

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT 2017

The widest range of opportunities for the creative development of new scripts

Playwriting Australia is dedicated to working with writers at all levels of their career, offering them time, space and creative expertise to explore and refine their new plays.

Whether with a cast of actors in a full workshop setting or one-on-one with a dramaturg, our script development models focus on exploration and creative dialogue between artists, away from the pressures of performance outcomes.

If you've submitted your work to Playwriting Australia before, please read carefully as we've made some changes to our script development program.

We now offer a more tailored approach to the way we support new plays by offering three different development programs:

- **LONGFORM:** six months of individual sessions with a PWA dramaturg
- **RAPID FIRE:** a day-long workshop with actors and creatives
- **NATIONAL SCRIPT WORKSHOP:** an intensive development workshop of one or two weeks

We encourage writers to take ownership of their creative process and tell us honestly what they think they need moving forward; this is the start of a conversation between you and PWA about your play and the most effective ways to advance it. Don't worry if you don't know what program best suits your play, our expert panel will make a recommendation.

We invite submissions of unproduced drafts at any stage of their development; we're interested in supporting the work at the most useful point in the process for you. We strongly encourage applications from playwrights from diverse backgrounds, including Indigenous and CALD writers, as well as those based in regional areas.

PLAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Longform

A longer-term investment in your work. Selected playwrights receive up to six months of on-going dramaturgical support from a member of the PWA artistic team or appointed artist. You might want big-picture feedback and analysis or assistance unknottng a particularly tricky problem. Meetings will take place in person or via Skype/phone for interstate artists.

Rapid Fire

Our day-long rapid fire sessions give playwrights the chance to hear their play read by actors and receive immediate feedback from PWA's creative team. This is a perfect opportunity to test a first draft or just a few scenes and interrogate the main landscape of the play with a team of experienced dramaturgs and actors. All participants will be provided with a daily wage.

National Script Workshop

The script workshops provide playwrights with one or two weeks of creative development, including time spent in conference with dramaturgs and directors, rehearsal time with actors and writing time. It is not intended that writers will produce a performance-ready script by the end of the workshop nor to conclude with a public reading, although this may be an option. Playwrights may apply individually, as co-writers or as part of a creative team. All participants will be provided with a weekly wage.

SUBMISSION CALENDAR

APPLICATIONS	Closing date	Eligibility
Play Development Submissions #1	Monday 23 rd January	All playwrights
PWA Lab	Monday 27 th February	Artists, collectives and companies
Play Development Submissions #2	Monday 17 th July	All playwrights
Ignition	Monday 25 th September	Producing companies

In 2017 we will reserve development opportunities for **Western Australian** playwrights, in partnership with the Department for Culture and the Arts, WA.

Additionally theatre companies and producers are invited to nominate a script by a **CALD or Indigenous playwright** for development through our **Ignition** program in the second half of the year.

National Play Festival

All plays developed through PWA's script development programs will be automatically considered for the National Play Festival in 2018. See pwa.org.au/programmes/national-play-festival for more information.

DEVELOPMENT DATES

The One-on-One Dramaturgy opportunity is on-going for up to six months with the starting date to be discussed with successful applicants.

The Rapid Fire sessions and intensive workshops will take place in two sessions throughout the year, and certain workshops may take place in 2016:

	SESSION 1	SESSION 2
Development Dates	March – April	September - October

Note. Successful applicants will be invited to discuss their preferred development dates with our Artistic Director. Please note each session will be subject to availability and dates may change. Playwrights are warmly encouraged to apply despite availability clashes.

THE DIVERSITY PLEDGE

Playwriting Australia is a proud supporter of the #CreateDiversity pledge. We warmly invite writers to include a statement, where appropriate, alongside their character descriptions, to encourage diverse casting. Please consider copy and pasting one of the following suggested pledges, or writing your own, into the draft that you are submitting into PWA.

Suggested Pledges:

- I encourage the producer to collaborate with artists from diverse backgrounds in the realisation and presentation of this work.
- I encourage anyone producing and casting this work to consider performers from diverse backgrounds, including for roles where a character's ethnic or cultural background, age, gender, sexuality or disability need not be specified.
- The cast should reflect the diversity of Australia.

Find out more about the #CreateDiversity pledge, an initiative of MEAA Equity Diversity Committee, and sign it today [here](#).

2017 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and over the age of 18.

Eligible plays:

- must be the writer's original work;
- may be a complete or incomplete draft;
- may be of any style and written for any cast size; however, it is highly unlikely that adaptations will be selected;
- will not be musical theatre works or work that requires musical dramaturgy;
- must be unproduced, and not scheduled for production **before 31 July 2017**;
- must not have been previously submitted to Playwriting Australia for any programs (apart from the Max Afford Award). Re-submissions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with the express prior approval of the Artistic Director.
E-mail info@pwa.org.au before the closing date if you are planning to re-submit;
- must be submitted online by **5pm on the published closing date**. Note that mailed applications must be post-marked on or before that closing date;
- must not be nominated by or in conjunction with an Australian theatre company. Theatre companies are invited to nominate scripts to a separate selection process for scripts by diverse playwrights.
(See www.pwa.org.au/diverse-playwrights)
- may have been commissioned and/or optioned for performance by an Australian theatre company, provided that Playwriting Australia is advised of the encumbrance and prior approval to submit is requested from the Artistic Director; E-mail info@pwa.org.au before the closing date.

