



DOCUMENTARY
AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024



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We support powerful stories for positive social change

► Our vision

At a time when trust has been eroded and the truth can't always be relied on in mainstream or social media, documentary storytelling is becoming more important than ever. Our vision is to see the depth and nuance that documentary offers as central to social change campaigns and accessible across many platforms to offer diverse and authentic perspectives on the most pressing social issues.

► Who we are and what we do

Documentary Australia's purpose is to advance awareness and inspire action on critical social issues by empowering independent documentary filmmakers and organisations on the forefront of social change. In FY23-24, Documentary Australia continued its unwavering commitment to leveraging the power of storytelling for social change. Through a combination of impactful documentaries, strategic partnerships and dedicated donor support, we have made significant strides in advancing our mission.

► How we work

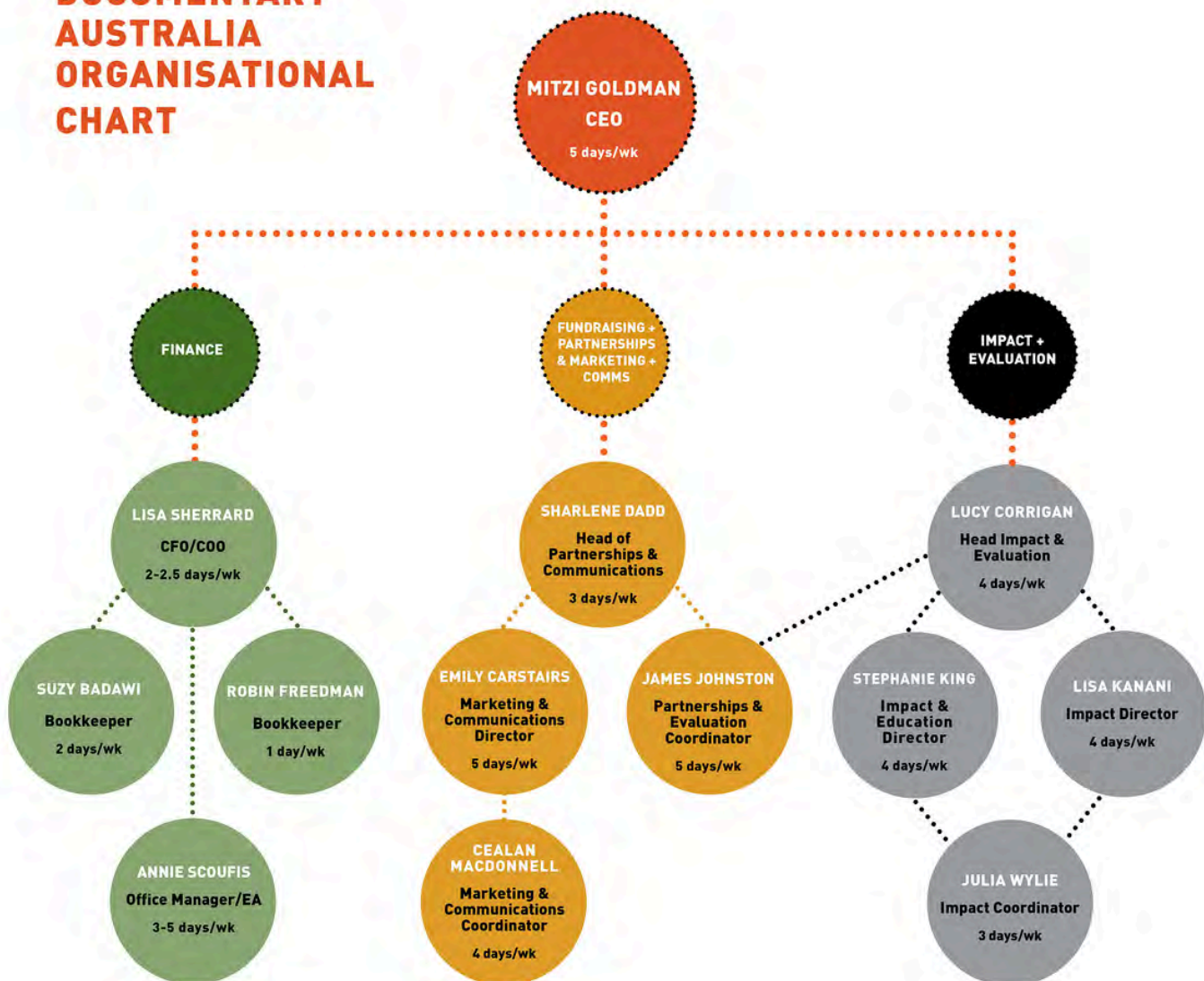
Integrity, inclusiveness, innovation and inspiration are our values. These inform our strategic focus on four key aims: Great Films, Great Partnerships, Great Impact and Leadership and Advocacy.

