



AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY  
CONFERENCE

## AIDC AWARDS Submission Guidelines

*Do you have a project or projects to submit to the AIDC Awards? This guide provides you with all the information you need.*

The AIDC Awards recognise the outstanding work of new Australian documentary and factual content. The Awards cover six categories:

- Best Feature Documentary
- Best Documentary/Factual Series
- Best Documentary/Factual Single
- Best Short-Form Documentary
- Best Audio Documentary
- Best Interactive/Immersive Documentary

Each category is designed to celebrate the talent and expertise of Australian content creators across long and short form documentary and factual content, as well as audio documentary and other forms of documentary storytelling through new and emerging media.

AIDC is inviting documentary and factual entries across the six categories. All entries must be able to demonstrate a **public release** - which is considered a premiere in Australia - between **1 February 2025 and 1 February 2026**. Entries that have had an international premiere within these dates but which have not yet premiered in Australia are also eligible.

Each category will be judged by an independent jury. The AIDC Awards will be presented at AIDC 2026 on Thursday 5 March 2026.

**Opening Date: Thursday 9 October 2025** at 9:00 AEDT

### **Long Form: Features & Series**

- **Regular Closing Date:** Sunday 16 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT
- **Late Closing Date:** Sunday 23 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT

### **Short Form & Other: Single, Shorts, Audio, Interactive/Immersive**

- **Regular Closing Date:** Sunday 30 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT
- **Late Closing Date:** Sunday 7 December 2025 at 23:59 AEDT

Applications must comply with the [AIDC Awards Terms and Conditions](#). Applications will not be accepted after the late closing date. Once submitted, applications can no longer be amended.

To make an application visit [AIDC Awards](#).

For all questions, please contact [awards@aidc.com.au](mailto:awards@aidc.com.au).

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the AIDC Awards, applicants will need to demonstrate a **public release** (i.e. a premiere in Australia or internationally) between **1 February 2025 and 1 February 2026**. For the purposes of the AIDC Awards, a public release is defined as any of the following:

- Broadcast on a commercial or public broadcaster in Australia or internationally
- Broadcast on a cable service in Australia or internationally
- Available on a streaming platform as an acquisition or commissioned work
- Screening at a film festival in Australia or internationally
- Theatrical release in Australia or internationally
- For audio documentaries, commissioned for a streaming service or curated platform, or a demonstration of a commission will be acceptable; and/or
- For interactive/immersive works, a public release will be considered as any curated release including displays in galleries, museums, festivals, online etc.

AIDC recognises the myriad of ways in which a public release can be defined and that the above may not cover all curated forms of public release particularly for less traditional forms. If you are in doubt about whether or not your release platform is eligible, please contact the AIDC team via [awards@aidc.com.au](mailto:awards@aidc.com.au) prior to submission.

At least one key creative (producer, director, writer) on the production must be a current AIDC member. A current AIDC member is anyone who is a citizen or permanent resident of Australia who attended AIDC 2025 or has purchased an AIDC Membership in the last 12 months. You can purchase a membership by submitting an [AIDC Member Application Form](#), along with a membership fee of \$38.50 (GST inclusive) plus a 2.5% credit card fee added at checkout. Once processed, payment confirmation will be sent to you via email and your membership will be valid for one calendar year from the date of payment. Please note that membership does not grant access to AIDC 2026.

Applications can include official and unofficial co-productions, including projects that are 100 percent foreign funded. However, the production must include one Australian citizen or permanent resident as a key creative. For your application to be valid, proof of citizenship may be requested. Proof of citizenship includes: Australian passport issued in your name on or after 1 January 2000 that was valid for at least 2 years; Australian citizenship certificate in your name; or valid proof of permanent residency.

By default, each AIDC Award will recognise the title and production company as an entity. Alternatively, up to three people can be nominated to be recognised for the award instead of the production company). In this situation, AIDC encourages teams to include the key creatives. Where the production is a co-production, AIDC will recognise all production companies involved.

## CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

AIDC defines documentary and factual as a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program. See the [Australian](#)

[Communications and Media Authority](#) documentary guidelines for further information. Other areas that are not eligible include live-performances with no creative treatment, talk shows, instructional and/or promotional programs. This definition will be applied across all categories of the AIDC Awards, including one-off titles and series, as well as less traditional forms.

