

Irirangi Te Motu
NZ On Air



NZWG

New Zealand Writers Guild
Puni Taatuhi O Aotearoa

KŌPERE AKE

SERIES DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

GUIDELINES

KŌPERE AKE – SERIES DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Kōpere Ake is designed to break through the barriers faced by Aotearoa screenwriters of insufficient time to craft and write material at the level of quality required to compete against international content. Kōpere Ake is creating pathways to help develop screenwriters and their stories, using the simple international formula – time + money + support.

New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG) in partnership with NZ on Air, has developed Kōpere Ake as a programme that will enable Aotearoa screenwriters to create high quality world-class scripted proposals. Giving screenwriters and their writing partners an opportunity to create an environment to take risks and expand on their skills in the development of high-quality stories for screen.

Premium content development requires time and tailor-made support – one size, does not fit all.

Grants are for writers only and provide development funding for quality, premium series proposals and pilot script development.

KŌPERE AKE GRANT STRUCTURE

In 2024, Kōpere Ake Grants pilot programme are offered in one round for writers or teams of writers to apply for. In this round two grants are on offer.

TWO GRANTS

- Each Successful Recipient(s) (Writer, Co-Writers, Teams of Writers) would receive \$35,000.00 (+ any applicable GST) development funding administered by NZOA
- Each Successful Recipient(s) would also receive story development assistance to the value of \$5,000.00 (+ any applicable GST) administered by NZWG, that could include, but not limited to local or international:
 - Mentor, consultant, or advisor to assist in creating a premium series story proposal
 - Coaching and assistance to pitch and market their work
 - Additional writers to assist with story development tables
 - Any other craft or professional support to enable high quality story outcomes

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Successful Recipients would also receive professional development assistance to the value of \$2,000 (+ any applicable GST), administered by NZWG that could include, but not limited to local or international:

- Legal Fees to create writer-for-hire or other series contracts
- Design Fees – towards the creation of the series proposal
- Series Business development workshops or courses
- Story Producer development workshops or courses

NZWG SUPPORT OFFERING

Successful Recipients would receive the following NZWG workshops:

- Know Your Rights workshop – understanding rights assignments in series creation, learning to exploit this transaction
- Contracting 101 workshop – understanding the functions of each type of agreement in the Chain of Title, and what should be in (and out) of these series agreements
- Connection workshops with Producers, Production Companies, Commissioners, Broadcasters and Platforms

Tailoring the story development and professional development assistance per recipient(s) enables screenwriters to determine the best pathway for the project they are developing. Creating Great, not Good.

RECIPIENT OUTCOMES

Outcomes will be based on conversations with the recipient(s) and their experience levels, within a period of 6 – 9 months. They could include:

- a market ready, high quality, long form series proposal
- a pilot script
- a plan to engage with appropriate Producers / Production Companies
- a plan to continue development of the project

APPLYING TO KÖPERE

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Call for applications 8 weeks in advance of the round deadline
- All eligible applications received by the deadline will be read blind (writers names removed) by three independent and experienced industry practitioners
- Two applications will be selected to receive funding
- Writers of unsuccessful applications will be notified by email
- Successful recipients will be contacted to engage in a discussion process before signing a tailored Kōpere Ake Grant Agreement

TERMS AND CONDITIONS & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For full Kōpere Ake Terms and Conditions and Eligibility Criteria – click [HERE](#)

QUICK T&CS CHECKLIST

- Applicant(s) can be an individual, or a team
- Applicant(s) must be writer(s) and or creator(s) of the idea
- Applicants can apply with the same project up to three times
- If the project is based on any underlying works, the applicant(s) must demonstrate they have the rights in the underlying works for the purposes of development through this fund
- If the project has already been optioned by a producer or production company, it will not be eligible
- Projects are not eligible if they have already received development funding of any kind from any of these agencies:
 - Te Māngai Pāho
 - NZ on Air
 - New Zealand Film Commission
- The lead applicant must be a NZ citizen or resident

ASSESSMENT

The assessors judge the applicant's assessment materials through a blind-read process. This means the assessors cannot see who the applicants are, and the applicants do not know who the assessors are prior to the completion of judging.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessments are completed using only the following Assessment Materials:

- Logline
- Potential audience
- Series proposal
- Screenwriting sample
- Level of Experience

Eligibility Materials are not provided to, nor sighted by, the assessors. Assessors will be assessing each application on the following criteria:

1. Idea – is it compelling/engaging?

2. Craft – is the applicant(s) able to execute the series on a high enough level to deliver on the promise of the idea?
3. Audience - is there a clear and identifiable audience for this idea?

SELECTION OF ASSESSORS

Each assessor engaged by the NZWG will be an experienced industry professional with a proven history for assessing series proposals. Selected by the Executive Director of the NZWG.

The Executive Director of NZWG will select up to four different assessors to be engaged each round, 3 judges will read each application.

Assessors will immediately disclose any potential conflict(s) of interest and – where actively involved with the development of an application / project at the time of assessment – will subsequently remove themselves from any discussion, decision or selection relating to the application(s) in question.

The assessor's details will be made public at the time of the announcement of the grant recipients.