

Media Release:

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Unique Film Opportunity For Territorians

The Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) is giving Territorians a unique opportunity to create a one hour documentary to be screened nationally.

NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said the documentary must focus on the life and experiences of a refugee or refugees living in the Northern Territory.

“The NTFO, the South Australian Film Corporation and Screenwest have formed a partnership with SBS Independent (SBSi) to produce a three-part documentary series called *Destination Australia*,” Ms McDonald said.

“The Australian Government issues 6000 visas each year to refugees from war torn countries, with many refugees settling in the Northern Territory.

“*Destination Australia* explores what it is like to be a refugee, to leave your country of birth, family and friends, usually under duress, and make a new home in Australia.”

Ms McDonald said the series, comprising three one-hour documentaries focusing on refugees in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia, would receive funding from each of the parties involved.

“The NTFO grants program is providing \$150,000, with SBSi contributing the other \$150,000 to fund the Territory documentary of the series,” Ms McDonald said.

“This innovative funding initiative provides professional development for the creators of the series as well as exposure for the projects via SBS Television broadcast in 2009.

“Participating writer/directors must have a minimum of two significant broadcast credits and are advised to apply with an experienced producer.”

Ms McDonald said applicants should be able to demonstrate a strong understanding of creative documentary techniques and an understanding of narrative storytelling.

“SBSi and the NTFO are seeking proposals for gutsy and appealing personal stories that creatively reflect the SBS charter and the refugee experience, what it means to be relocated to a new home, language and culture,” Ms McDonald said.

“Project selection will take into account the originality of the visual and narrative treatment and how the concept will engage and involve audiences.”

A half-day information workshop with Trevor Graham from SBSi will be held in Alice Springs (with Darwin video link) at 10am on Monday, 22 October 2007 to promote the call for applications, explain the series concept and the type of stories SBS is looking to commission.

Interested teams should submit a story synopsis, a two page concept outline, CVs of the creative team and a budget summary page. The deadline for applications is 18 January 2008 with successful applicants to be announced at the Australian International Documentary Conference in Perth in February 2008.

For further information contact NTFO on 08 89511162

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Media Note – For more information contact Penelope McDonald 8951 1163

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