

Dear AGSC Members and Board,

Re: Meeting with Ross Hutchens (Head of Screen Industry Programs, Film Victoria) & Dale Cornelius (AGSC), 18/12/20.

I met with Ross Hutchens late last year because I heard through a film producer friend of mine that Film Vic were conducting an industry survey, as part of an overall 10 year reshaping of the creative industries sector by the Victorian Government, to inform their own 5 year strategy. No one I spoke with, from the AGSC or any Melbourne composers, knew anything about this screen industry survey, and so I wanted to find out more about it and whether we could participate in it.

In the meeting, Ross was very friendly and engaged, giving some very interesting responses to my questions. My aim was to start a conversation, between Film Victoria and the AGSC, addressing the problems we are currently facing as screen composers, to participate in the current survey, and to find ways to support our Melbourne composer members, through what we perceive to be a very quiet first half of 2021.

At a recent event with many of Melbourne's emerging and established screen composers, the majority of composers said they had little to no work lined up for 2021 and had no awareness of what productions might be coming up in Victoria in the new year (other than what is already in pre-production or production). Ross explained that due to the readjustment of the producers offset for television from 20% to 30% from July 1st, funding applications and therefore production has been delayed in the first half of 2021. I highlighted how devastating this could be, considering we are at the end of the production timeline, meaning many screen composers in Victoria could have little or no screen work for nearly a 2 year period (early 2020 to late 2021). This is especially damaging financially and for the professional development of emerging composers, who do not have a large body of work to support them through royalties. Ross acknowledged this as a big problem, yet didn't have any immediate solutions. However, he did mention that Film Victoria is looking at ways to stop local HODs falling through the gaps in the production funding criteria, and talked about feeling optimistic regarding the Victorian Governments' engagement with discussions and wanting to revitalize the Victorian screen industry.

I also talked about; the ever shrinking pool of local Melbourne productions, the dismantling of the documentary industry, the movement of the industry power dynamic between Melbourne and Sydney (over the last decade) to a Sydney-centric industry, the issue of co-productions reaching critical mass for composers, along with editors and smaller audio post production facilities losing out as well.

I think I was speaking for most of us when I said that I was tired of reading about overseas productions injecting \$\$\$\$ into the economy and creating hundreds of jobs for essentially only cast & production crew.

I asked if Film Victoria could supply data to the AGSC about funded productions, produced in Victoria over the last few years, detailing % of Victorian HODs, especially composers. Ross said they would be happy to supply the data in the new year and that he would be interested to discuss the results.

Actions resulting from this meeting:

AGSC prepared a response to the survey. We asked Victorian members for comment and collated responses which included; the critical importance of investing in the development and protection of I.P., quotas, attachment initiatives, and the threat of reinvestment deals, which Film Victoria have received for inclusion.

Dale and Annie will continue having conversations with Ross and Film Victoria in 2021, to see what we can do moving forward (especially for our Victorian members), and organise the production data from Film Vic. for analysis and review.

Kindest regards,

Dale Cornelius

AGSC Member, Board member and company secretary