Additional descriptions for individual categories are included below, however, if you are unsure if your submission is eligible, please contact the AIDC team via [awards@aidc.com.au](mailto:awards@aidc.com.au).

### **Best Feature Documentary**

An individual, stand-alone documentary, that is 60 minutes or more in length. Only one (1) version is to be submitted. Feature Documentaries are eligible if they have screened in the release window listed in the eligibility criteria.

### **Best Documentary/Factual Series**

Episodic series, or multi-part documentaries of no less than two episodes. This excludes programs such as talk shows, reality television series, competition programs or programs that consist primarily of news reporting. Two (2) individual episodes of a series must be submitted, not the complete series. Series entries are eligible if any episode has screened in the release window listed in the eligibility criteria. Standalone episodes from a curated strand or series should be submitted in the Best Documentary/Factual Single category.

### **Best Documentary/Factual Single**

An individual, stand-alone documentary or factual single; or a single stand-alone episode in a series or curated strand of between 20 and 59 minutes in duration. Only one (1) individual episode is to be submitted. **Best Documentary/Factual Singles** are eligible if they have screened in the release window listed in the eligibility criteria.

### **Best Short-Form Documentary**

Individual stand-alone short documentary of under 40 minutes in duration. Only one (1) version is to be submitted. **Best Short-Form documentaries** are eligible if they have screened in the release window listed in the eligibility criteria.

### **Best Audio Documentary**

Audio documentary entries including singles or series that demonstrate nonfiction audio storytelling with a documentary treatment. For Audio Documentary series, two (2) individual episodes must be submitted, not the complete series. Submissions that are predominantly news reporting, fictional or conversational/entertainment or repackaged broadcast programs are not eligible.

### **Best Interactive/Immersive Documentary**

Entries spanning non-traditional formats driven by emerging technology platforms including but not limited to virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), interactive web series and the Internet of Things (IoT).

## APPLICATION FEES & SUBMISSION PROCESS

To be eligible, the following application fees apply, plus a 2% credit card fee to be charged at checkout.

	<b>Regular Closing Date (16 November 2025)</b>	<b>Late Closing Date (23 November 2025)</b>
<b>Best Feature Documentary</b>	AUD \$195 (inc GST)	AUD \$295 (inc GST)
<b>Best Documentary/Factual Series</b>		
	<b>Regular Closing Date (30 November 2025)</b>	<b>Late Closing Date (7 December 2025)</b>
<b>Best Documentary/Factual Single</b>	AUD \$95 (inc GST)	AUD \$145 (inc GST)
<b>Best Short-Form Documentary*</b>		
<b>Best Audio Documentary</b>		
<b>Best Interactive/Immersive Documentary</b>		

### HOW TO SUBMIT

To submit an application to **Best Feature Documentary** or **Best Documentary/Factual Series** please submit a [Long Form Project application](#).

For categories including **Best Documentary/Factual Single**, **Best Short-Form Documentary**, **Best Audio Documentary** or **Best Interactive/Immersive Documentary**, please submit a [Short Form & Other Project application](#).

**Please Note:** To access the form, you will be prompted to log in to or create a free MY AIDC account. Please follow the prompts and email [info@aidc.com.au](mailto:info@aidc.com.au) if you have any issues.

\*Delegates who attended AIDC 2025 as part of the Leading Lights program are eligible to receive a 50% discount on the **Best Short-Form Documentary** application fee. To obtain a discount link, please contact [info@aidc.com.au](mailto:info@aidc.com.au).

A sample of the submission questions can be found on Page 7 of this document.

