



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Screen Australia's Draft Programs evaluated by Australian Directors Guild

"The debate surrounding the Screen Australia draft guidelines continues to stir lots of emotions amongst our members and those in the wider industry. There have been numerous responses from our constituency nationally and at a well attended meeting last Thursday in Sydney, ADG members came together to voice their range of concerns. While there is optimism, there is a lot of concern about how these decisions are being made, and whether the repercussions of those decisions have been fully thought through."

Ray Argall, ADG President

Key points are that there is a disproportionate emphasis on producers and production companies over directors and writers and whether Screen Australia will be reinforcing the concept of fair and equitable practice in the sharing and allocation of copyright and profit sharing with those that create the intellectual property of the screen content produced.

There has also been much discussion about 'eligibility' across the draft programs, how emerging filmmakers will be able to develop in the new funding landscape and grave concern about Screen Australia's decision to opt out of support for Short Drama Films. Life adg member Gillian Armstrong says "I wouldn't have got there without *100 a Day*. Nor Jane Campion without *Peel*, Cate Shortland without *Flower Girl and Pentuphouse*, Rachel Ward without *Matilda's New Coat* nor Matthew Saville without *Roy Hollsdotter Live before he did Noise*. The list just goes on..."

Aside from issues pertaining to specific program guidelines, the adg suggests that, in keeping with the Minister Garrett's directives, Screen Australia consider how to adequately support, nurture and guarantee that filmmakers are able to work in an environment conducive to creativity and which allows the freedom to explore, invent and imagine.

For copies of the full 18 page adg response to Screen Australia or to arrange an interview with Ray Argall, ADG President or other adg members: Call Harriet McKern, Australian Directors Guild 02 95557045 (business hours) or 0403533453