GUIDELINES
ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund

South Australian Film Corporation

What is the program?

The ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund is a strategic screen-production initiative aimed at delivering a robust and sustained flow of high-quality television content to ABC TV and ABC iview.

It is designed to support economic growth and job creation, contribute to sustainable South Australian screen businesses, provide opportunities for upskilling and workforce development, and ensure a consistent output of quality South Australian-made ABC programming.

Projects funded under this program are expected to be substantially produced and post-produced in South Australia (SA).

What is on offer?

The ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund supports the production of narrative content for commercial release on the ABC broadcast and/or digital platforms.

For SA-led projects*, producers may receive up to 16.5% of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure, subject to available funds. Such investment by the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) is in the form of a non-recoupable grant. The SAFC considers this grant as “assigned equity” to the South Australian producer.

For Inbound* projects, producers may receive up to 12.5% of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure, subject to available funds. SAFC provides such funding in two forms: non-recoupable grants and equity investments, depending on the project's Qualifying South Australian Expenditure.

- The non-recoupable grant is calculated as 10% of the project's Qualifying South Australian Expenditure, up to a maximum of $500,000.
- Any funding above the grant will be provided as an equity investment, to be recouped alongside other investors on a pro rata pari passu basis.

*SA-led projects are those:

- Where the rights holder is a South Australian Resident (as defined in the SAFC’s Terms of Trade) producer, or
- Where the underlying IP is from, and/or creative control is held by, a South Australian Resident writer and/or director.

Any other projects are Inbound.

Where a project includes production finance from another South Australian Government source, the SAFC may, at its discretion, consider that funding to be part of the South Australian Government’s overall

contribution to the project and may fund at a level accordingly. Where a project is eligible for the SA PDV Rebate, producers may receive 10% of the Qualifying South Australian Expenditure that relates to post-production, digital and visual effects.

Who is eligible?

The applicant must:

- have read and be compliant with the SAFC's Terms of Trade,
- be able to prove that they own or control the necessary rights to produce the project,
- have a confirmed Market Attachment from ABC, and
- not be in breach of any contractual obligations to the SAFC.

The SAFC prioritises SA-led projects.

Applications may be considered for Inbound projects where the producer is able to demonstrate, to the SAFC's satisfaction, two or more of the following criteria:

- Evidence of a genuine co-production partnership* with a South Australian producer,
- At least one South Australian resident writer or director is attached and receiving a credit,
- The project offers outstanding economic benefits to South Australia,
- At least one Key Creative** identifies as D/deaf and/or disabled (does not have to be South Australian).

*A partnership may be considered by the SAFC to be a genuine co-production when the SA company receives a share of the revenue commensurate with their involvement in bringing finance to the project, as may be evidenced by a share of the following:

- Producer's share of copyright,
- Producer fees,
- Overheads,
- Producer offset margin,
- Producer recoupment position from offset and other producer sourced funding,
- Producer's equity.

**Key Creative is defined for these guidelines as a producer, writer, or director who performs that role and receives that credit on the project.

Which projects are eligible?

To be eligible for this program, the Project must have written evidence of an ABC commission.

Narrative-driven stand-alone and series are eligible for funding under this program – for example:

- Live action,
- Animation,
- Documentary,
- Drama,
- Children's,
- Factual,
- Comedy.

Eligible Projects will:

- have a complete finance plan with all finance contributions confirmed in writing. The SAFC may grant an exception for any government funding where that government funder's decision is pending, subject to the applicant's consent for the SAFC to directly contact such funder(s),
- reasonably commence pre-production within nine months from the date the SAFC receives a complete application for the project, and
- not commence pre-production before an SAFC offer of funding is received. Documentary projects that have commenced production may apply and include prior Qualifying South Australian Expenditure; however, any SAFC offer will be subject to funds available and a contribution towards prior expenditure is not guaranteed.

Which projects are ineligible?

- Projects without confirmed ABC Market Attachment;
- Projects without a confirmed finance plan or where there is no written evidence of any of the finance contributions;
- Formats that are ineligible under the SAFC's Terms of Trade;
- Projects that have been declined twice for funding from this program;
- Non-documentary projects which are applying for retrospective funding;
- Projects which have commenced pre-production before an offer of funding is received from the SAFC.

Evaluation criteria

The SAFC will take the following into account when considering an application for the ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund:

- Ability of the project to contribute to a pipeline of production in SA across available calendar weeks,

- Return on investment for SAFC funding in terms of South Australian Qualifying Expenditure and employment for South Australian Residents,
- Commercialisation opportunities for South Australian generated IP,
- Use of screen production infrastructure in SA,
- Career pathway opportunities for South Australian Residents,
- Cultural value to SA,
- Reputational benefit for the South Australian screen industry.

In evaluating the project, the SAFC will consider any information and weight the above criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the SAFC's Strategic Objectives and the SAFC's Diversity & Inclusion Strategy.

Specific assessment will be required for applications that include First Nations content. For more information, please refer to the SAFC's Terms of Trade (Working with First Nations Content and Communities); Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols guide, and the SAFC's First Nations Cultural Protocols Guide.

Further requirements

Professional Crew Attachments

Projects seeking SAFC Production Funding over $125,000 must engage South Australian Professional Crew Attachments. The number of attachments required relates to the level of SAFC production grant funding the project receives.

For each tranche of $25,000 SAFC funding, it is required to have one week of Professional Crew attachment. For example, if applying for $300,000 in SAFC ABC Content Pipeline Funding, this will require 12 weeks to be budgeted for Professional Crew attachment(s).

