



# ABC leads the way in boosting screen industry

The ABC is the nation's leading broadcaster in supporting home-grown stories, boosting Australia's screen industry more than the commercial free-to-air networks combined.

For the first time, the combined budgets for content produced for first release on the ABC (\$144 million in 2017-18) was higher than the combined total for broadcasters Seven, Nine and Ten (\$142 million), according to [Screen Australia's Drama Report](#).

The annual report into the Australian screen industry revealed the ABC financed more drama, comedy and children's programs across television and online than any other single network, contributing \$53 million across 23 titles, including *Mystery Road*, *Riot*, *Superwog*, *Pine Gap*, *Rosehaven* and the new ABC KIDS animated series *Bluey*.

The ABC led the way in driving investment in distinctive Australian content such as the upcoming serialised drama *The Heights*, which was filmed in Perth, and the gripping psychological drama *The Cry*, starring Asher Keddie and Alex Dimitriades.

Michael Carrington, ABC Acting Director of Entertainment & Specialist, said: "Telling remarkable and relevant Australian stories is at the heart of our role as the nation's leading public broadcaster.

"Screen Australia's Drama Report recognises the ABC's unrivalled commitment to investing in high-quality, distinctive programs that drive Australia's screen industry. No broadcaster backs Australian stories more than the ABC."

The report revealed the three commercial free-to-air networks contributed \$84 million across 17 titles in 2017-18 – the group's lowest contribution in the past five years.

The ABC's crucial role in strengthening Australia's screen industry was exemplified by children's drama, with the ABC financing 6 of the 10 titles in production in 2017-18, including *Bluey*, *The Strange Chores*, *Nowhere Boys* and *Spongo*, *Fuzz & Jalapena*.

The release of the report this week came as [the ABC received 57 AACTA Award nominations](#) across 23 categories, more than any other broadcaster, with crime drama *Mystery Road* and telemovie *Riot*, which shines a spotlight on Australia's gay and lesbian rights movement, both in line to win 11 of Australia's top screen prizes.

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For further information contact:

**Peter Munro**, ABC Communications Entertainment & Specialist

02 8333 3082 | [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)