We achieve these aims by building and supporting our community through:

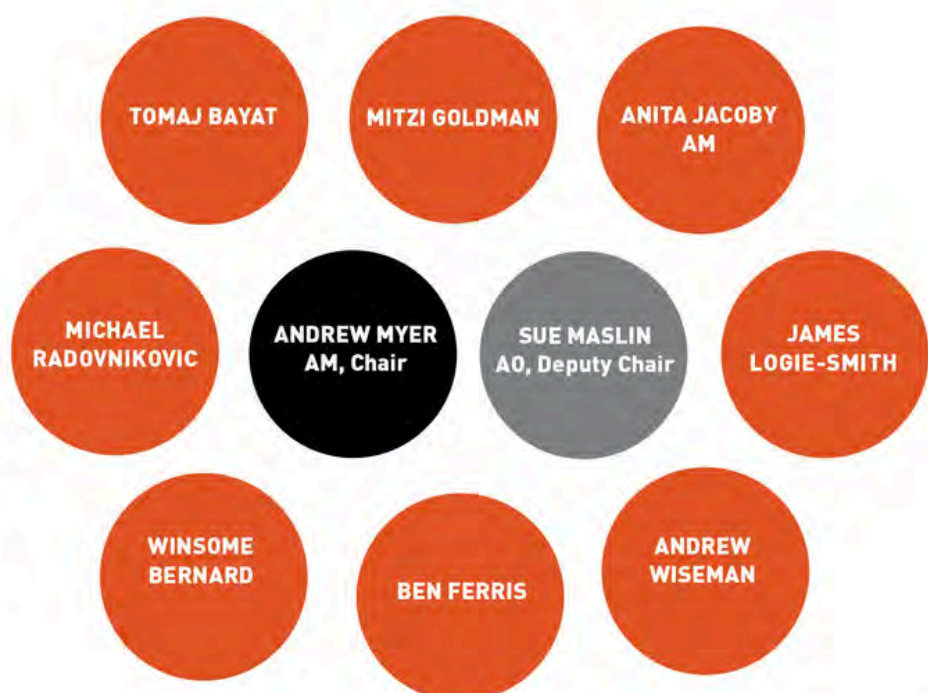
- Filmmaker capacity building and support
- Fundraising and donor stewardship
- Communications, digital advice and promotions
- Events and screening programs
- Partner and industry engagement
- Innovative programs and partnerships
- Sector leadership and representation
- Evaluation and reporting
- Advocacy



DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA ORGANISATIONAL CHART



THE BOARD



Message from the CEO

We begin the year 2025 in a world of intense conflict and change. Countries are at war and division is flourishing in the online world, fed by lies, polarising debate and shutting down dialogue. Ideological shifts like tectonic plates are causing earthquakes rupturing social cohesion. People who thought they understood each other are no longer talking and assumptions abound, labelling people, fostering hatred and alienation.

In our bubble here at Documentary Australia, we make space for a diversity of stories to be told. We had our biggest year of applications to date with quality documentaries attracting generous support and screening in festivals, broadcast, streaming platforms and in community. We are committed to supporting documentary filmmakers with programs and fellowships. We are equally committed to supporting donors to finding the strongest projects that align to their areas of interest. True stories told with nuance and complexity offer deeper meaning to the reductive news cycle by which we are held hostage. We need true stories to bring communities together, to build bridges of understanding and to make an impact in everyday ways. I thank the storytellers, donors and our many program and impact partners who help bring these stories to audiences.

2024 saw six female filmmakers in Queensland be supported through our SheDoc program and the second year of our Impact Producer Program with two new participants. The Environmental Accelerator program amplified leadership and action on climate change with screenings from the frontlines of environmental advocacy. I'm grateful for a hardworking team and supportive board.

At this point in time, with an alarming political shift in the US and a realignment across many countries in Europe, what can we do together to work towards the kinds of social change we all want to see? As a society we need connection, courage in our convictions and the belief that the actions of individuals can change larger systems. Real change has almost always been composed of many small individual actions. For social cohesion, we need a sense of belonging and trust. We can do this with storytelling, and we can do this together.

Thank you for walking with us to amplify the voices that need to be heard.

Dr Mitzi Goldman
CEO, Documentary Australia



Message from the Chair

It has been an extraordinary year in so many ways. The world at some points has looked as though it may spin off its axis. There is so much geopolitical force at work that it is difficult to grasp the enormity of the change. That said, we've had some fine documentaries produced, that grapple with the complexity of human history which have been shared, acknowledged and presented in wonderful events and film festivals such as Sydney Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival. The dedication and work involved in bringing these stories to big and small screens never ceases to amaze me.

I was fortunate enough to be an Executive Producer on a documentary myself in the last 12 months, working closely with the film team on the extraordinary story *Welcome to Babel* which was a quick 10 years in gestation. It reminded me, engaging with the work first hand, what joy and pleasure you derive from it, not only as an EP but as someone who cares passionately about the subject matter and the power of documentaries to bring issues to light.

This story and many others dealing with the impact of the darker side of human nature, reminds us that there is capacity for change, but we must be brave in the next several years as we adjust to the new global realities. Films help audiences deal with these huge questions and I feel fortunate to be part of a team and a board that brings these stories and the impact of these stories to life. The board has been devoted and committed. We had a series of events that I had great pleasure in hosting with Mitzi and the team in Melbourne and Sydney, including a lunchtime salon event with deep conversation and the opportunity to share our work with interested new comers. Towards the end of the year the Sydney function was a standout. The "love in the room" from our donors, our filmmakers, our past directors and supporters was palpable.

