



Australian Government



PEP Closure: Frequently Asked Questions

Date: 22 August 2024

These FAQ's should be read in conjunction with the [Screen News Notice](#) and the PEP guidelines.

Why is Screen Australia closing PEP?

Screen Australia has limited funding available allocated to its Documentary programs.

Given the increasing number of applications for PEP funding over recent years, Screen Australia has often had to pause PEP funding early due to the PEP budget being fully allocated.

It is no longer feasible for Screen Australia to continue PEP at the expense of other documentary programs.

When will Screen Australia stop accepting new PEP applications?

Screen Australia will stop accepting PEP applications as of 5pm AEST Monday 30 September 2024 (PEP Deadline).

What will happen to PEP applications submitted by 5pm AEST 30 September 2024?

All PEP applications submitted before the PEP Deadline will go through eligibility and submission material checks as usual, and proceed to assessment if eligible. Incomplete applications will be ineligible and withdrawn in consultation with the applicant.

What will happen to applications that have commenced in the Screen Australia portal but are not submitted by the PEP Deadline?

All applications currently commenced, but not submitted, will be notified on 22 August 2024 of the PEP Deadline for the proposed portal closure via their submission contact email.

Any application not completed and submitted by the PEP Deadline will be noted as inactive, and will not move forward to assessment or decision.

Screen Australia cannot grant extensions to the PEP Deadline.

What if I start a new application now and submit it by the PEP Deadline?

New applications can be started and submitted at any time before the PEP Deadline, but must be complete and meet all eligibility requirements in order to proceed to assessment.

What about projects which already have a signed PEP funding agreement with Screen Australia but have not yet received part of all of such payments?

Screen Australia will continue to honour any committed funding for existing approved PEP projects. The closure of PEP will have no impact on such projects.

Will PEP's closure affect the level of funding allocated for Documentary programs by Screen Australia?

Screen Australia's total documentary budget for 2024/25 has not changed, and is the same as it was in 2023/24. A decision was made to close PEP to best serve the needs of the documentary sector and funds previously allocated to PEP will be redirected to other documentary programs.

Will there be a new program targeting low-budget documentaries under \$500,000?

No. Screen Australia funds that were previously budgeted for PEP will now be allocated to programs and initiatives for documentary projects. The Producer Program guidelines have been updated and published (see below for further detail).

Will there be any changes to other Documentary programs as a result of PEP closing?

Yes, the Producer Program guidelines have been revised as of 19 August 2024 as follows:

1. **Prior credits:** Credit requirements have been amended to allow for less experienced applicants to apply to the Producer Program with low-budget projects.

Specifically, for documentaries with a budget between \$125,000 and \$500,000 (including online and interactive projects) the producer or director should have at least one credit in respective roles on an equivalent project which has been publicly released.

For documentaries with budget of between \$125,000 and \$500,000 (including online and interactive projects) with confirmed, arms-length market attachment with a licence fee and/or distribution guarantee as part of the finance plan, there will be no prior credit requirements.

The credit requirements for projects with a budget of over \$500,000 will otherwise remain the same as the previous guidelines.

2. **Amendment to cap on low-budget funding:** For documentaries with a budget between \$125,000 and \$500,000, there is a cap of 35% federal funds. The cap of 65% federal funds (including Offset) will remain for projects eligible for Producer Offset, i.e. with a budget of over \$500,000.

Will low-budget projects be eligible to apply for funds on completion, as PEP currently allows?

No, completed projects will not be eligible to apply to existing documentary funding programs. However, projects at post-production stage may apply for completion funds through the Producer Program.

Who can I contact to discuss PEP funding?

If you would like to discuss your PEP application further, please contact pep@screenaustralia.gov.au