

EARLY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROPOSED SETTING CHANGES 2022

15 MARCH 2022

New Zealand Writers Guild Puni Taatuhi o Aotearoa (NZWG) is the professional membership association and registered trade union of Aotearoa New Zealand script writers, established in 1976. NZWG is committed to working in a way that adheres to the spirit and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

NZWG thanks New Zealand Film Commission Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga (NZFC) for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Early Development Funding (EDF) – Proposed Setting Changes.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Below are the NZWG aims and objectives relevant in this feedback to NZFC.

- To protect, represent and further the interests of New Zealand writers.
- To be the national and international voice of New Zealand writers.
- To establish, maintain and improve minimum conditions of work and rates of compensation for writers.
- To promote policy, legislation, and legal and economic rights for the benefit of writers, including but not limited to the issues of copyright, moral rights, and status of the artist.

INDUSTRY LED REVIEW OF NZFC DEVELOPMENT

NZWG see the amendment to EDF as a useful step in the right direction for screenwriters working in feature film script development. However, we would like to stress that we see this welcome change as the first step in a commitment to the repeated call from NZWG, SPADA and DEGANZ for an industry led review of the development pathways.

NZWG, SPADA and DEGANZ are committed to assisting NZFC with the establishment of this review and offer any assistance in ensuring that this action occurs.

FEEDBACK

NZWG are providing feedback on the EDF Proposed Setting Changes only. NZWG support the move towards encouraging writers without a producer through the EDF pathway. Removing the producer requirement at this stage shows the screenwriting community that NZFC are committed to supporting and trusting experienced screenwriters with the early development pathways of their works.

Thank you for supplying the iterative history of this fund, it is helpful to understand how the fund has evolved over the past 11 years.

TABLE 1 PROPOSED SETTING CHANGES EDF FOR SCRIPTED NARRATIVE FEATURES

1. WHO CAN APPLY

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

2. ELIGIBILITY – LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

NZWG strongly recommends Producers (as with writers and directors) be required to demonstrate a relevant level of experience to apply to EDF.

3. WHAT YOU CAN APPLY FOR – MAXIMUM FOR EARLY DEVELOPMENT

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

4. APPLICATION MATERIALS – TEAM VISION

NZWG accept this proposed setting change.

5. KEY PERSONNEL – ASSESSMENT

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

6. RIGHTS – CHAIN OF TITLE

NZWG accept this proposed setting change. Rights assignments at EDF stage are one of the biggest concerns for screenwriters.

7. ABILITY TO USE EDF AS PRODUCER EQUITY

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

8. REPEAT APPLICATIONS

NZWG accept and support this proposed setting change.

CONCLUSION

NZWG would like to take this opportunity to thank NZFC for the opportunity to feedback on the proposed setting changes for EDF, and to open the conversation on the ways forward for a full development pathways review.

Hei konā mai me ngā mihi,

[Executive Director and Board](#)

New Zealand Writers Guild Puni Taatuhu o Aotearoa