Additional Notes:

- Only one play may be submitted by each playwright or creative team in any submission round.
- Details of any creative team members already attached to the project need to be included with the submission.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about your eligibility: pwa.org.au/about-us/contact-us

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

The below information will be requested to complete your application

1. Applicant's contact details
2. Two copies of your script - one with the writer's name and one 'clean' copy (see script format notes below). Please note that your script must follow these format guidelines. Please include diversity pledge if applicable.
3. Synopsis – a complete synopsis of the intended work (max. 250 words);
4. Development Notes (see below)
5. Additional Info:
i) short biographical details, including a summary of professional credits as available;
ii) details of any support the play has so far received, including funding, mentoring or dramaturgy, and any future support currently planned, if applicable;
iii) details of any current commissioning and/or option arrangements, if applicable;
iv) details of any creative team members currently attached to the project

Contact us at info@pwa.org.au or **02 8274 0900** if you have any questions about your application.

FURTHER INFORMATION

SYNOPSIS

Please provide a complete breakdown of the entire plot of the play. This isn't marketing copy – don't try to intrigue us by leaving us hanging, we'd like you to tell us the whole story. Please outline all of the story of the play. *200 words maximum.*

SCRIPT FORMAT

Please ensure that:

- you submit **two** copies of your script, including one that is a 'clean' copy on which the writer's name, contact details or agent's details do not appear anywhere for the purpose of anonymous assessment;
- all script pages must be consecutively **numbered**;
- Have you considered adding the diversity pledge to your cast list?
- If mailed, script pages should be unbound, held together only with bulldog/fold back clips.

All scripts must be submitted following the below format:

- Cover page including the play title
- Character list on page 1 (with suggested doubling, and diversity pledge if applicable)
- Page numbers
- Paper size: A4, Portrait
- Font Type: 11 or 12pt

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

We ask you to provide some thoughts about where the play is at and how you want it to evolve:

1. **Background:** In this section, we ask you to give some context about your project to date. We want to know your premise and intention; what's the context? Why are you writing it and what are you exploring? What are you pleased with in the current draft? What isn't working? *500 words maximum.*
2. **Development aims:** Tell us how you will use the time to practically interrogate the draft. What do you wish to further develop and how? What work needs to be done to progress the play? This is especially important if you are submitting a draft that is as yet unfinished. *500 words maximum.*

This information is essential as we compare the responses of our readers to your own critical thinking on the play. The intention here is not to expect you to write a scholarly essay, but rather an opportunity to explain the project to a colleague in an honest and practical manner.

We do not ask you to nominate a particular script development program, although you are welcome to suggest development options which will be taken into consideration.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- All submissions will be read 'blind' by an independent panel of readers.
- Shortlisted submissions will be reviewed by a second panel including PWA artistic staff.
- Shortlisted playwrights may be contacted to discuss their application in further detail.
- All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission within 6 weeks of the closing date.
- The assessment process remains confidential and no further details of readers' assessments will be provided to playwrights.

Our selection process will concentrate on finding new work that demonstrates:

- outstanding theatrical promise
- a bold and powerful voice
- accomplished and dexterous craft
- an engagement with the challenges of today's world
- clear commitment to an ambitious idea with the potential for further exploration

For more information about our selection process, head to pwa.org.au/resources/selection-process/

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Selected playwrights for the Rapid Fire and National Script Workshops who normally reside outside of Sydney will be provided with:

- return travel from their normal place of residence;
- accommodation or suitable allowance; and
- meals and incidentals allowance.

Australian playwrights living overseas are welcome to apply, however, Playwriting Australia will not be able to cover their international flights if successful.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit your application online at the below link, no later than 5pm on the published closing date:

<https://fs18.formsite.com/PlaywritingAustralia/form11/index.html>

Mailed applications must be post-marked on or before the published closing date

Download the PDF submission form from <http://www.pwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NEW-PLAY-DEVELOPMENT-2017-ROUND-1-MAILED-APPLICATIONS.pdf> and post with all the relevant attachments to:

Playwriting Australia
Level 3, 10 Hickson Road
The Rocks NSW 2000

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Applications should be submitted via our online system by **5pm on the published closing date**. Mailed application must be post-marked on or before that closing date.
- Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Submissions will be acknowledged by email upon receipt.
- Playwriting Australia may contact you to request additional information in connection with your submission.
- We are unable to return either copy of your script to you under any circumstance.
- We are unable to provide critical feedback on your play – this process is not an opportunity to receive a substantive creative response to your play.
- All applicants will be informed of Playwriting Australia’s decision within six weeks of the closing date. We are unable to respond to enquiries regarding your application during the assessment process.
- In engaging a creative team for the Rapid Fire and the National Script Workshops, Playwriting Australia will give consideration to any creative artists attached to the successful projects; however we cannot guarantee their involvement in all circumstances.
- Successful applicants will be announced on Playwriting Australia’s website, social media sites and e-news bulletins.
- Successful applicants are required to acknowledge Playwriting Australia’s support in future presentations of the work.

NEED HELP?

Feel free to contact Playwriting Australia if you have any questions about your application.

Internet www.pwa.org.au
Email info@pwa.org.au
Phone (02) 8274 0900