



MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS MEDIA STATEMENT

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WA Screen Production Booming

The Western Australian screen industry is booming with record levels of production and increased investment from Lotterywest.

Presenting a cheque for \$4,160,000 from Lotterywest to ScreenWest earlier today, Culture and Arts Minister Sheila McHale said the increase was representative of an overall shift in the acknowledgement of the importance of the arts to the Western Australian community.

“Lotterywest has been investing in the local screen industry, through ScreenWest, since 1994 and this year’s commitment has increased by \$160,000,” Minister McHale said.

“Lotterywest’s investment is a crucial means of supporting screen production in this State, complementing funding from the Western Australian Government.

“This funding ensures that WA stories continue to be told to international audiences and that we retain our creative talent through the provision of a sustainable industry.”

In contrast to a national decline in screen production in a difficult trade environment, the WA screen industry continues to go from strength to strength, with the support of the Western Australian Government and Lotterywest.

Five years ago, ScreenWest invested \$5.4 million to create 32 hours of production, with budgets of just under \$14 million. In 2005/06, with a similar investment budget of \$5.8 million, ScreenWest supported 72 hours of production and nearly three times the value with total production budgets of just under \$40 million. This is a significant achievement and good news for the future of the industry in Western Australia.

The Western Australian screen industry is world renowned for its documentaries and children’s series and is developing recognition for outstanding drama production.

Documentaries and children’s series like *Surfing the Menu*, *Bom Bali*, *Saving Andrew Mallard*, *Hoover’s Gold* and *Streetsmartz* have all been great success stories for the State.

Through the support of Lotterywest and the State Government a selection of quality WA-produced television will be launched in 2007, including the documentaries: *Pipe Dreams*, *Eco House Challenge* and *Air Australia*; the children’s series’ *Dogstar*, *Sleepover Club 2* and *Lockie Leonard*, and the adult drama series *The Circuit* and *Marx and Venus*.

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