We continue to grow our supporter base as we march towards our 20th anniversary in 2028 and I am grateful for the outstanding contributions made by the staff and board members across all our committees as we pursue with diligence the work that presents itself to us each year.

Andrew Myer AM
Chair, Documentary Australia



Executive summary

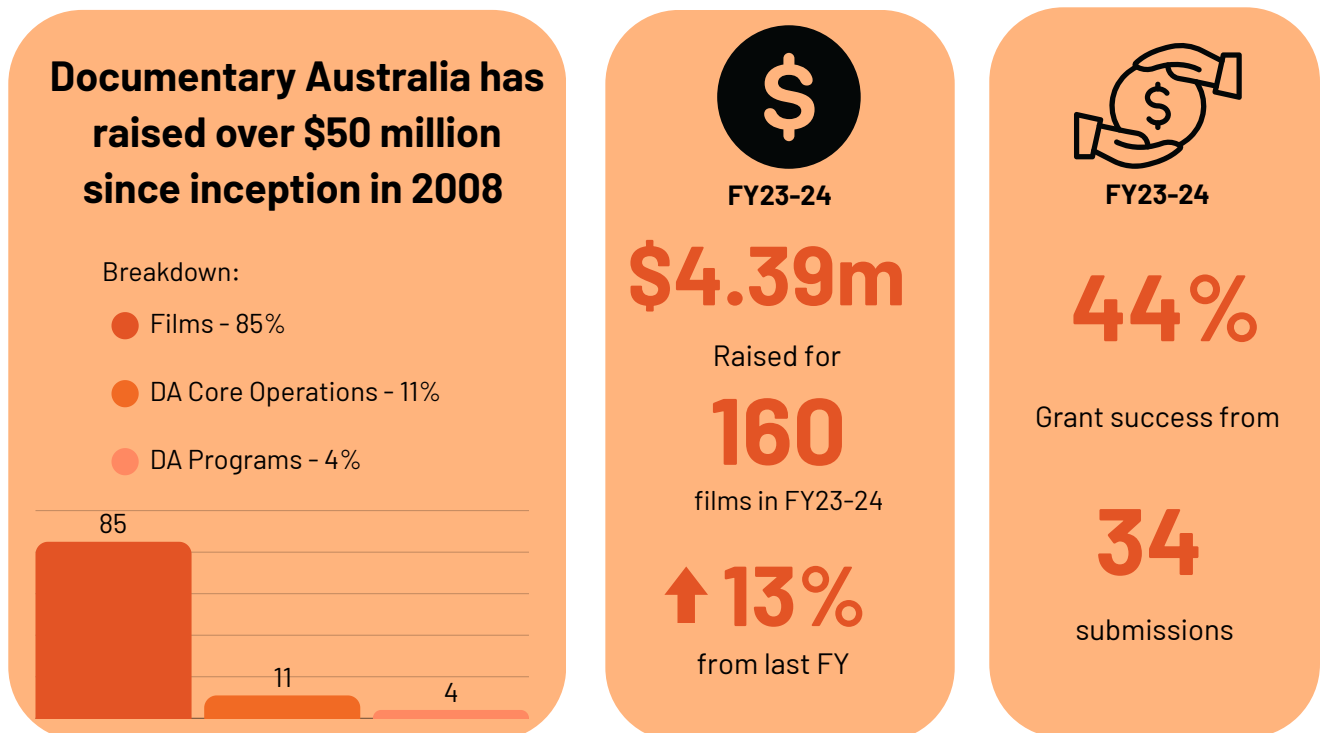
In 2023-2024, Documentary Australia supported hundreds of filmmakers to turn powerful narratives into tools for measurable impact, shifting focus from viewership to real-world outcomes. We developed tailored funding approaches, forged meaningful partnerships and crafted impact strategies to expand the reach and influence of documentary storytelling. From multi-year programs to sector-wide advocacy, we strengthened the documentary ecosystem and elevated the voice of social impact storytelling.

In 2023-2024:	NEW APPLICATIONS	LIVE PROJECTS	FILMS COMPLETED
	106	333	30+

► Building filmmaker community and capacity



► Financial contribution to the sector



For more information on our work, [visit our website.](#)

GREAT FILMS

Welcome to Babel



WE ENSURE REAL STORIES ARE TOLD

At Documentary Australia, we support quality stories that span a breadth of social, environmental, cultural and political issues. Through our funding platform, partnerships and capacity-building programs, we help diverse storytellers share perspectives that might otherwise go unheard in mainstream and social media.



