



RELEASED: Wednesday 20 January, 2016

## ABC Factual Format Initiative launched, winner to be announced at AIDC 2016

ABC Factual, in conjunction with The Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC), today announces a new development initiative aimed at helping Australian producers create original factual formats. The **ABC Factual Format Initiative** will see one Australian production company awarded a **\$15,000 development agreement** with the aim of producing a prime time factual format for broadcast on the ABC.

Submissions are open until **19 February**, with shortlisted applicants invited to pitch their project to ABC Factual during **AIDC 2016** (28 Feb – 2 Mar, ACMI Melbourne) at **The FACTory** – a structured pitching event for short and long-form documentary to be held at Federation Square's Deakin Edge on 2 March. A winner will be selected and announced at the conclusion of The FACTory pitching day.

ABC Factual has launched this initiative to encourage independent Australian production companies to develop factual multi-part series with distinctive and innovative format beats with the potential to apply to foreign territories. Proposals to the **ABC Factual Format Initiative** must have the potential to be long running and returnable and to play in an 8.30pm time slot on the ABC. The preference is for one-hour proposals, but 30-minute proposals will also be considered.

*Steve Bibb, ABC TV Head of Factual, says: "At the ABC, we're serious about game-changing factual television. We want to help Australian producers create innovative and compelling factual formats that sell to the rest of the world. The ABC aims to be a catalyst for creative and financial success for Australian producers in factual storytelling."*

All proposals must appeal to a broad audience, reflect contemporary Australia and be brave, genuine and ambitious in their proposition. Importantly, they must have something at stake and a compelling reason for viewers to care. Applicants should consider editorial approach and the use of technology to make their proposal distinctive. Importantly, the format must be that – a format. ABC Factual would like to see formatted series that spark national conversations while always having genuine documentary and public service sensibilities at their core.

Submission procedures for the **ABC Factual Format Initiative** are available from the [ABC website](#). Shortlisted applicants will be invited to be part of The FACTory's one-day "honing your pitch" session on 28 February and are eligible for 2 x AIDC Day Passes to attend The FACTory on 2 March (travel and accommodation not included), or an AIDC All Access Pass at the early bird discount rate.



To apply, contact Nicky Ruscoe, Development Producer, ABC TV Factual - [ruscoe.nicky@abc.net.au](mailto:ruscoe.nicky@abc.net.au) - or download the [Information for Applicants](#) pack.

**Please note,** ABC Factual is not looking for observational documentaries as part of the ABC Factual Format Initiative. The ABC is committing \$15,000 to a successful applicant. There is no guarantee the successful applicant's series will move into production, as that decision rests with ABC TV. If there is no successful applicant, no funds will be committed.

---

For further information contact:

**Dylan Brookes, Publicity Lead, ABC TV Marketing**  
02 8333 3852 | 0412 467 313 | [brookes.dylan@abc.net.au](mailto:brookes.dylan@abc.net.au)

**Chris Harms, Communications & Marketing Manager, AIDC**  
0438 052 201 | [chris@aidc.com.au](mailto:chris@aidc.com.au)