



**New Zealand
FILM COMMISSION**



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

New Zealand Film Commission Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Ngā Pouwhenua Joint Indigenous Initiative

(NZFC with Screen Australia)

Guidelines for Applicants

February 2019

We encourage you to read these guidelines carefully as they are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. Please also read the relevant information sheets on our website.

Please feel free to get in touch before making an application, as we can offer helpful advice and guidance.



Introduction

October 2019 marks the 250th anniversary of James Cook's arrival to Aotearoa New Zealand. The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC), in collaboration with Screen Australia have invested in a one-off initiative, supporting a creative collaboration between indigenous peoples of the Pacific region impacted by Cook's arrival including Māori, Aboriginal, Pacific and Torres Strait Islander.

This one-off joint indigenous initiative is intended to produce one anthology feature film made up of eight short films. Four teams of writer/directors from both New Zealand and Australia will be selected and each team will write and direct one short film for the feature film.

In Australia the initiative is referred to as the *Cook 2020: Right of Reply Joint Indigenous Initiative* and in New Zealand it is known as *Ngā Pouwhenua Joint Indigenous Initiative*.

Ngā Pouwhenua is for dramatic narrative films only, not documentaries.

Ngā Pouwhenua overview

Pouwhenua (noun) - *post marker of ownership; boundary marker; land marker post; land symbol of support - post placed prominently in the ground to mark possession of an area or jurisdiction over it.*

Ngā Pouwhenua is the New Zealand arm of this dramatic short film anthology opportunity and is intended for Māori and Pacific Island filmmakers to respond and ultimately commemorate a significant moment in our history as Pacific nations.

Four teams each from New Zealand and Australia respectively will be selected to come together to wananga (workshop) and develop eight dramatic narrative short films exploring their own unique indigenous perspectives related to the arrival of Cook.

The dramatic shorts will share the theme of cultural survival and can take many forms, from experimental, comedy, genre and/or animation. The successful screen practitioners must have an open mind in terms of working with the other successful collaborators to ensure the anthology links and screens well together. Applicants should not think of their short as a standalone, but rather a part of a larger screen story.

The four teams from New Zealand will need to work closely with a New Zealand Producer appointed by the NZFC. Similarly, the four teams from Australia will need to work closely with an Australian Producer appointed by Screen Australia.

On completion of the development process the short films will be supported with a non recoupable production funding grant of up to \$125,000 NZD / \$125,000 AUD per short film. The appointed Producers from New Zealand and Australia will combine the short films into a dramatic feature film anthology and will have the rights to market the anthology as a feature film for a defined period. After this agreed period the ultimate rights to each short film will revert to the short film team.

This is a collaborative initiative where the teams must be willing and open to working with international partners, and sharing with the overarching Producers of the short films and completed anthology feature.





We are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. You are welcome to discuss your project with the NZFC as you work on your application. Please note applications cannot be read by NZFC staff prior to submission.

If you have any questions about this fund please contact the Production and Development Coordinator Mechele Harron at mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 021 531 052

Who can apply

- Each team applying must comprise of a writer and a director (e.g 2 person team) or a writer/director (e.g 1 person team) and must each be of Māori and/or Pacific Island heritage (“the applicants”).
- A producer can be attached but this is not a requirement.
- Each applicant team must:
 - Have at least two eligible drama credits (short film, feature film, web series, drama series);
 - be emerging to established filmmakers as per [NZFC Talent Eligibility Criteria](#);
 - be available to travel to the workshop in Sydney, Australia, 13 to 19th May 2019
 - be able to prove their ability to deliver the finished short film by November 2019; and
 - be able to prove their ability to work collaboratively
- Approval of final cut will fall with the New Zealand and Australian Co-Producers with input from the short film teams.

Applicants need to be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and the film must have significant New Zealand content. Please read the [New Zealand content information sheet](#) for more detail.

Creative Material

We are looking for dramatic narrative short film concepts that are unique and challenging and speak to the commissioned theme.

- Stories must be from an Indigenous Māori and/or Pacific Island perspective
- Teams need to supply a one-page outline of their concept or a short film script. Up to 3 concepts can be submitted in one application.
- Concepts must be for short films between 10 - 12 minutes in length
- Writers need to provide a writing sample, maximum 10 pages
- Directors need to provide links to previous work, maximum 15 minutes
- Bios for all key creatives need to be provided

Short film scripts that speak to the kaupapa (intended theme) will be accepted however you must hold or share between the teams intellectual property rights for the short film. Read the [Chain of Title information sheet](#) [NZFC Chain of Title](#) to ensure you have the necessary rights.

Relationship to other NZFC funding

You cannot apply for this fund if you have any overdue contractual or reporting obligations to the NZFC.





How to apply

Complete the **Ngā Pouwhenua Joint Indigenous Initiative** application online and upload the required documents.

The deadline for **Ngā Pouwhenua Joint Indigenous Initiative** applications is

9am, FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2019

Late applications will not be considered for funding.

Application checklist

- One page outline of short film concept or short film script (up to 3 concepts can be submitted)
- Vimeo link to director's best work
- Writing sample of writers best work
- Details of key personnel attached with evidence of talent eligibility criteria (*as per NZFC talent eligibility criteria definition*), including one-page CVs
- If applicable, provide details of any projects in active development with NZFC (project title and NZFC involvement)
- If applicable, provide details of any outstanding reports/deliverables due on current NZFC loans, grants or equity that are being delivered alongside this application

Ngā Pouwhenua assessment

Funding decisions for Ngā Pouwhenua Joint Indigenous Initiative will be by a panel made up of the NZFC Chief Executive, Head of Production and Development, Head of Talent Development and the Pouwhakahaere with input from Screen Australia. The final decision will be made by the NZFC Chief Executive.

Successful teams will be notified by the end of April.

Assessment Criteria


We will be assessing your application against the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of the concept
- Ability for the short film to stand out on the world stage
- Director's voice / vision and point of difference
- The skills of the team as well as their ability to deliver a world class short film by November 2019
- Ability to collaborate with the other successful teams

We have a commitment under Te Rautaki Māori the NZFC Māori Strategy to work in partnership with the Māori filmmaking community to achieve mutually agreed aspirations. We are very keen to receive films with a strong Māori narrative from Māori creative teams and/ or films in te reo Māori.

We also have a commitment to gender equality across the industry and to supporting a diverse range of talent to further their careers; including those who have a disability, identify as LGBTQi, gender diverse, and/or from an ethnically diverse background.





Ngā Pouwhenua funding decisions will reflect these commitments.

Our funding is discretionary – that is, the NZFC chooses where best to apply the limited funding available. Our decisions are final. The criteria we apply may change from time to time, but our decisions will be consistent with the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

Next steps

If you are successful, you will need to enter into an agreement with the NZFC for attending the workshop in Sydney, Australia. Any further agreements regarding the production of the short film and final feature film will be with the NZ Producer.

The NZFC have commissioned the production and will work closely with Screen Australia to ensure the best outcome for the joint indigenous initiative and filmmakers.

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