



Pay TV boosts expenditure on Australian drama

ACMA figures show that the subscription television industry recorded a 43 per cent increase in expenditure on Australian drama programs in 2006–07. Expenditure rose from \$18.41 million in 2005–06 to \$26.44 million in 2006–07.

The 2006–07 expenditure on eligible Australian and New Zealand drama programs exceeded the 10 per cent obligation under the subscription television new eligible drama expenditure scheme, which is set out in Part 7 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the BSA).

Expenditure on new eligible drama in 2006–07 included investment in and payment of licence fees for a range of programs, including film shorts, telemovies, feature films and drama series.

A production must meet the definition of 'eligible drama program', but there is no requirement that it be broadcast on subscription television.

ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman sees the subscription television industry as a major supporter of Australian drama production.

'This investment enhances viewer choice and access to Australian drama. It also provides opportunities for Australians to create and participate in a wide variety of productions, including feature films such as *Romulus, My Father* and *September*, telemovies such as *The King* and drama series such as *Love My Way* and *Satisfaction*', Mr Chapman said.

Consistent with the scheme arrangements in the BSA, the eligible drama expenditure of licensees and channel providers acquitted the obligations outstanding from the previous year (2005–06).

Of the \$26.44 million spent on Australian and New Zealand programs in 2006–07, \$16.04 million was nominated to acquit the expenditure obligation from 2005–06. The remainder counted towards meeting the providers' 2006–07 requirements.

All scheme participants have now fully met their 2005–06 expenditure obligations and therefore complied with the rules of the scheme.

The 17 drama channels reported on are: Boomerang, Cartoon Network, Turner Classic Movies, Hallmark Channel, Disney Channel, Playhouse Disney, Fox 8, Fox Classics, Movie Extra, Movie Greats, Movie One, Nickelodeon, Showtime, Showtime Greats, TV1, SCI FI and UKTV.

| | 2006–07 \$ million | 2005–06 \$ million | 2004–05 \$ million |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| New eligible drama 10 per cent requirement | \$20.79 | \$2058 | \$18.98 |
| Expenditure on new eligible drama | \$26.44 | \$18.41 | \$15.92 |
| Expenditure nominated to acquit previous year's remaining obligation | \$16.04 | \$13.59 | \$10.39 |
| Expenditure toward current year's 10 per cent requirement | \$10.29 | \$4.53* | \$5.39 |
| Obligation to be met in the next financial year | \$10.50 | \$16.04* | \$13.59 |

*These figures have been amended to reflect a revised 2005–06 expenditure nomination in respect of a pass-through provider channel.