



Doc Connect: Request for proposals

Doc Connect is a million dollar collaboration between NZFC and NZ On Air for new, New Zealand documentaries. The intention is to contribute finance for mid-range (\$200-\$400k) documentaries based on two main criteria:

1. The potential story and quality of the documentary.
2. The extent that the documentary will connect with an audience, hence *Doc Connect*.

Doc Connect is about high-quality projects that understand their audience and have a plan on how to reach that audience.

It aims to create diversity of documentary on screen and motivate local filmmakers to research the audience they intend to reach.

The preference is to find projects that will have both theatrical and television releases. However, if the total budget is less than \$200k the NZFC and NZ On Air may accept an online outcome along with an innovative strategy on reaching that audience.

How the degree of connection would be judged:

Primary

- The likelihood and size of a theatrical audience in NZ. Confirmed distribution attachments and plans would need to be submitted.
- Confirmed agreement from a free to air NZ broadcaster with the likely slot and size of audience a documentary will reach.

Secondary

- Alternative release strategies and overseas sales/ audience potential.
- VOD and DVD/ Blu-Ray audience release strategy.
- Digital or alternative platform strategy in NZ, e.g. free on-demand access.

What you need to know

- It is expected that three to six projects will be supported from this fund - no single project will receive the full pool of funding.
- Projects that intend to reach both theatrical and television audiences will be prioritised. However, if a project is creatively strong the agencies may consider alternative distribution plans to reach audiences.
- Successful applicants will have a good track record of documentary or related production.

- Applications with a broadcast distribution plan should have secured the support of a mainstream free to air broadcaster (TV One, TV2, TV3, FOUR, Prime or Māori Television). A broadcaster licence fee is required.
- Duration will depend on the scope of the project but should generally be of theatrical feature length (typically 80 minutes or longer). It may screen in a different format on television e.g. in two parts or an edited duration.
- If the funding received is less than \$200k, this will be considered a grant.
- If the funding received is \$200k or more, the level of recoupment will be 57.5% to the Producer (average of NZFC and NZ On Air recoupment policies).
- There are no restrictions on the documentary concept but two similar stories would not be selected (if upon application the funders are aware of a similar project at an advanced stage, the applicant will be alerted to this).
- Only New Zealand companies can apply for this funding. The company must be incorporated and carrying on business in New Zealand and have its central management and control in New Zealand.

Selection panel:

The panel will include two senior NZFC staff and two senior NZ On Air staff. An external market assessment may be obtained if the panel believe it is necessary.

Applications should be submitted electronically to tv@nzonair.govt.nz as well as development@nzfilm.co.nz along with a completed application form by 5.00pm Friday, 8 August.

Timeline:

4 July	Request for proposals
8 August	Application deadline
27-28 September	Announce funded projects. Representatives of the successful projects may be required to pitch their idea and their connection strategy to a general industry audience.