

STS ONLINE TALK PRE-PACK

FUNDING FAQ'S



SCRIPT TO SCREEN

CREATED SEPTEMBER 2024

NZ on Air Funding deadlines

Round Toru

Priority and General Audiences

Applications open: 17 January 2025

Deadline: 4:00 pm, 7 February 2025

Applicants informed: 11 April 2025

All applications must be made through our [online application system](#).

Apply here:

<https://funding.nzonair.govt.nz/>

Resources to apply:

<https://www.nzonair.govt.nz/funding/apply-scripted-and-factual-funding/#resources-to-apply>

What / Who is NZ On Air?

NZ On Air's mission is to reflect and develop Aotearoa New Zealand's culture and identity.

- We are an independent government funding agency delivering quality and diverse New Zealand public media.
- We ensure New Zealanders can experience public media that is authentically New Zealand.
- Public media content that reflects our cultural identity, helps build social cohesion, inclusion and connection.

What is NZ On Air looking for?

Broadly speaking NZ On Air invests in **quality**, **diverse**, and **discoverable** content.

- **Quality:** original ideas that take creative risks and that will resonate with an audience.
- **Diversity:** content with a high level of cultural specificity that flows from the team, through the project, to a connection with its audience
- **Discoverability:** If a series falls over in the forest and no one sees it what's the point? Content should be available to as many audiences as possible.

More specifically NZ On Air releases round guidelines prior to the open of each round that gives specific areas of focus for each round and is a useful resource in terms of determining what is a priority in a round.

Why does NZ On Air require Platform Attachment?

NZ On Air has no editorial input into content. Once a project is funded it is the platform's prerogative to provide that level of support. The platforms are also subject to the Broadcasting Standards Authority and have legal and administrative infrastructure that will aid productions in ways that NZ On Air is not set up (or legislated) to offer.

Can I apply for funding without platform support?

We offer Unsupported development funding of up to \$50k for development applications. This is primarily script development and/or episode outline work, but can include proof of concept etc. However, these applications must exhibit a strategy for garnering platform support in the future.

We also are open to children's content for YouTube, however, these must also have an established platform as secondary support.

Does NZ On Air fund content in te reo Māori / languages other than English?

Yes. This is enshrined in the broadcasting act.

How does NZ On Air assess applications?

We group applications in three strands: Scripted, Non-Fiction and Children's content.

From there we break those categories down by their finances requested so that projects of similar scale are assessed alongside one another.

Once our assessment rounds are organised it is a competitive assessment process where projects are prioritised for support based on alignment to our investment principles:

Cultural value - tells engaging New Zealand social, cultural, political or historical stories

Balance - Balance mainstream content and diverse content for audiences cited in the Broadcasting Act

Risk - Be generous with creative risk in funded content; conservative with business risk. Minimise harm.

Competition - Support a range of content and entities, both to encourage multiple views and voices, and to encourage competition for the best ideas

Value for Money - focus on cost-effective content with a reasonable shelf-life that attracts audiences of an appropriate size.

No Duplication

Leverage - Prioritise content and entities that attract other investment

Capability – Is the team capable of executing what they propose (champagne dreams on a lion red budget)

Fairness – Does the application reflect accurate, reliable information, is there consistency with past funding decisions and process, etc.

Given that the assessment process is comparative it is almost impossible to judge an application's chances of success in isolation from its competition in the round.

NZFC Funding deadlines

Feature Film development, and Short Film funds:

- He Kauahi Catalyst Short Film Fund.
(Note: this now has a stronger focus on the feature film development component.
- Early Development – drama.
- Documentary Development – documentary.

He Kauahi Catalyst:

<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/events/he-kauahi-catalyst>

Applications open: 23 September 2024
Deadline: 1:00 pm, 21 October 2024

Early Development – drama

<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/events/early-development-fund>

Next year's dates to be announced by the end of the year.

Documentary Development – documentary

<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/funds/documentary-development-fund>

Next year's dates to be announced by the end of the year.

NZFC – Funding Overview:

<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding-and-support/funding-overview>

NZFC - Funding and Support:

<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding-and-support>

ADVICE:

- Check you / your team have the screen credits and experience to be eligible to apply. This is different for each level of funding, so it's good to double-check.
- Read the funding guidelines, and then read them again – they contain all the information you need for your application.
- The funding guidelines are updated from time-to-time to stay current. So always download the latest version from the NZFC website.
- A crucial question to ask yourself – is your film concept cinematic? Is it genuinely suited for the big screen? If the answer is yes – fold that into your application submission.
- Know who your audience is for your film. All NZFC funding applications ask this question. If you're not sure what this means – research it before you write your answer.
- Get a trusted associate to read over your application before you submit – to proofread, to check that the narrative components are clear, your aims are clear, the creative aspirations are clear, and to check for repetition. Often, as filmmakers, we are so far 'in it' that it can be hard to see whether the entire application is working on the page.
- Contact the funding team staff if you have questions or need advice – that's what we're there for. And, honestly, there's no dumb questions!

Te Māngai Pāho Funding deadlines

2024/25 General Audience Round 2

Applications open: 14 October 2024
Closes: 5:00 pm, 30 October 2024
Decisions: 25 November 2024

Stage 2 (If invited)

Applications open: 3 December 2024
Closes: 13 February 2025

Industry Support

Applications open: 1 August 2024
Closes: 6 June 2024 * *or until funds are exhausted*
Decisions: 20 June 2025

Submit an initial enquiry for the Industry Support Fund to: support@tmp.govt.nz

A Kaihāpai (Advisor) will provide an initial assessment to determine suitability.

Read all funding details and requirements here:

<https://www.tmp.govt.nz/en/funding/mixed-platform/funding-rounds-dates/>

Te Pūahatanga Funding Portal:

<https://funding.tmp.govt.nz/>

Te Māngai Pāho funding resources:

<https://www.tmp.govt.nz/en/funding/help-resources/>

Te Māngai Pāho FAQ's

- *How much te reo Māori do you need in a project to qualify for Te Māngai Pāho funding?*

We fund content containing 30-100% te reo Māori.

- *What qualifies someone to be a Poutiaki Reo/Mātanga Reo?*

A poutiaki reo will ideally have a high level of education in te reo Māori revitalisation, supported by a reputation in the reo Māori community for their ability to communicate at multiple levels. A Poutiaki who also has credibility in the genre of the content is highly beneficial.

OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS:

Day One Film Challenge Round 2

<https://dofilm.co.nz/challenge/>

Deadline: 18th October 2024

Maoriland Indigenous Feature Film Lab

<https://maorilandfilm.co.nz/maoriland-to-open-indigenous-feature-film-lab/>

Dates: 2025 TBC

Ngā Aho Shorts (Ngā Aho Whakaari)

<https://www.ngaahowhakaari.org/fund-applications/nga-aho-shorts>

Dates: 2025 TBC

Short Film Otago

<https://www.sfo.nz/>

Dates: 2025 TBC