



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
House Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts report:

Factors contributing to the growth and sustainability of the
Australian film and television industry

MAY 2024

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government makes the following changes to the producer offset:

- Introduce a single offset level of 30 per cent for all types of qualifying production, which includes film and television. This will remove the distinction between theatrical and non-theatrical features.
- Remove the 65 hour cap on television series accessing the offset.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government makes the following changes to the location and post, digital and visual effects (PDV) offsets:

- Increase the location offset to an internationally competitive level of 30 per cent. This will eliminate the need for top-up grants and provide more financial certainty to overseas production companies considering Australia as a destination.
- Decouple the location and PDV offsets so that both can potentially be claimed for the same production.
- Provide in the legislation that productions commissioned for any content platform will be eligible for the location and PDV offsets if qualifying Australian production expenditure (QAPE) requirements are met.
- Reduce the minimum QAPE threshold for the location offset to \$5 million specifically for pilot features.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3:

The committee recommends that any future reforms to Australia's content quota system ensure that commercial and subscription television companies continue to invest in and broadcast Australian programs for general audiences at current levels. In addition, the new quota system should provide that subscription video on demand services invest a percentage of the revenues they earn in Australia, for example 10 per cent, in new Australian content.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4:

The committee recommends that the children's content sub-quotas be reformed in light of current viewing trends but continue to ensure access to a variety of quality Australian content for children, particularly live action drama, across all platforms.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government reviews the hours-based quota for first release children's screen content and considers replacing some or all of this quota obligation with a contestable fund to support the creation of quality Australian children's programs into the future.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6:

The committee recommends that first-release be redefined to mean first broadcast anywhere in the world.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7:

The committee recommends that the charter for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation be amended to require a minimum hours based quota for first release children's screen content. This reflects the ABC's strong commitment to children's television and community feedback indicating that the ABC has become the primary provider of Australian programming for children.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8:

The committee recommends that the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation charter be amended to require additional multicultural programming to be sourced domestically so that a minimum of 50 per cent Australian content is shown across all of its channels. This must also include a commitment to more content from regional area.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 9:

The committee recommends that 10 per cent of Screen Australia's funding be earmarked for productions outside of Australia's two major capitals. The rules governing this regional funding allocation should stipulate that the production:

- must conduct its principal photography in a town, small city or area that lies beyond metropolitan Sydney or Melbourne; and
 - does not need to meet significant Australian content rules but must satisfy the same QAPE threshold requirements as the producer offset and must employ a majority of Australians.
- Screen Australia must also provide a regional breakdown in its annual report of the productions it has funded.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 10:

The committee recommends that the <i>Interactive Games Fund</i> be reinstated.
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The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 11:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government expands the current co-production program by negotiating agreements with additional Asian countries.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 12:

The committee recommends that the Australian Government amend the Foreign Actor Certification Scheme to remove the obligation for union consultation.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 13:

The committee recommends that the Minister for Small Business discuss mental health and other occupational health and safety issues with small businesses in Australia's entertainment industry and consult on ways to address these concerns into the future.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.