

Indexation of Australian program production budget and licence fee figures

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Canberra

Level 3
40 Cameron Avenue
Belconnen ACT

PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

T +61 2 6219 5555
F +61 2 6219 5353

Melbourne

Level 32
Melbourne Central Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne VIC

PO Box 13112
Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010

T +61 3 9963 6800
F +61 3 9963 6899

Sydney

Level 5
The Bay Centre
65 Pirrama Road
Pymont NSW

PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

T +61 2 9334 7700
F +61 2 9334 7799

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Indexation of Australian program production budget and licence fee figures

Section 13 of the Broadcasting Services (Australian Content and Children’s Television) Standards 2020 (ACCTS) requires commercial free-to-air television licensees to broadcast at least 250 points each year of first release Australian programs from genres including drama, documentary and children’s non-drama.

Points are calculated by multiplying the duration of the program (in hours) by the pre-determined genre point allocation for the particular program genre and production budget.

Production budgets and licence fees from 2021

From 2021, Schedule 1 to the ACCTS sets out the following genre point allocation:

Schedule 1—Genre point allocation

Column 1	Column 2
Genre	Points per hour broadcast
Commissioned first release Australian documentary program (capped at a maximum 50 points per calendar year)	1
Commissioned first release Australian children’s program (non-drama)	1.5
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$450,000 production budget per hour)	1.5
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$450,000 up to \$700,000 production budget per hour)	4
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$700,000 up to \$1,000,000 production budget per hour)	5
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,000,000 up to \$1,400,000 production budget per hour)	6
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,400,000 production budget per hour)	7
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$50,000)	1
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$50,000)	2

How has the ACMA calculated production budget and licence fee figures for 2026?

Section 15 of the ACCTS specifies a formula for calculating increases for the production budget and licence fee figures from 1 January of each year. If the CPI number¹ increases over the 12 months to the September quarter preceding 1 January of the relevant year, an increase to the amount is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{previous indexable amount}^2 \times \text{latest CPI number}^3 \div \text{earlier CPI number}^4$$

The result is to be rounded to the nearest thousand dollars and if the amount to be rounded is \$500, it is to be rounded down.

The following table sets out the production budget and licence fee figures for genre points calculation for 2026.

Production budgets and licence fees from 2025	2026			Basis of calculation			
	Points per hour broadcast	Lower or only value (\$)	Higher value (\$)	Latest CPI number (CPI number for quarter ending 30 Sep of previous year)	Earlier CPI number (CPI number for quarter ending 30 Sep two years before)	Lower or only original value x Latest CPI ÷ earlier CPI	Higher original value x Latest CPI ÷ earlier CPI
Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2025 CPI increases							
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$540,000 production budget per hour)	1.5	\$557,000	N/A	99.73	96.62	\$557,118.30	N/A
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$540,000 up to \$838,000 production budget per hour)	4	\$557,000	\$865,000	99.73	96.62	\$557,118.30	\$864,859.83
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$838,000 up to \$1,197,000 production budget per hour)	5	\$865,000	\$1,235,000	99.73	96.62	\$864,859.83	\$1,235,210.86

¹ 'CPI number' means the All Group Consumer Price Index number (being the weighted average of the 8 Australian capital cities) published by the Australian Statistician.

² 'Previous indexable amount' refers to the indexable amount in force immediately before 1 January of the relevant year.

³ 'Latest CPI number' means the CPI number for the quarter ending on 30 September before the relevant year.

⁴ 'Earlier CPI number' means the CPI number for the quarter ending on 30 September two years before the relevant year.

Production budgets and licence fees from 2025	2026			Basis of calculation			
	Points per hour broadcast	Lower or only value (\$)	Higher value (\$)	Latest CPI number (CPI number for quarter ending 30 Sep of previous year)	Earlier CPI number (CPI number for quarter ending 30 Sep two years before)	Lower or only original value x Latest CPI ÷ earlier CPI	Higher original value x Latest CPI ÷ earlier CPI
Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2025 CPI increases							
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,197,000 up to \$1,676,000 production budget per hour)	6	\$1,235,000	\$1,730,000	99.73	96.62	\$1,235,210.86	\$1,729,719.67
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,676,000 production budget per hour)	7	\$1,730,000	N/A	99.73	96.62	\$1,729,719.67	N/A
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$61,000)	1	\$63,000	N/A	99.73	96.62	\$62,609.48	N/A
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$61,000)	2	\$63,000	N/A	99.73	96.62	\$62,609.48	N/A

Production budgets and licence fees comparison 2021–26

ACCTS points	Production budgets and licence fees from 2021 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table in the ACCTS ⁵	Production budgets and licence fees from 2022 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2022 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2023 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2023 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2024 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2024 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2025 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2025 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2026 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2026 CPI increases
1.5	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$450,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$464,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$498,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$525,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$540,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to \$557,000 production budget per hour)
4	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$450,000 up to \$700,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$464,000 up to \$721,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$498,000 up to \$778,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$525,000 up to \$815,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$540,000 up to \$838,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$557,000 up to \$865,000 production budget per hour)
5	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$700,000 up to \$1,000,000 production budget per hour) ⁶	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$721,000 up to \$1,030,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$778,000 up to \$1,105,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$815,000 up to \$1,164,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$838,000 up to \$1,197,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$865,000 up to \$1,235,000 production budget per hour)

⁵ Where the ACCTS genre point allocation does not include dollar amount for production budgets or license fees the points remain static. For example, irrespective of CPI changes, Australian children's non-drama and Australian documentary programs are allocated 1.5 points and 1 point per hour of commissioned content broadcast.

ACCTS points	Production budgets and licence fees from 2021 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table in the ACCTS ⁵	Production budgets and licence fees from 2022 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2022 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2023 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2023 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2024 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2024 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2025 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2025 CPI increases	Production budgets and licence fees from 2026 Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2026 CPI increases
6	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,000,000 up to \$1,400,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,030,000 up to \$1,442,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,105,000 up to \$1,547,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,164,000 up to \$1,630,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,197,000 up to \$1,676,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,235,000 up to \$1,730,000 production budget per hour)
7	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,400,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,442,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,547,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,630,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,676,000 production budget per hour)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than \$1,730,000 production budget per hour)
1	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$50,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$52,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$56,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$59,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$61,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than \$63,000)
2	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$50,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$52,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$56,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$59,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$61,000)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than \$63,000)