Diverse stories



The breakdown of primary issue areas for our current films

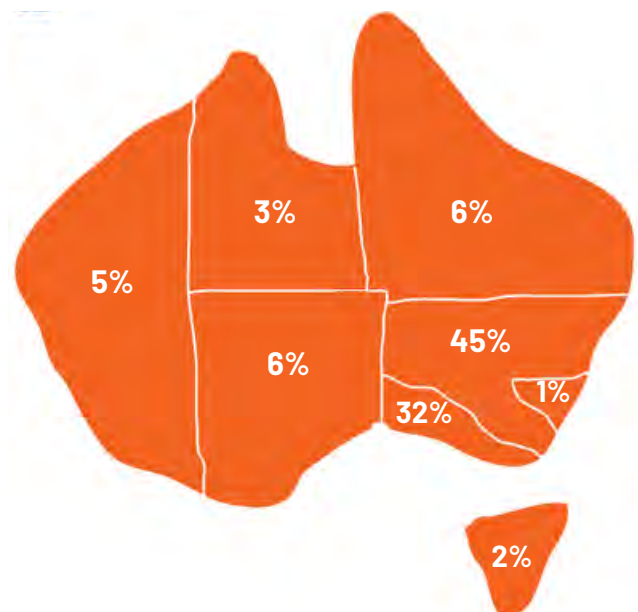


Diverse voices

54% Female-identifying Producers and Directors

30% Identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

10% Identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



The breakdown of where our filmmakers are based by state

Boosting capacity and visibility

Documentary Australia strengthens the sector through a wide range of initiatives that help documentaries be made including filmmaker capacity-building workshops and targeted programs. At the same time, our strategic promotional efforts amplify the reach of both Documentary Australia and the films we support, ensuring these vital stories find audiences and drive impact.

➤ Filmmaker perspectives

- 80%** of filmmakers are satisfied with Documentary Australia
- 79%** of projects have benefited from Documentary Australia
- 89%** of filmmakers would recommend Documentary Australia
- 90%** of filmmakers agree Documentary Australia plays a significant role



"Documentary Australia does a great job connecting filmmakers with funding and causes, and their focus on impact and amplifying diverse voices strengthens the documentary landscape."
- Filmmaker

"Documentary Australia has an absolutely critical role in today's challenging financing climate by providing a platform to connect philanthropy with a film's potential impact. This is incredibly empowering for documentary makers to leverage and to expand the relevancy of their projects to the wider community." - Filmmaker

"Documentary Australia educates the philanthropic sector and helps them connect with storytelling as a powerful tool to use in their work." - Filmmaker

➤ SheDoc

In 2024, we relaunched SheDoc, a grants program to support female-identifying documentary filmmakers. SheDoc 2024 specifically supported six Queensland-based filmmakers to engage in professional development and elevate their careers.

- 100% agreed** to a great extent that the program:
- supported their career progression in the screen industry
 - supported their transition to a new creative role
 - enabled the development or consolidation of skills
 - improved their confidence in their professional capability

"This program has allowed women to come forward, and it has shared and shown to future generations and female industry workers that they can come forward, be rewarded with amazing opportunities and thrive in their careers." - Nu'utea Robillot



L-R Kate Boylan-Ascione, Sasha Parlett, Jo-Ann Brechin, Veronica Fury, Mags Scholes, Nu'utea Robillot

[Read more about the SheDoc participants and their journeys here.](#)

Funders:



Estate of James Simpson Love

GREAT PARTNERSHIPS

Climate Changers



WE ENSURE REAL STORIES ARE SUPPORTED

Through collaborative partnerships, we amplify the impact of documentaries, reaching wider audiences and fostering greater awareness around crucial social issues. Our donors provide the vital funding to help bring these stories to life, while our partners offer expertise, networks and opportunities so documentaries can thrive. Together, we create a powerful ecosystem to support storytelling and drive change. We are so grateful for all the donors and partners who believe in our mission.



Fundraising snapshots

***For All The World to See - A Restoration Project* \$42,000, 113 donations**

This project focuses on remastering a film about Fred Hollows, the eye surgeon who dedicated his life to restoring vision in remote areas of Australia and abroad. Hollows, who passed away in 1993, founded The Fred Hollows Foundation, which continues his mission to eliminate avoidable blindness worldwide. The remastered film will be a critical tool for raising awareness of his legacy and the ongoing impact of his work. Additionally, it will serve as an orientation resource for new staff to help them understand the Foundation's origins and core goals.

The fundraising campaign to support the remaster raised over \$40,000 from 113 donations, primarily through smaller individual contributions. A key part of the fundraising strategy involved reaching out to personal contacts familiar with the original *For All the World to See* project. Another \$17,000 was successfully raised externally.

Impact Producer Program alumni Rowena Potts played a crucial role in helping filmmaker Pat Fiske raise funds. Together, they organised a private fundraising event that was attended by Fred's wife, Gabi Hollows, along with other key stakeholders. The event featured speeches from notable figures, including Gabi Hollows and local politicians. It also showcased a trailer with excerpts from both the original 16mm film and the remastered version to inspire audiences. This event was incredibly successful, raising \$7,000 for the project in just one night.



Gabi Hollows at the fundraising event

The New Joneses \$485,000, 12 donations

Tamara DiMattina initially launched the Buy Nothing New movement, which she later expanded into *The New Joneses*, a touring house activation showcasing sustainability and climate solutions. When COVID-19 halted events, she pivoted *The New Joneses* project into a digital web docuseries blending documentary with entertainment to communicate climate solutions.