Applicants must budget for the required number of attachments at the time of application. The cost for attachments must be detailed as a separate line in the budget against the proposed role. Funds for attachments are to be drawn from the SAFC production grant.

Applicants must consult with the SAFC to ensure the attachment addresses industry training needs.

The SAFC will advertise attachment opportunities through a public callout process before pre-production. Callouts require a minimum three-week turnaround time.

Professional Crew Attachments cannot substitute a paid crew role in any production.

All applicants to the program must read and comply with the Professional Crew Attachment Guidelines.

Post-Production

Producers that spend over $250,000 in South Australia on post-production, digital and visual effects (SA PDV) must apply for the SA PDV Rebate for this part of their budget, at the same time as applying for the Screen Production Fund. The PDV Rebate offers producers up to 10% of their Qualifying South Australian PDV Expenditure.

If applying for the SA PDV Rebate, the Qualifying South Australian Expenditure for post-production must be separate from the Qualifying South Australian Expenditure for the ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund application and cannot be counted twice.

Eligible projects that don't meet the $250,000 threshold for the SA PDV Rebate may apply for post-production funding through the ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund.

Please see the SA PDV Rebate guidelines for further eligibility criteria.

Application process

Applications for the ABC SAFC Content Pipeline Fund are open year-round and must be made via the SAFC's online grants platform safilm.smartygrants.com.au. Applications will be processed in two stages.

Stage One is assessment of eligibility. The application will be assessed for eligibility based on the materials submitted in the application platform. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all required materials have been supplied to determine eligibility. Additional materials will not be accepted without the prior written agreement of the SAFC.

Applicants will be notified of a Stage One acceptance or decline within 10 business days from receipt of a complete Stage One application.

After Stage One acceptance, eligible applicants will be invited to proceed to Stage Two.

Stage Two is full assessment and consideration of an offer of funding. The application will be assessed by SAFC executives, and external industry specialists as required by the SAFC.

The SAFC Executive will form a recommendation based on the assessment which will go to the appropriate delegate for decision as per below.

Funding requested (inc. GST)	Responsible delegate for decision
Up to $275,000	Head of Production
Over $275,000 and up to $1.1 million	CEO
Over $1.1 million	Board

Applications under $1.1 million (inc. GST) can be received throughout the year, and applicants will be notified of a Stage Two Offer or decline within 20 business days from receipt of a complete Stage Two application.

Applications over $1.1 million (inc. GST) must be received no later than six weeks prior to a SAFC Board meeting, please check dates here. Please note that SAFC Board dates are subject to change at the SAFC's discretion. Applicants will be notified of a Stage Two Offer or decline within three business days after the relevant SAFC Board meeting.

For clarity, a decline at either Stage One or Two will count as a decline for the Project. If a Project has been declined twice for a funding program, it is ineligible to be resubmitted to the SAFC through that program.

Depending on the complexity of the application, the SAFC reserves the right to extend such timelines at any stage. Applicants will be notified of an extension within the above timeline.

Application materials

Stage One (Eligibility Assessment)

- ASIC Current Company Extract for the Production Company applying,
- ASIC Current Company Extract for the Production entity Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), if formed,
- Warranties confirming the project meets SAFC rights holding and South Australian Residency eligibility requirements,
- Warranty confirming the project meets SAFC format eligibility requirements,
- Finance Plan (Screen Australia template),
- Written evidence of financier commitment for every line in the finance plan, or evidence of a pending government funding decision with consent for SAFC to directly contact such funder,
- Evidence of all market attachments that specify all commercial terms (dated no earlier than six months from application),
- Short form creative materials – logline and synopsis,
- Demographic information of the applicant and Key Creatives,
- Evidence of the project meeting eligible format requirements, if applicable,
- Evidence of genuine co-production requirements, if applicable,
- Value of South Australian Qualifying Expenditure,
- Level of SAFC funding requested.

Stage Two (if invited to apply)

- Documents evidencing Chain of Title,
- Documents evidencing South Australian Residency, if applicable,

- Production Budget as per Screen Australia format (including separate column breakdown of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure),
- If applying for SA PDV Rebate, separate breakdown of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure for post-production,
- Production Schedule,
- Proposed Crew and Cast List indicating South Australian residents,
- Totals of all Project jobs and South Australian Resident Project jobs,
- Proposed facilities and services list indicating South Australian Resident companies,
- Relevant supporting materials for career pathway opportunities for South Australian Residents
- Creative and other materials for assessment of cultural value and reputational benefit to SA, if applicable,
- Relevant supporting materials,
- Relevant supporting materials to evidence opportunities to advance progress towards SAFC's 2032 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy targets.

If applicable, non-mandatory:

- Completion Bond Offer,
- Evidence of consultation relevant to the content and participants, e.g. in the case of First Nations or D/deaf and/or disabled content in the application,
- Filmography for all Key Creatives,
- Production company bio.

Next steps?

Before applying, all applicants must read the SAFC's Terms of Trade and speak to the SAFC regarding their intended SAFC grant request and the estimated Qualifying South Australian Expenditure on the project.

Contacts

Please direct all phone enquiries to the relevant staff below via SAFC Reception on +61 8 8394 2000.

For initial enquiries, please contact SAFC Program Coordinator Julia Light, programs@safilm.com.au

For SA-led productions, please contact SAFC Production Executive – SA Led Mags Scholes, mags.scholes@safilm.com.au.

For Inbound productions, please contact SAFC Production Executive – Inbound and Studios Georgia Humphreys-Yuan, georgia.humphreys-yuan@safilm.com.au.

(Note: All amounts in this guideline are quoted exclusive of GST, unless otherwise stated)