## SUBMISSION MATERIALS

In order for applications to be considered, AIDC requires the following materials:

- An online screener or link containing the **publicly released** version of the production. For environmental reasons, AIDC will not be able to accept physical screeners. Screeners (including password-protected links) must remain live until Saturday 7 March 2026. Please include the title of your production in the name of the digital file provided.
  - For film and television entries, please submit your production as a link that can be streamed or downloaded in full HD 1920 x 1080 with stereo audio as a MPEG-4 (.mp4) .
  - For audio documentary productions, please submit link/s that can be streamed or downloaded in .mp3 file format.
  - For immersive/interactive productions, please contact AIDC if the above is not suitable for your project and you'd like to submit in another way.
- Proof of public release within the release dates outlined by AIDC.
- A 30-second key scene/audio clip from the production (no trailers) that can be downloaded in full HD 1920 x 1080 with stereo audio as a MPEG-4 (.mp4).
- At least one key promotional image of the production for publicity that can be downloaded as a print resolution JPEG, saved at 300 dpi, A3 size, 297 x 210mm (file size between 2-5 MB). Please include clean still images with no logos, branding or design elements.

## JUDGING PROCESS

- Judges will be selected by AIDC based on their merit within the category that they are adjudicating.
- The judges will either be currently working in the area they are evaluating or have significant experience in the field.
- Judges will be vetted for all conflicts of interest prior to selection.
- Judges will be announced alongside the nominated entries.
- Each category will have three judges unless otherwise specified.
- Judges for short-form categories will evaluate all entries in their category.
- Judges for long-form categories will view shortlisted projects in their category.
- Judges will only review the version/s submitted in the original submission. New or revised versions will not be accepted.
- An AIDC convenor will moderate all judging deliberation sessions.
- AIDC may amend some or all of the pre-selection and judging criteria and processes as required.

## PRE-SELECTION PROCESS

Applications for **Best Feature Documentary** and **Best Documentary/Factual Series** will be shortlisted by an AIDC appointed pre-selection committee.

Pre-selection committee members will be required to select a shortlist of applications for each category. Shortlisted applications will be assessed by the relevant Judging Panel for each category.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will be asked to deliberate against the following criteria:

- Originality of the subject
- Creative treatment of the subject
- Quality of the storytelling (including emotional engagement)
- Integration of craft & technical elements (editing, sound, design, etc.)

## NOTIFICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

Applicants will be notified via email by mid-February 2026 if they have or have not been nominated in their category. Applicants have the opportunity to decline their nomination within a three-day period after being notified of their nomination.

Nominees will be announced in a press release and invited to attend the AIDC Awards Presentation at ACMI on Thursday 5 March 2026.

## KEY DATES

**Opening Date:** Thursday 9 October 2025 at 09:00 AEDT

### Long Form: Feature Films & Series

- **Regular Closing Date:** Sunday 16 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT
- **Late Closing Date:** Sunday 23 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT

### Short Form & Other: Singles, Shorts, Audio & Interactive/Immersive

- **Regular Closing Date:** Sunday 30 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT
- **Late Closing Date:** Sunday 7 December 2025 at 23:59 AEDT

**Applicants & Nominees notified:** by mid-February 2026

**AIDC Awards Presentation:** Thursday 5 March 2026

For all enquiries, please contact: [awards@aidc.com.au](mailto:awards@aidc.com.au)

## PREVIEW - AIDC AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

The following provides a preview of the AIDC Awards application form and may be used as a guide to drafting your application before making a submission.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a description of the categories for either:

- A. Short Form & Other Projects (Including audio and interactive and immersive works)
- B. Long Form Projects

### 2. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

**Review and select one or more (as appropriate) of the following:**

- a. You or someone on your team is a current AIDC member.
- b. One key creative is an Australian citizen/permanent resident.
- c. The production has had a public release between 1 February 2025 and 1 February 2026

### 3. CATEGORY

Select the category you are entering.

### 4. YOUR SUBMISSION

Complete the following information:

- YOUR NAME
  - Email Address
  - Mobile Number
  - Country
- YOUR ROLE IN THE SUBMITTED PROJECT ROLE:
  - Director
  - Producer
  - Writer
  - Financier/Broadcaster/Distributor
  - Other
- YOUR COMPANY/ORGANISATION
- PROJECT TITLE
- IF A SERIES, HOW MANY EPISODES?

