

Screen Australia

Entity resources and planned performance

Screen Australia

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Screen Australia

Section 1: Screen Australia overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

Screen Australia is the Australian Government's screen investment and administration agency. Screen Australia was established under the *Screen Australia Act 2008* (the Act), and is deeply involved in the domestic Australian screen industry, supporting screen projects across all genres and formats, creative businesses, IP and talent development.

Broadly, Screen Australia is responsible for:

- **Content:** developing, producing and promoting Australian programs
- **Culture:** supporting and promoting screen culture in Australia
- **Industry:** driving the development of a highly creative, innovative and commercially sustainable Australian screen production industry.

Screen Australia focuses on content genres most 'at risk', including drama, documentary and children's content. Screen Australia supports the development and production of feature films, television programs for free-to-air and on-demand platforms, and content for online platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. From 2022, Screen Australia recommenced support for local independent digital games development.

Screen Australia funds Australian practitioners – producers, writers, game developers and other screen creatives – to attend and promote local content at international markets, festivals and industry events. The agency also provides services to government, industry and the public, including administration of the Producer Offset and applications for international Official Co-productions, industry advice, insights and comprehensive analysis of sector performance and trends.

Screen Australia works closely with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on informing screen industry policy, and with other Government bodies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Austrade to globally promote the interests of the Australian screen industry and Australia. Screen Australia also collaborates with the state screen agencies, Ausfilm, Creative Australia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation, screen guilds and industry bodies in addition to sharing information and best practice with international screen agencies.

Screen Australia has a particular focus on First Nations content through its First Nations Department, which has been in existence for over 30 years. More generally, Screen Australia supports the screen industry to become more inclusive in front of and behind the camera, to better reflect the Australian population.

The Australian, and international, screen industry continues to experience a period of fundamental change. Market disruption caused by global economic conditions, the growth of streaming platforms and emerging forms of distribution have significantly impacted traditional platforms such as free-to-air and subscription television. At the same time, the theatrical market is challenged by changes to audience viewing patterns and consumer behaviour, impacting entertainment-related business models. In parallel to these market shifts, the Australian production sector has experienced a period of unprecedented growth. Competition for limited resources is intense, contributing to an ongoing increase in the cost of production and expanding financing 'gaps'.

Screen Australia's funding is under considerable pressure in the face of increased demand for production support, in terms of both volume and value. As the market becomes more competitive, the scope of this support has expanded to include independent games developers and small to medium games studios.

In 2025–26, Screen Australia will continue to identify efficiencies to maximise resource allocation to screen content and industry development. The agency will seek to prioritise its funding, focusing on building a sustainable creative industry through impactful funding programs with clear objectives and measures. Online content and digital games continue to represent a significant opportunity for growth, and will deepen our relevance with a new generation of Australians. First Nations content remains highly successful and culturally important. Screen Australia will continue to support local projects of scale and ambition, whilst providing opportunities for new creative voices.

Screen Australia will also deliver on an expanded research program to empower the local screen industry and related partners. This will include a new screen currency report, providing vital insights into the economic, social and cultural value of Australian screen and games production. A suite of audience research projects, the Viewfinder series, will also deepen our understanding of audience behaviour and attitudes, supporting the industry to respond to the evolving media landscape.

Screen Australia will work to ensure that the screen sector continues to thrive, creating distinct, culturally relevant stories that reflect and connect Australians. The agency will investigate new paths to sector sustainability and identify potential partners for local and inward investment.

In 2025–26, Screen Australia will continue to align with the pillars of the National Cultural Policy, as well as developing a new Screen Australia Strategic Framework and Corporate Plan 2025-2029. Screen Australia will evolve its practices to fulfil this framework and build a vibrant, viable screen industry that reflects the depth and diversity of Australian storytelling.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to Screen Australia for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by Departmental (for Screen Australia's operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the 'Budgeted expenses by Outcome 1 tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis. Amounts presented below are consistent with amounts presented in the Appropriation Bills themselves.

Table 1.1: Screen Australia resource statement – Budget estimates for 2025–26 as at Budget March 2025

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Estimate \$'000
Opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July	17,410	17,410
Funds from Government		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ^(a)		
Outcome 1	13,226	13,352
Total annual appropriations	13,226	13,352
Amounts received from related entities		
Amounts from portfolio Department ^(b)	72,564	72,564
Total amounts received from related entities	72,564	72,564
Total funds from Government	85,790	85,916
Funds from other sources		
Interest	4,200	3,650
Royalties	3,800	3,800
Sale of goods and services	160	180
Other	250	250
Total funds from other sources	8,410	7,880
Total net resourcing for Screen Australia	111,610	111,206
Average staffing level (number)	105	105

All figures shown above are GST exclusive - these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2025-26 and Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025-26.