With each season, Tamara sharpens the focus. Season 3 highlighted home electrification, while Season 4, "Good Neighbours" featured Ryan Moloney ('Toadie' from *Neighbours*) and spotlighted communities, coal miners and farmers embracing renewable energy.

Tamara has raised \$485,000 through Documentary Australia, securing just 12 donations with an average of \$40,000 each. With no core funding, Tamara relies on corporate partnerships, philanthropy and persistent relationship-building. She's produced four seasons of *The New Joneses*, generated significant positive media coverage, created educational materials, and ran mainstream advertising campaigns reaching millions.



Reflecting on her journey, Tamara says, "It's just been knocking on every door for 15 years, going 'Hey, it's me.' When I look back, I realise I've almost written the same email thousands of times over those 15 years." Tamara's story highlights the power of dedication and long-term perseverance.

Donor perspectives

1500 + donors in 2023-2024

9 in 10 donors are satisfied with DA

9 in 10 donors satisfied with outcomes achieved



"Documentary Australia continues to play a crucial role in the sector as leaders and advocates for the industry, through training and masterclasses, impact producer mentoring and by supporting hundreds of documentaries to be made and seen. A unique partner and ally during challenging times for documentary in Australia and around the world." - Donor

"Leading change; supporting story telling for impact; changing the conversation; prompting people to think." - Donor

"Documentary Australia does a great job at sharing insights, intel, and practical advice. Documentary Australia has a kind considered approach and that fosters a positive environment that delivers outcomes." - Donor

▶ Grant snapshots

Screen Queensland – Shedoc

In 2024, Documentary Australia relaunched its SheDoc program, originally founded in 2017 to support the professional development of female-identifying filmmakers. The revival was funded through a successful Perpetual Impact Philanthropy Application Program (IPAP) grant, supported by a Queensland-based family. Documentary Australia then turned to screen agencies to match the funding and relaunch the program in 2024.

Screen Queensland was the perfect partner given the alignment with the Perpetual sub-fund's focus and the capacity to expand the program's reach in Queensland, a state we had long wanted to engage. Conversations with Screen Queensland confirmed that a partnership for SheDoc 2024 would be mutually beneficial, given the potential of the program to benefit not only the program recipients but also female-identifying filmmakers across Queensland. The grant from Screen Queensland matched the IPAP funding and, alongside that, their team brought invaluable expertise and deep knowledge of the Queensland filmmaking community. They worked closely with Documentary Australia to identify and select the right SheDoc fellowship recipients, advancing the goals of both the screen agency and Documentary Australia.

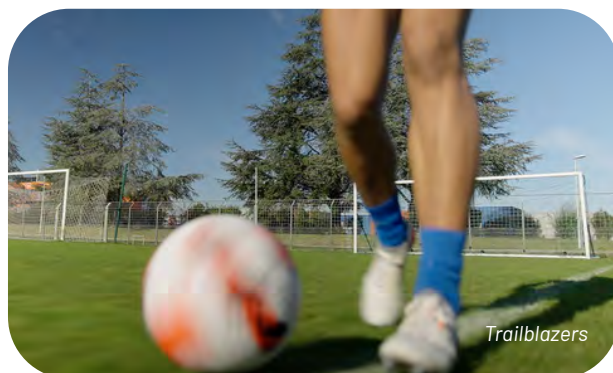
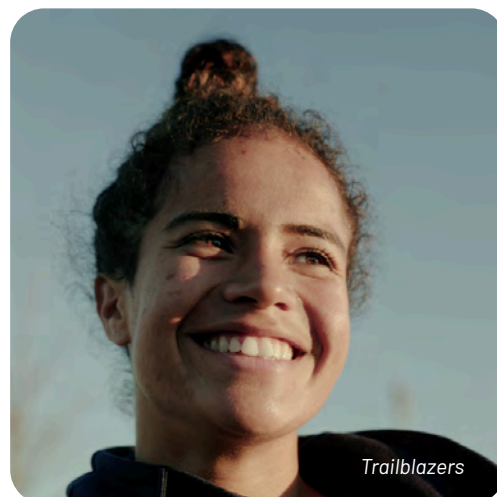
The 2024 program supported six female-identifying screen practitioners in Queensland, helping them progress their careers through professional development. The collaboration strengthened the partnership between Documentary Australia and Screen Queensland and opened doors for future opportunities.

June Canavan Foundation – Trailblazers

The June Canavan Foundation was established in 2010 in memory of Dr June Canavan, a sports physician and philanthropist from the Sunshine Coast. The foundation supports bold initiatives addressing social issues, particularly in areas that were important to June. The film *Trailblazers* aligned with the foundation's priorities, especially its focus on strengthening outcomes for women and girls in sport, from grassroots to elite levels and leadership.

In April 2024, the foundation provided funding to support the *Trailblazers* impact team's community screenings program, a key element of the film's impact strategy. The screenings aim to inspire the next generation of Matildas, raise awareness of the challenges in achieving equality in women's sport, and engage diverse audiences.