This applies only to:

- Best Documentary/Factual Series
  - Best Audio Documentary; and
  - Best Interactive/Immersive Documentary
  - DURATION (IN MINUTES)  
If series, please enter the average duration of an episode.
  - PRODUCTION COMPANY/COMPANIES
  - COUNTRY/COUNTRIES OF PRODUCTION
  - IF AUSTRALIA - PLEASE LIST ALL STATES OR TERRITORIES OF PRODUCTION
  - LOGLINE (up to 30 words)
  - SYNOPSIS (up to 100 words)
    - Select: IS YOUR ENTRY IN ENGLISH OR SUBMITTED WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES?
- 

## 5. MATERIALS

### Please Note

All links must remain live until Saturday 7 March 2026.

For **Best Feature Documentary**, **Best Documentary/ Factual Series**, **Best Documentary/Factual Single** and **Best Short-Form Documentary**, entries, please submit your project as a link (or 2 links for each selected episode in the case of series) that can be streamed in full HD 1920 x 1080 with stereo audio as a MPEG-4 (.mp4).

For **Best Audio Documentary** entries, please submit links that can be streamed or downloaded in .mp3 file format (2 links for each selected episode in the case of series) .

For **Best Immersive/Interactive Documentary** entries, please submit your project as a link that can be streamed in full HD 1920 x 1080 with stereo audio as a MPEG-4 (.mp4). If this is not suitable for your project and you'd like to submit in another way, please contact AIDC at [awards@aidc.com.au](mailto:awards@aidc.com.au).

- SCREENER LINK 1
- PASSWORD (IF REQUIRED)

*Only one link can be submitted for **Best Feature Documentary**, **Best Documentary/Factual Single**, **Best Documentary Short-Form** and **Best***



**Interactive/Immersive Documentary.** For Best Documentary Factual Series and Best Audio Documentary Series up to two links must be submitted.

- SCREENER LINK 2
- PASSWORD (IF REQUIRED)
- DOWNLOADABLE 30 SECOND CLIP (NO TRAILERS, TITLES OR BRANDING)
- PASSWORD (IF REQUIRED)  
*Please upload a downloadable HD 1920 x 1080 with stereo audio as a .mp4 or .mp3 file for audio docs.*
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)
- PROMOTIONAL IMAGE  
*Please upload an image which can be downloaded as a print resolution JPEG, saved at 300 dpi, A3 size, 297 x 210mm (file size between 2-5 MB) Please include a clean still image with no logos, branding or design.*

#### 5a. PROOF OF PUBLIC RELEASE

- DATE OF RELEASE  
*Date of first public release must fall within **1 February 2025** and **1 February 2026**.*
  - RELEASE PLATFORM
    - Broadcaster
    - Theatrical release
    - Streaming service
    - Film Festival
    - Other
  - PDF DEMONSTRATING PUBLIC RELEASE.  
*Please upload a .pdf demonstrating public release*
- 

#### 6. AWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AIDC Award is by default awarded to the title and production company listed above. Alternatively, please list the three roles to be recognised alongside the title, should the title be nominated. (Please note, in this case, the production company will not be recognised on the award).

- ROLE 1:
  - Select Role on Project
  - Name
- ROLE 2:

- Select Role on Project
    - Name
  - ROLE 3:
    - Select Role on Project
    - Name
- 

## 7. AGREEMENT

By selecting "I agree" the applicant is agreeing to the AIDC Awards Terms and Conditions for applying to the AIDC Awards as outlined on the AIDC Awards webpage, and to completing the payment information on the next page. Applications cannot be processed until payment is complete.

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## 8. BILLING INFORMATION

*Payments vary according to the category selected.*

- COMPANY NAME
  - FIRST NAME
  - LAST NAME
  - ADDRESS LINE 1
  - ADDRESS LINE 2
  - ZIP CODE
  - CITY
  - STATE
  - COUNTRY
  - ABN
- 

## PAYMENT

Once you have completed the form and made payment you will receive a confirmation email and a link to your tax receipt (it's recommended that you check your spam or junk mail account if you do not receive these details via your nominated email address). If you do not receive this email within 24 hours, please contact [info@aidc.com.au](mailto:info@aidc.com.au).

**IMPORTANT** - Once your application has been 'submitted', you will be unable to return to amend it, so please submit only when you have prepared your full submission.