

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

Virginia Judge MP



16 September 2009

REES GOVERNMENT BACKS SCREEN INDUSTRY SKILLS PROGRAM

Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, Virginia Judge tonight launched the latest round of the NSW Media Mentorship for Women, a program that fosters technical, creative and career skills for the next generation of screen professionals.

“The film and television industry’s strength is its people,” Ms Judge said.

“Through programs like the Media Mentorship for Women, the Rees Government is helping to drive a new generation of success.”

Ms Judge said female film and television workers have traditionally been under-represented in cinematography, editing, sound design, script writing.

“The mentorship program addresses this issue by matching emerging and mid-career women with leading Australian filmmakers, so that skills can be shared,” she said.

Supported by the Rees Government through ScreenNSW and run by the independent group Women in Film & Television, the program accepted more than 155 applications in its first year, with more than 60 industry leaders providing mentoring in 13 areas of expertise.

The program has attracted high-calibre mentors including Jan Chapman, Cate Shortland, Samantha Lang, Elissa Down, Tony Ayers, and John Edwards.

Speaking at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School at Moore Park, Ms Judge noted that skills development was just one part of the Government’s larger plan for the screen industry.

“The Rees Government is determined to cement New South Wales as Australia’s premier state for screen production,” Ms Judge said.

“The creative industries, and the jobs it underpins, are a vibrant and growing part of our economy – and the Government remains focused on supporting that growth.”

Ms Judge said the 2009/10 Budget included an additional \$5 million for ScreenNSW, doubling its Production Investment Fund.

“We anticipate our investment will attract additional production expenditure of \$70 million and result in up to 1,300 new jobs for our talented creative teams and crews,” she said.

Background

- WIFT NSW was founded in 1982 and is a non-profit body that works to support and advance women working in the Australian film, television and screen industries. It is part of a global group WIFT International.
- The Rees Government supports WIFT NSW’s Media Mentorship for Women Program through ScreenNSW’s Industry and Audience Development Program.
- Applications for Round 3 of Media Mentorship for Women Program close on October 30 2009. For more information visit www.nsw.wift.org/mentor

Media contact: Kimberley Ramplin 9228 5900 / 0429 397 377