

ABC Factual Format Initiative

Information for Applicants

Applications are now open for the ABC Factual Format Pitch – an 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. Shortlisted projects will be invited to pitch their project at the AIDC FACTory pitching day, to be held in Melbourne at the Deakin Edge Auditorium, on Wednesday 2nd March 2016.

ABC Factual wants 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 capacity to be long running and returnable and to play in an 8.30pm time slot on the ABC. Our preference is for one-hour proposals but we will consider 30 minute proposals.

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. Consider your editorial approach and the use of technology to make your proposal distinctive. Importantly, your format must be that – a format. We would like to see formatted series that spark national conversations while always having genuine documentary and public service sensibilities at their core.

Please note we are not looking for observational documentaries as part of the ABC Factual Format Initiative.

You will need to submit:

1. project title
2. log-line
3. 1 x high res still to promote the project (max 3MB)
4. a maximum of three pages outlining the format
5. sample visual material, not required but accepted (1 - 3 minutes)
6. key crew bios (maximum one page in total)
7. Finance plan & schedule

Pitch Workshop

Pitching is a highly competitive process, and an art in itself. The AIDC invites shortlisted applicants to participate in a one day 'Honing Your Pitch' workshop on Sunday 28 February 2016 to help prepare and refine your pitch guided by two of the industry's most established and successful producers and pitch trainers, Melanie Horkan and Susan MacKinnon

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be Australian residents.
- Applicants must be the rights holder in the work.
- Individuals, teams or companies may apply.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or over.
- There is no submission fee.

Application and Selection Process

- Download and read the **Information for Applicants form**
- Submit your application form & submission materials to Nicky Ruscoe:
ruscoe.nicky@abc.net.au
- Shortlisted projects will automatically be eligible for up to two One Day Conference Passes to attend AIDC on Wednesday 2 March or an All Access Pass at the early bird discounted rate.
- The shortlisted applicants will need to cover their own travel and accommodation to attend the AIDC FACTory pitching day.
- The ABC assessment panel will curate the applications and make a shortlist **of three** based upon the following criteria: strength and originality of the project; the commercial viability of the format in the marketplace; the track record of the creative team & any finance in place.
- Project and application information will be published and available to buyers and delegates.
- The three shortlisted projects will pitch to an ABC panel of factual Commissioning Editors.
- One winner will be selected and announced at the conclusion of the FACTory pitching day.

Key Information and Dates

Closing Date	COB 19 February 2016
Applications submitted to	ruscoe.nicky@abc.net.au
Successful Projects notified	22 February 2016
Pitching Workshop	Sunday 28 February 2016
The FACTory Pitch Day	Wednesday 2 March 2016

Warranties and Undertakings:

The ABC is committing \$15K to the successful applicant.

There is no guarantee that the successful series will move into production. This decision rests with ABC TV.

In submitting this application as part of the AIDC FACTory, the applicant agrees to be bound by the rules and terms and conditions as set out by the Australian International Documentary Conference.

The ABC and the AIDC shall use its best endeavours to treat all submissions confidentially. However, the applicant acknowledges that the applicant's project may potentially receive wide exposure as a result of the submission process.

There is a chance that a number of ideas submitted as part of this program – including the applicant's – may contain subject matter, themes, activity, characters and other material that is similar to other projects submitted to the ABC and the AIDC. The applicant acknowledges that neither the ABC nor AIDC are liable in the event that the project submitted by the applicant is in any way similar to a project selected by the ABC and AIDC, for the FACTory or otherwise, now or in the future.

The applicant acknowledges entry into the AIDC FACTory pitching day does not guarantee that the project will be successful in attracting partnerships/finance.

The applicant agrees that if the applicant's project is selected for the AIDC FACTory pitching event, the applicant is obliged to acknowledge the support of the AIDC in the credits of the completed project and in all relevant promotional material.