

Response to question on notice

JSCOT public hearing – Monday, 4 September 2023 - Audiovisual Co-production Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of India

1. How many individuals comprise the Co-production Team?

- The Producer Offset and Co production Unit (POCU) in Screen Australia assesses applications for the Producer Offset, a refundable tax offset for producers of Australian feature films, television and other projects and the administration of Australia’s International Co-production Program.
- Currently there are 14 staff in the POCU Unit, including the Head of Legal Services and Producer Offset and Co-production. Six of the 14 roles in the POCU team assess co-production applications.
- No additional resources are required to administer the Australia-India Audiovisual Co-production Agreement.

2. Activities (if any) that Screen Australia undertake to promote or encourage the use of co-production agreements

- Representatives from POCU hold regular co-production training sessions for Australian producers in conjunction with Screen Producers Australia (SPA), the national organisation representing film production business. This includes providing an overview of the International Co-production Program and associated guidelines, and open question and answer sessions.
- Representatives from Screen Australia, including from POCU, also attend the annual SPA conference “Screen Forever”. In 2023 a representative from POCU was on a panel at the conference discussing UK-Australia co-productions.
- Representatives from Screen Australia attend major festivals and events internationally where they promote the Co-production program.
- The POCU team regularly participates in meetings with producers who are scoping or are developing co-productions to discuss process and structure.
- Screen Australia’s co-production webpage has resources for producers including: Co-production Guidelines, Eligibility tool and guidance notes, a Podcast on how to do a co-production and various Podcasts interviewing producers and presenting case studies of co-productions previously done. In addition to this we have details of all Co-productions previously made.
<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/funding-and-support/co-production-program>.
- The POCU team liaises with the Competent Authorities from our co-production partners regularly in relation to applications and general queries from producers.
- In addition to the above, Australian producers can apply for travel grants through Screen Australia to attend festivals and markets if they are developing a co-production and are looking for partners or intel on a co-production partner territory.