

ADG CODE OF PRACTICE FOR AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS AND BROADCASTERS

1. Documentaries are supported by the Australian public to enrich our national cultural heritage and identity.
2. A wide range of filmmakers bring diverse and independent editorial and creative points of view that are intrinsically of value to broadcasters.
3. The broadcaster secures a license in the project, which entitles the representatives of the broadcaster to consult with the filmmaker at each stage of the production.
4. The fundamental terms of the project are laid out in the proposal to the broadcaster, which may contain a treatment, a script or visual material.
5. After the project is commissioned, decisions about principle creative team, title, choice of narrator, style, story and structure rest with the filmmaker. Within this, the filmmakers agree to respect and consider the broadcaster's professional opinion.
6. The broadcaster recognises that copyright and a significant portion of the equity in the film rests with the filmmaker.
7. Independent filmmakers and broadcasters acknowledge that the majority of documentary projects contain an inherent degree of risk and challenge. The broadcaster recognises the high degree of personal commitment and uncertainty involved for the filmmaker.
8. At rough cut and fine cut approval stages, both filmmaker and broadcaster acknowledge that their relationship may contain constructive differences of opinion and values. These will be resolved in a spirit of genuine mutual respect and compromise.
9. In resolving creative differences, broadcasters and filmmakers are entitled to respect, clear communications, timely responses and as much certainty as possible.
10. In a project's presentation and publicity the broadcaster will acknowledge the creative principals, and actively promote the project to the wider public in as many forms as possible.
11. Broadcasters and filmmakers acknowledge that mutually respectful relationships should enhance the long-term viability of the sector.