The funding enabled outreach efforts to connect with football clubs and organisations, develop resources for screening hosts, and enhance key messages. [Learn more about the *Trailblazers* impact and community screenings program here.](#)



► Sydney Film Festival partnership

Since 2014, Documentary Australia has supported the Award for Best Australian Documentary at the Sydney Film Festival, offering a \$20,000 cash prize to the winning documentary. This partnership underscores our commitment to supporting Australian filmmakers and fostering a thriving documentary industry.

- **Winner of the Documentary Australia Award 2024 - Welcome to Babel**

Director: James Bradley; Producers: Graeme Isaac, James Bradley, Carl-Ludwig Rettinger

"The Jury felt that Welcome to Babel's intimate story of artist Jiawei Shen was a beautifully made and thoughtful film that demonstrated the ambition to tell a global story through the intimate relationship of Jiawei and his wife, Lan. The cinematography and editing were exceptional and tonally perfect for the story. Congratulations to Welcome to Babel." - Jury member

[View the complete shortlist for the 2024 Documentary Australia Award](#)



► DocPlay partnership

82 Documentary Australia-supported films

We have partnered with DocPlay, the dedicated home of quality documentary content in Australia and New Zealand, to showcase a broad range of documentaries on their streaming platform. [Visit our page](#) on DocPlay to view available Documentary Australia-supported films.

► Film impact partnership snapshots



Film: *The Blind Sea*

Topic: The remarkable career of one of the greatest blind surfers of all time, Matt Formston.

Stage: Outreach

Partner/s: Australian Cultural Fund, Brick Studios, Harvey Norman, Hireup, Optus, Orix, Park & Hills Lawyers, Vision Australia, Workday, Good Film, Shark Island Foundation

Collaboration: Q&A screening tour to venues, high schools and Hervey Bay Disability Expo.



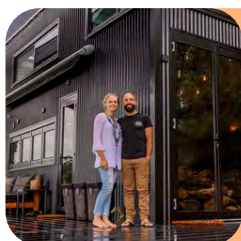
Film: *STOPP - Stay Tuned To Our Planet*

Topic: Combats eco-anxiety by turning "Eco-worriers" into Eco-warriors, showing how positive actions make a difference.

Stage: Outreach

Partner/s: Reach Out, Orygen Institute, Quadrant Media, headspace, Sustainable Schools NSW

Collaboration: Student learning resources, teacher support resources and an impact survey.



Film: *Little Spaces, Big Impact: The Tiny Home Revolution*

Topic: A look inside Australia's tiny home movement.

Stage: Development

Partner/s: Australian tiny house manufacturers and the Tiny House Association

Collaboration: The partners have provided invaluable insights and support. Their expertise has been instrumental in helping shape the direction and scope of the documentary.



Film: *Left Write Hook*

Topic: A groundbreaking program combining boxing with creative writing and the healing journey for 7 child sexual abuse survivors.

Stage: Outreach

Partner/s: Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Collaboration: Developing trauma-informed professional development training modules for health worker screenings.



Film: *Browned Off*

Topic: Exploration of and call to save the woodlands in Australia's South West Forests from 'bleaching' and ecological collapse.

Stage: Development

Partner/s: The Wilderness Society, the WA Forest Alliance and the Conservation Council of WA, Paddy Pallin and Carbon Positive

Collaboration: Impact partners and corporate sponsors.



Film: *Equal the Contest*

Topic: A non-binary filmmaker joins a women's footy club in Regional Victoria and shares a complex journey of inclusion and belonging.

Stage: Outreach

Partner/s: Vic Health

Collaboration: Over 50 hosted screenings across Australia and into regional areas



Film: *Mental Wealth*

Topic: The youth mental health crisis through the lens of the world's youth and Australian mental health expert Professor Pat McGorry AO.

Stage: Completed

Partner/s: Orygen Institute

Collaboration: Accelerate the conversation about youth mental health and use the film to raise research funding for Orygen.

GREAT IMPACT



Impact Producer Program

The second year of the Documentary Australia [Impact Producer Program](#) provided new participants **AJ Linke** and **Aprille Asfoura** with professional training, mentorship, hands-on experience, and valuable exposure to real-world documentary impact campaigns. This workplace training initiative is specifically designed to nurture new talent in the specialised role of Impact Producer, benefiting both the participants and the broader documentary and social sectors.



"It's been wonderful. I've loved being part of the Documentary Australia team; it's such a collaborative, supportive space where I've had access to people with diverse skill sets." – AJ Linke, 2024 Program participant

Hands-on learning

- AJ contributed to *Climate Changers*, assisting the team with outreach for the SBS broadcast, and supporting communications and outreach for the Parliamentary Screening on World Environment Day.
- Aprille worked on *Trailblazers*, supporting the launch of the "Blaze a Trail" impact campaign and the release of Cool.org's educational resources under the mentorship of Documentary Australia.
- Both participants also contributed to the short-form series *Stay Tuned to Our Planet*, conducting educational research, developing leads for conferences, and building a significant partnership database.