(b) Funding provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts that is not specified within the annual Appropriation Bills as a payment to Screen Australia.

Screen Australia is not directly appropriated as a corporate Commonwealth entity. Appropriations are made to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts (a Non-corporate Commonwealth entity), which are then paid to Screen Australia and are considered 'Departmental' for all purposes.

1.3 Budget measures

Budget measures in Part 1 relating to Screen Australia are detailed in the Budget Paper No. 2 and are summarised below.

Table 1.2: Screen Australia 2025–26 Budget measures

Part 1: Measures announced since the 2024–25 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook

		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	Program	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Payment measures						
Savings from External Labour – extension ^(a)	1.1					
Departmental payments		-	-	-	-	(63)
Total		-	-	-	-	(63)
Total payment measures						
Departmental		-	-	-	-	(63)
Total		-	-	-	-	(63)

Prepared on a Government Finance Statistics (Underlying Cash) basis. Figures displayed as a negative (-) represent a decrease in funds and a positive (+) represent an increase in funds.

(a) This is a cross portfolio measure. The full measure description and package details appear in the Budget Paper No. 2 as 'various agencies' under the cross portfolio section.

Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance measure described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in Annual Reports – to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for Screen Australia can be found at:
<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/getmedia/bd7cf2de-1c31-44ed-a8bf-ac49bd2f89c2/Screen-Australia-Corporate-Plan-2023-2027.pdf>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:
<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/getmedia/e0e77bd8-b721-48ac-946b-cebc56493707/SA-Annual-Report-2023-24.pdf?ext=.pdf>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Promote engaged audiences and support a creative, innovative and commercially sustainable screen industry through the funding and promotion of diverse Australian screen product

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

This table shows how much Screen Australia intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving the outcome, broken down by program.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: Screen Australia					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill (No. 1) and Supply Bill (No. 1))	13,226	13,352	13,624	13,795	13,972
Payment from related entities	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ^(a)	205	84	(41)	(173)	(173)
Revenues from other independent sources	8,410	7,880	7,880	7,880	7,880
Total expenses for Program 1.1	94,405	93,880	94,027	94,066	94,243
Outcome 1 Totals by resource type					
Revenue from Government					
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill (No. 1) and Supply Bill (No. 1))	13,226	13,352	13,624	13,795	13,972
Payment from related entities	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ^(a)	205	84	(41)	(173)	(173)
Revenues from other independent sources	8,410	7,880	7,880	7,880	7,880
Total expenses for Outcome 1	94,405	93,880	94,027	94,066	94,243
	2024-25	2025-26			
Average staffing level (number)	105	105			

(a) Net impact of AASB 16 Leases relating to right of use (buildings) lease repayments and depreciation/amortisation expenses of right of use assets.

Table 2.1.2: Performance measures for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It is used by entities to describe the results they plan to achieve and the related key activities, as detailed in the current corporate plan, the context in which these activities are delivered, and how the performance of these activities will be measured. Where relevant, details of the 2025–26 Budget measures that have created new programs or materially changed existing programs are provided.

Outcome 1 – Promote engaged audiences and support a creative, innovative and commercially sustainable screen industry through the funding and promotion of diverse Australian screen product		
Program 1.1 – Screen Australia The key results will be for creative individuals and businesses, through financial and other assistance, to make high-quality film, television, interactive entertainment, and other screen programs and for these programs to attract Australian and international audiences.		
Key Activities	Key activities reported in the current corporate plan that relate to this program, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage, educate and inspire Lead and collaborate 	
Year	Performance Measures	Expected Performance Results
Current Year 2024–25	Engage, educate and inspire – increase engagement with national and international visitors through innovative exhibitions and programs that are accessed in a variety of ways	Target: Admissions and views for Australian productions, including 2 million admissions for Australian feature films shown at movie theatres (based on three-year average). 91 million cumulative views for Screen Australia funded projects shown on Free-to-Air (FTA) broadcast television and on broadcasters' Video On Demand (BVOD) services 1.8 million visits to Screen Australia's website 50 culturally diverse projects and events funded, with total funding of \$8 million Targets expected to be met
	Lead and collaborate – be leaders in the sector and foster long-term relationships through partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders and similar organisations/institutions nationally and internationally	225 new Australian artwork projects supported, with total funding of \$58 million provided \$0.5 million total funding for research and development projects Screen Australia specific indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in features: \$5.90 dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in documentaries: \$2.90 dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in TV drama: \$5.50 dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia

		investment in children's TV drama: \$3.60 Targets expected to be met
Year	Performance Measures	Planned Performance Results
Budget Year 2025–26	Engage, educate and inspire – increase engagement with national and international visitors through innovative exhibitions and programs that are accessed in a variety of ways	Target: Admissions and views for Australian productions, including 2 million admissions for Australian feature films shown at movie theatres (based on three-year average). 91 million cumulative views for Screen Australia funded projects shown on Free-to-Air (FTA) broadcast television and on broadcasters' Video On Demand (BVOD) services 1.8 million visits to Screen Australia's website 50 culturally diverse projects and events funded, with total funding of \$8 million
	Lead and collaborate – be leaders in the sector and foster long-term relationships through partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders and similar organisations/institutions nationally and internationally	225 new Australian artwork projects supported, with total funding of \$58 million provided \$1 million total funding for research and development projects Screen Australia specific indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in features: \$5.90 • dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in documentaries: \$2.90 • dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in TV drama: \$5.50 • dollar value of production generated for each dollar of Screen Australia investment in children's TV drama: \$3.60
Forward Estimates 2026–29	As per 2025–26	As per 2025–26

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of Screen Australia's finances for the 2025–26 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

3.1 Budgeted financial statements

3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

Screen Australia's budget has been developed on the underlying principle of a balanced budget, (that is, annual expense matches the annual revenue forecast to be received) adjusted for any surplus/deficit impacts arising from accounting for leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Total expenses for 2025–26 are estimated to be \$93.9 million and will be used in delivering the activities outlined in Program 1.1.

Total income for 2025–26 is estimated to be \$93.8 million. Screen Australia's revenue from Government for 2025–26 is \$85.9 million. Screen Australia is also expecting to generate \$7.9 million in own source revenue in 2025–26. This will be predominantly sourced from recoupment from screen investments, interest income, rendering of services and partnership contributions.

Screen Australia continues to focus on containing administrative operating expenses to maximise funds directed to on-screen production.

Screen Australia has budgeted \$0.6 million in capital expenditure.

Screen Australia's budgeted net asset position of \$14.2 million is expected to comprise total assets of \$77.4 million, less liabilities of \$63.2 million.

Total financial assets as at 30 June 2026 are estimated to be \$71.9 million which represents 93 per cent of the total asset value. A significant proportion of Screen Australia's financial assets (cash and investments in term deposits) have been committed to funding screen projects.

Total liabilities are estimated to be \$63.2 million as at 30 June 2026 of which 88 per cent relates to obligations to pay amounts under executed screen industry contracts.

3.2 Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	16,728	16,757	16,688	16,694	16,743
Suppliers	8,435	8,465	8,581	8,590	8,577
Grants	33,665	33,665	33,665	33,665	33,665
Depreciation and amortisation	1,876	1,865	1,865	1,865	1,865
Finance costs	201	167	114	55	55
Write-down and impairment of assets	33,500	32,961	33,114	33,197	33,338
Total expenses	94,405	93,880	94,027	94,066	94,243
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	160	180	180	180	180
Interest	4,200	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,650
Royalties	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
Other	250	250	250	250	250
Total own-source revenue	8,410	7,880	7,880	7,880	7,880
Total own-source income	8,410	7,880	7,880	7,880	7,880
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(85,995)	(86,000)	(86,147)	(86,186)	(86,363)
Revenue from Government	85,790	85,916	86,188	86,359	86,536
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(205)	(84)	41	173	173
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(205)	(84)	41	173	173
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(205)	(84)	41	173	173
Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements					
Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per statement of Comprehensive income	(205)	(84)	(41)	(173)	(173)
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets ^(a)	1,453	1,271	1,521	1,785	1,785
less: lease principal repayments ^(a)	(1,248)	(1,355)	(1,480)	(1,612)	(1,612)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Applies to leases under AASB 16 leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted Departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410
Trade and other receivables	994	994	994	994	994
Other investments	53,596	53,509	53,035	53,303	53,432
Total financial assets	72,000	71,913	71,439	71,707	71,836
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	5,067	3,487	1,907	327	6,247
Property, plant and equipment	843	1,158	1,173	1,188	1,203
Other non-financial assets	862	862	862	862	862
Total non-financial assets	6,772	5,507	3,942	2,377	8,312
Total assets	78,772	77,420	75,381	74,084	80,148
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	335	335	335	335	335
Other payables	651	738	138	280	283
Total payables	986	1,073	473	615	618
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	5,287	3,932	2,452	840	6,728
Total interest bearing liabilities	5,287	3,932	2,452	840	6,728
Provisions					
Employee provisions	2,594	2,594	2,594	2,594	2,594
Other provisions	55,652	55,652	55,652	55,652	55,652
Total provisions	58,246	58,246	58,246	58,246	58,246
Total liabilities	64,519	63,251	61,171	59,701	65,592
Net assets	14,253	14,169	14,210	14,383	14,556
EQUITY					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	9,505	9,505	9,505	9,505	9,505
Reserves	45	45	45	45	45
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)	4,703	4,619	4,660	4,833	5,006
Total parent entity interest	14,253	14,169	14,210	14,383	14,556
Total equity	14,253	14,169	14,210	14,383	14,556

