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Australian Communications and Media Authority

Indexation of Australian program production budget and licence fee figures

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acma.gov.au

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
Pyrmont NSW

PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

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

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Written enquiries may be sent to:

Manager, Editorial Services
PO Box 13112
Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010
Email: info@acma.gov.au

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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 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 has calculated production budget and licence fee figures for 2027?

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 number increases over the twelve months to the September quarter preceding 1 January of the relevant year, an increase to the amount is calculated using the formula:

'previous indexable amount' x 'latest CPI number' ÷ 'earlier CPI number'

- The 'CPI number' means the All Group Consumer Price Index number, being the weighted average of the eight Australian capital cities, published by the Australian Statistician. The Australian Statistician is the head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The CPI number is normally available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website and the ID of this data series is 'A2325846C'.

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

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

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

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 to the nearest thousand dollars.

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

Production budgets and licence fees calculation for 2027

Production budgets and licence fees from 2026	Points per hour broadcast	Basis of calculation		2026		2027		2027 (Rounded)	
		Earlier CPI number (ending 30 September two years before)	Latest CPI number (ending 30 September of previous year)	Lower or only original value	Higher original value	Lower or only original value x Latest CPI ÷ Earlier CPI	Higher value ($) x Latest CPI ÷ Earlier CPI	Lower or only value ($)	Higher value ($)
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to $557,000 production budget per hour)	1.5	99.73	103.64	$0.00	$557,118.30	$0.00	$578,960.60	$0	$579,000
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $557,000 up to $865,000 production budget per hour)	4	99.73	103.64	$557,118.30	$864,859.83	$578,960.60	$898,767.40	$579,000	$899,000
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $865,000 up to $1,235,000 production budget per hour)	5	99.73	103.64	$864,859.83	$1,235,210.86	$898,767.40	$1,283,638.36	$899,000	$1,284,000
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $1,235,000 up to $1,730,000 production budget per hour)	6	99.73	103.64	$1,235,210.86	$1,729,719.67	$1,283,638.36	$1,797,534.81	$1,284,000	$1,798,000
Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $1,730,000 production budget per hour)	7	99.73	103.64	$1,729,719.67	N/A	$1,797,534.81	N/A	$1,798,000	N/A
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than $63,000)	1	99.73	103.64	$62,609.48	N/A	$65,064.14	N/A	$65,000	N/A
Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than $63,000)	2	99.73	103.64	$62,609.48	N/A	$65,064.14	N/A	$65,000	N/A

Production budgets and licence fees comparison 2021–2027

ACCTS points	**Production budgets and licence fees from 2021** Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table in the ACCTS	**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	**Production budgets and licence fees from 2027** Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2027 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)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (less than or equal to $579,000 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)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $579,000 up to $899,000 production budget per hour)
5	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $700,000 up to $1,000,000 production budget per hour)[1]	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)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $899,000 up to $1,284,000 production budget per hour)
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)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $1,284,000 up to $1,798,000 production budget per hour)

ACCTS points	**Production budgets and licence fees from 2021** Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table in the ACCTS	**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	**Production budgets and licence fees from 2027** Schedule 1 - Genre point allocation table with 2027 CPI increases
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)	Commissioned first release Australian drama program (more than $1,798,000 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)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film less than $65,000)
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)	Acquired first release Australian film (licence fee per film equal to or more than $65,000)