"Working on the Trailblazers launch was a great hands-on experience. It was exciting to jump into the middle of a project and see how it unfolds."
– Aprille Asfoura, 2024 Program participant

In 2024, we also introduced a series of three new public impact masterclasses: Impact and Education, Fundraising for Impact, and Impact Partnerships. ([Watch all our Masterclass events on our website here.](#))

AJ Linke and Aprille Asfoura are now aspiring Impact Producers, attached to several documentary impact campaigns, where they will continue their learning and development in the field. [Read about their reflections on their time in the program here.](#)

Funders:



Venue
Partner:

**SHARK ISLAND
INSTITUTE**

Environmental Accelerator Program

Now in its third year, Documentary Australia's Environmental Accelerator supports documentaries to increase awareness and accelerate action on a range of pressing environmental issues. To date the program has supported eight environmental documentary impact campaigns, and showcased 18 documentaries through 18 Environmental Accelerator screenings and events, engaging an audience of nearly 7,000 attendees, generating over 6,000 engagements (click throughs and sign ups) with environmental actions. The documentaries have reached significant mainstream audiences through festival, cinema, broadcast, streaming, education and non-theatrical releases selected.

We have achieved our goals through collaborating with over 35 impact and corporate partners to drive reach and social impact, including Intrepid Travel, Planet Ark, Climate Council, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Rewiring Australia, Climate Action Network Australia, Future Super, Our Islands Our Homes, Bush to Bowl, TEDxSydney, and more.

▶ Event snapshots

ACMI Film Festival

From July 19-28, we hosted the online Environmental Accelerator Film Festival with ACMI, showcasing six core films: *Climate Changers*, *Delikado*, *Greenhouse by Joost*, *Rachel's Farm*, *Stay Tuned To Our Planet*, and *The Giants*. The festival earned 4,630 rentals, reaching over 120,000 people through ACMI's database and additional audiences, including 80,000 via Madman Entertainment, 76,000 through Sydney Film Festival, and 35,000 Intrepid Insiders.

STTOP: Get Grubby, Get Planting!

We hosted the STTOP: Get Grubby, Get Planting! online Q&A on Thursday, 25 July. This session focused on climate action, biodiversity, and tree planting in the lead-up to Planet Ark's National and Schools Tree Days. Students in years 7-9 joined presenter Mathew McKenna to explore the making of the STTOP biodiversity episode, with insights from Planet Ark's Rebecca Gilling, actress and environmental advocate Maree Lowes, Bush to Bowl's Adam Byrne, and graphic artist Sarah Firth, who brought the discussion to life through live illustration (right).



TEDxSydney Youth - STTOP premiere & Q&A

On 29 August, Documentary Australia teamed up with TEDxSydney Youth to co-present the premiere of *Stay Tuned To Our Planet*, followed by a Q&A with host Mathew McKenna. The episode featured 14-year-old Sophia Skarparis, aka PlasticFreeSophia, who led a petition to ban single-use plastic bags in NSW. Her efforts led to the NSW Plastics Action Plan in 2022. TEDxSydney Youth, with its theme CTRL > SHIFT, was the perfect backdrop to showcase young leaders reshaping the future. The screening and Q&A were a hit with the 470-strong audience. [Read more here.](#)

Funders:



Mamoma Foundation

FWH FOUNDATION

Real stories are impactful

► Filmmaker reports of contributions to specific outcomes

96%

Improved connection/
engagement around a
social issue



98%

Increased visibility of
diverse voices/
perspectives



96%

Improved awareness,
understanding or
attitudes



68%

Systems change



95%

Community outcomes



80%

Increased action on
social issues



82%

Organisational
outcomes



Trailblazers

Trailblazers celebrates the rise of Australian women's football, from the early days of paying to play in front of small crowds to appearing in sold-out stadiums and being watched by over 11 million people at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. The impact campaign, designed and led by Documentary Australia, aims to build momentum to progress gender equality and leadership in sports, and increase investment and opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport.

After a premiere screening hosted by key funder and impact partner MECCA M-POWER in February 2024, *Trailblazers* was released on Stan ahead of the Matildas campaign at the Paris Olympics. Educational resources were released in June followed by a national screenings campaign with over 20 screenings in classrooms, boardrooms and clubrooms across Australia.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 101 'Blaze a Trail' Pledges signed | 72% Pledged to SPEAK UP for gender equality and investment in women's sport |
| 1.8k Educational resource downloads in 249 schools | #2 On Stan's most watched programs on the week of release |

"The documentary gave a voice to my childhood. It affirmed the challenges I faced as a young girl wishing to be a soccer player and instilled in me a hope for revolution in women's sports." – Audience member

"As a leader in advocating for gender equity in football, hosting the Trailblazers screening was both an inspiring and humbling experience. It is vital we continue to amplify these stories, not only to celebrate the progress we've made but to inspire action for the work still ahead." – Impact Partner

The Silent World of Barry Priori: Signing, Not Waving

The Silent World of Barry Priori is a compelling 30-minute documentary that explores the life of Barry Priori, a Deaf Australian from a migrant family. Through his eyes, the film reveals powerful insights into the deaf community, from the 1950s to today.

Airing on ABC Compass and showcased at community screenings, the film has effectively highlighted the experiences of the deaf community, reinforcing the message that deafness is a culture, not an illness. Audience reactions have been overwhelming. At the end of the film at the premiere, the crowd – mostly from the deaf community – waved in solidarity, a moving testament to the film's key messages. The film has now been nominated for awards at 14 international film festivals.