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

**Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement
(Budget year 2025–26)**

	Retained earnings	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed equity/ capital	Total equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2024				
Balance carried forward from previous period	4,703	45	9,505	14,253
Adjusted opening balance	4,703	45	9,505	14,253
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(84)	-	-	(84)
Total comprehensive income	(84)	-	-	(84)
of which:				
Attributable to the Australian Government	(84)	-	-	(84)
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2025	4,619	45	9,505	14,169
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	4,619	45	9,505	14,169

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted Departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	13,226	13,352	13,624	13,795	13,972
Receipts from Government	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564	72,564
Sale of goods and rendering of services	176	198	198	198	198
Interest	4,200	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,650
Net GST received	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Other	4,145	4,143	4,143	4,143	4,143
Total cash received	101,311	100,907	101,179	101,350	101,527
Cash used					
Employees	16,654	16,670	17,288	16,552	16,740
Suppliers	9,279	9,312	9,439	9,449	9,441
Interest payments on lease liability	201	167	114	55	55
Other	39,932	39,929	39,918	39,917	39,912
Total cash used	66,066	66,078	66,759	65,973	66,148
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	35,245	34,829	34,420	35,377	35,379
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of financial instruments	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Total cash received	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	600	600	300	300	300
Purchase of financial instruments	174,846	174,913	174,526	175,268	175,129
On-screen Investments	33,500	32,961	33,114	33,197	33,338
Other	51	-	-	-	-
Total cash used	208,997	208,474	207,940	208,765	208,767
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(33,997)	(33,474)	(32,940)	(33,765)	(33,767)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Principal payments on lease liability	1,248	1,355	1,480	1,612	1,612
Total cash used	1,248	1,355	1,480	1,612	1,612
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(1,248)	(1,355)	(1,480)	(1,612)	(1,612)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410	17,410

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	2024-25 Estimated actual \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2026-27 Forward estimate \$'000	2027-28 Forward estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward estimate \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally from Departmental resources ^(a)	600	600	300	300	300
TOTAL	600	600	300	300	300
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	600	600	300	300	7,800
less: ROU Additions	-	-	-	-	(7,500)
Total cash used to acquire assets	600	600	300	300	300

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Includes both current Appropriation Bill (No. 1), Supply Bill (No. 1) and revenue from independent sources.

Table 3.6: Statement of Departmental asset movements (Budget year 2025–26)

	Asset Category			Total \$'000
	Buildings \$'000	Other property, plant and equipment \$'000	Computer software and intangibles \$'000	
As at 1 July 2025				
Gross book value	4,068	2,533	933	7,534
Gross book value - ROU assets	16,203	-	-	16,203
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(4,071)	(1,690)	(933)	(6,694)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(11,133)	-	-	(11,133)
Opening net book balance	5,067	843	-	5,910
Capital asset additions				
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets				
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services ^(a)	-	600	-	600
Total additions	-	600	-	600
Other movements				
Depreciation/amortisation expense	(141)	(285)	-	(426)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(1,439)	-	-	(1,439)
Total other movements	(1,580)	(285)	-	(1,865)
As at 30 June 2026				
Gross book value	4,068	3,133	933	8,134
Gross book value - ROU assets	16,203	-	-	16,203
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(4,212)	(1,975)	(933)	(7,120)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment - ROU assets	(12,572)	-	-	(12,572)
Closing net book balance	3,487	1,158	-	4,645

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2025-2026 and Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025-16 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, DCBs or other operational expenses

