



Programming Workgroup – Australia

It has been a tumultuous decade, and all the signs point to this continuing ad infinitum. The silver lining is the work artists are creating, which feels ever more necessary. However, it's producers and programmers who have the ultimate say in what work is shown, who it's by, and who it's for.

There are lots of questions to be asked of and by programmers everywhere: “Can art and politics be separate, and should they be?” “What level of influence should funders and other stakeholders have?” “Are we doing no harm, or creating safe spaces?” “Do artists have a carte blanche on freedom of expression?” The pushback for getting it ‘wrong’ is forceful, fierce, public and unpredictable - the stakes are high.

The workgroup may engage with but is not limited to the following topics:

- Current challenges
- Relationship between politics and programming
- Engagement with local communities
- Methods to make funding go further
- Understanding audiences
- Opportunities within the region

The objective is to provide a **space for discussions, collaborations, reflections, new perspectives and solidarity** on the big but also smaller challenges of working in these fields today.

Workgroup Format

Workgroup Size: 10 Participants (maximum 2 representatives per organisation)

Frequency: Fortnightly 1-hour sessions between Jul – Sep (approx. 6 – 8 sessions).

Format: The sessions will be virtual, with tools provided as required. The workgroup will have a dedicated associate to ensure smooth operation and assist with coordination.

To maximize positive contribution the workgroup will **produce a summary briefing in a format of the participants’ choosing** that will be shared exclusively within the wider AAPPAC and GCDN memberships. The summary briefing is also intended as a starting point for a one-off webinar (potentially facilitated by the workgroup participants) open to the wider memberships in early-mid October.

Who should participate?

To ensure a collaborative environment, we aim for the workgroups to be as inclusive as possible, without the imposition of hierarchies. **Participants will be encouraged to contribute actively within the sessions with their peers.** We encourage extending this invitation to colleagues within your organization who may not yet be in direct contact with AAPPAC or GCDN but could be interested to participate because it relates to their everyday responsibilities, professional interests and/or development.

The strength of networks has always been the diversity of perspectives and the breadth of members' professional experiences. We believe this workgroup will enable insightful and useful responses to challenges in the proposed areas of mutual interest.

We are excited to invite expressions of interest from you (and/or colleagues within your organization) to join this workgroup via [this form](#) by **Friday 23 May 2025**.