Already, the film is fulfilling Barry's vision: in an era when deaf individuals including Barry were forced to speak instead of sign, there's been a reported surge in audience interest in learning Auslan.

Unconditional

With over 3 million carers across Australia, *Unconditional* offers a powerful window into their often unseen experiences. Premiering in Canberra with Carers ACT, the event drew government leaders, National Carer Network CEOs, and the ACT carer community. Since its August 2024 launch, the film has screened in cinemas, organisations, and government departments to raise awareness of carers in workplaces and communities.

Carers ACT is now working to integrate *Unconditional* into Carer Awareness Training for 27,000 ACT government staff and successfully secured bipartisan support for a Carer Recognition Card. The Labor Government has already started collaborating to implement and distribute the card through Access Canberra, potentially benefiting 58,000 local carers. Just as importantly, the film has offered countless carers the powerful experience of feeling seen, valued, and understood.



Screening of Unconditional (Credit: Plum Photography)

"The film Unconditional not only brings awareness to the struggles of carers but also celebrates their profound impact on the lives of those they care for and the rewards of being an unpaid carer." – Carers ACT CEO Lisa Kelly.

"The film showed me I was not alone as a carer, and that my experience of not feeling supported, heard or valued was far from unique. The film motivated me to start advocating for carers like I have spent years advocating for my beautiful daughter." – Audience member

The Power of Activism

The Power of Activism continues to inspire audiences worldwide by showcasing young people driving environmental change. In 2024, the impact campaign has focused on engaging secondary schools across Australia. A unique learning program has been developed to use the documentary to activate real-world and project-based learning in schools. The film has been screened to select teachers and students who are now developing their own activism projects to be realised in their own communities, from running conservation tours and pollinator picnics, to building wildlife corridors and planting gardens to attract birds and bugs, to running 'How to conserve energy' events to creating recycling and upcycling systems. Each school group will present their initiatives, culminating in community screenings where their 3-5 minute project films will be showcased.

In collaboration with ATOM, these projects will become part of an educational resource for schools across the country in 2026. The initiative not only empowers students to make tangible local change but also fosters hope, health, and wellbeing. As one high school student at a United Nations screening in Stanford, USA, said, "*The Power of Activism* shows what can be done and gives us hope!"

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY



► Advocacy

Throughout 2023 and 2024, Documentary Australia continued to advocate for the social and cultural importance of documentary to the fabric of this country, and for the role that documentary must occupy in the proposed regulation of streaming platforms.

We made two written submissions during the Government's formal consultation process and held information sessions for our filmmakers and documentary colleagues. We also produced a session at the Australian International Documentary Conference titled State of Play: Documentary Policy and Advocacy, which brought visibility to these issues with industry experts.

Together with Media Stockade, Doc Society, and Screen Producers Australia, we supported a collective action for screen practitioners to have their voices heard – meeting as groups with their local Members of Parliament to advocate for fair levels of Australian content on streaming platforms to ensure a sustainable future for the sector. This resulted in over 300 registrations from screen practitioners pledging to meet with their elected representatives in nearly 80 electorates around the country.

► Leadership and support

We support and advise filmmakers on a daily basis on the many and varied aspects of their work.

In another industry collaboration, we worked with Screen Well in 2024 to launch the highly anticipated Wellbeing for Documentary guide – a vital resource to support documentary practitioners to create safer and healthier workplaces, and to improve mental health outcomes in the Australian sector. Watch our online Q&A event on wellbeing in the workplace, personal challenges in creating documentary projects, and strategies to improve wellbeing.



What to expect in 2025

As we navigate another year of challenges, our commitment to supporting diverse voices remains steadfast. Now more than ever, we must amplify stories that broaden perspectives and foster deeper understanding.

The year ahead will bring ongoing climate crises, economic hardship, political unrest, racial discrimination, war and human rights violations. Documentaries that capture the experience of those with lived experiences have the power to challenge ignorance, bridge divides and spark meaningful conversations. Supporting these stories and the filmmakers behind them is at the core of what we do. Through our platform, we connect hundreds of documentary filmmakers with the donors and audiences who can help bring their work to life.

Beyond this, we will continue to drive key programs and initiatives that enhance impact in the sector, including:

- [Impact Producer Program](#) – Year 3
- [Environmental Accelerator](#) – Year 3
- [DocAccess](#)
- The inaugural [Climate Story Lab Australia](#)
- [Elevating Women's Voices](#)
- Supporting and hosting film festivals

We are committed to fostering open, meaningful dialogue through storytelling and ensuring that documentary remains a powerful tool for social change. By unlocking more diverse narratives, we enrich our culture, nurture empathy and drive collective growth.

In 2025, we invite Australians to create, support and engage with impactful documentaries that inspire action and embrace diversity. We will continue to strive for understanding, empathy and a better future for us all.



- [Support our work](#)
- [Sign up to our newsletter](#)
- Follow us on:
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 - [Instagram](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
- [Visit our website](#)

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