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National ABC and Screen Australia initiative set to foster arts for the next generation.

ABC Television and Screen Australia are pleased to announce their joint commitment to supporting Australian arts content with an exciting new initiative, *Art Bites*, that's set to uncover fresh, engaging and entertaining arts series from emerging Australian filmmakers.

States and territories nationally have pledged support for the initiative, including Film Victoria, Screen Queensland, Screen Tasmania, Screen Territory, ScreenWest and the South Australian Film Corporation committing additional support to emerging filmmakers from their respective states.

With grants totaling at least \$200,000 available, the initiative will fund four 6 x 5 minute web series that will premiere on the new ABC Arts channel on iview. In addition, each project selected will have the mentoring support from a digital Arts Commissioning Editor and an Investment Development Manager appointed by ABC and Screen Australia.

ABC Director of Television, Richard Finlayson, says "We are thrilled to be partnering with Screen Australia and the State agencies on this innovative initiative designed to make arts content more accessible and foster the next generation of Australian filmmakers nationally."

Screen Australia's Chief Operating Officer, Fiona Cameron, says "We are delighted to offer documentary filmmakers a chance to make smart, shareable arts series for a terrific new ABC platform. *Art Bites* promises to be an adventure for both filmmakers and viewers, illuminating the arts in Australia from a fresh perspective. We're also pleased to support opportunities for content that aligns with wider industry trends in documentary short form."

Since launching in September, the ABC Arts channel on iview has made arts programming even more accessible and inclusive, featuring hand-picked, high quality arts content from Australia and around the world. Program plays of arts content on iview has tripled since the launch of the channel.

Early career filmmakers are encouraged to apply, for application details go to:

http://www.abc.net.au/tv/independent/doc/iview_SA_initiative.pdf

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