right to distribute projects which receive development funding to the Australian education market, if those projects are finally produced.

For feature films, the ACTF requires ongoing consultation rights on projects beyond the stages initially funded. Producers will consult with the ACTF on major creative decisions during the continued development and production of the film, and will take the ACTF's

opinion into account before making any material decisions. Final creative control rests with the filmmakers.

Delivery and acquittal

The ACTF expects the development to be a priority for successful applicants, and the deed of funding will set out a delivery date for the development to be completed. A copy of the results of the development needs to be delivered to the offices of the ACTF.

The applicant will be required to fill out an acquittal of expenditure of ACTF funds in a form prescribed by ACTF, including providing relevant invoices and/or receipts.

Payment of award rates

The ACTF expects that writers and script editors involved in any project will be paid at no less than the minimum Australian Writers' Guild rates. Information on current rates is available from:

The Australian Writer's Guild
Telephone: 02 9281 1554

Confidentiality

The ACTF will respect the confidentiality of applications.

However, it does have the right to:

- provide the existing 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.

Warranty and release

Applicants are required to execute the deed of warranty and release which accompanies the application form.

Changes to guidelines

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