

IGEA

interactive games & entertainment association

Government Incentives For Game Developers in Australia

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Interactive Games &
Entertainment Association

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Government Incentives in Australia

This table seeks to compile key business and investment support programs that may be accessed by game businesses in Australia, with separate tables for the programs available federally, and within each state where IGEA has members. It may be helpful to both small and established studios, as well as international publishers seeking to explore a local presence.

This table includes programs that are specifically designed for, or particularly relevant to, games businesses such as game development and marketing funds. The table also includes general tax, funding, research and advisory programs for businesses and start-ups. The applicability and eligibility of members will vary across the programs listed. Please check carefully before you apply; in doubt, reach out to the government organisation in question or contact us.

Programs omitted from the list include many remote area funds, funds unlikely to be used by members (e.g. hiring of apprentices) as well as funds requiring application by consortiums.

Please note that some programs listed may be temporary or lapsing, in hiatus or not currently open for applications. This table is a work in progress, so please report any missing programs that need to be included or out-of-date information to Jens at jens@igea.net. Jens is also happy to provide further assistance, information or guidance about any of these programs.

Australian Government

Type	Name	Summary
Trade support	Export Market Development Grant	Funding for SMEs to develop export markets through reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible promotional expenses within a \$15,000 - \$150,000 threshold
Arts funding	Screen Australia Fund	Screen grants and investments includes limited funding for online A/VR content
Business funding	Australian Business Securitisation Fund	Proposed program to support the securitisation market to enable smaller lenders to provide loans to small businesses on more competitive terms.
Business funding	Business Growth Fund	Proposed private sector fund to provide equity investment into small businesses.
Business funding	Entrepreneurs' program	Accelerating Commercialisation grants of up to \$1 million, Innovation Connections grants of up to \$50,000, business management advice and Business Growth grants of up to \$20,000
Incubator	Incubator support and expert-in-residence	Grants of up to \$500,000 for both new and existing incubators and grants of up to \$100,000 for research
Investment support	Austrade inbound investment advisory service	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in Australia. Austrade has offices in Asia, North- and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa
Research	CSIRO Kick-Start	Funding of up to \$50,000 for start-ups and SMEs to access CSIRO expertise and capabilities
Talent	Wage subsidies	Grants of up to \$10,000 for hiring certain categories of new employees
Tax incentive	Asset write-off	Small businesses can write off assets of up to \$30,000 for assets which are purchased and used in the year the write-off is claimed

Arts funding	<u>Post-production, Digital & Visual (PDV) offset</u>	30% rebate for work on PDV in Australia, with minimum qualifying expenditure of \$500,000
Tax incentive	<u>R&D Tax incentive</u>	A refundable 38.5% or 43.5% (for companies with <\$20m turnover) tax offset for research and development expenditure
Tax incentive	<u>Small business income tax offset</u>	Tax offset of up to \$1,000 per year for unincorporated small businesses
Tax incentive	<u>Tax incentives for early stage investors</u>	Tax offset (up to \$200,000) and modified CGT treatment for investors in qualifying 'early stage innovation companies'
Tax reduction	<u>SME corporate tax rate reduction</u>	Corporate tax rate for SMEs reduced from 27.5% to 26% in 2020-1 and 25% from 2021-2
Trade support	<u>Austrade landing pads</u>	Start-ups provided with a workspace and support for 90 days in an innovation hub (SF, Tel Aviv, Shanghai, Berlin and Singapore)
Trade support	<u>Trade missions</u>	Outbound trade missions to international gaming expos (e.g. China Joy)
Trade support	<u>TradeStart</u>	National trade and export market advisory network for SMEs, available in all major Australian cities
Business funding	<u>Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII)</u>	Provides small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with grant funding to develop innovative solutions for government policy and service delivery challenges. Feasibility studies grants of up to \$100,000, proof of concept grants of up to \$1 million.

New South Wales

Type	Name	Summary
Tax incentive	Asset write-off	Small businesses can write off assets of up to \$30,000 for assets which are purchased and used in the year the write-off is claimed
Arts funding	Post-production, Digital & Visual (PDV) offset	30% rebate for work on PDV in Australia, with minimum qualifying expenditure of \$500,000
Advisory	Business Connect	Network of local business, management or consulting advisors
Arts funding	360 Vision Virtual Development Initiative	Funding of up to \$20,000 for narrative-based VR content
Business funding	Building Partnership Grants	Funding of up to \$100,000 for SMEs to expand or pivot technological solutions
Business funding	GO NSW Equity Fund	Capital funding in exchange for a percentage of ownership
Business funding	Minimum Viable Product (MVP) grant	Funding of up to \$25,000 for start-ups to develop technological solutions from concept to MVP stage
Business funding	Regional Investment Attraction Package	Grants, interest free loans and relocation assistance for businesses moving or setting up in regional areas
Business funding	Sydney Technology & Innovation Precinct	Incentives and support for businesses to move into the precinct available by consultation
Incubator	Sydney Startup Hub	Start-up support and working space (provided through four incubator tenants)
Investment support	Invest NSW – Investment	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in NSW. Invest NSW has offices in Asia, the Middle East Europe and San Francisco.
Loan	Accelerating Growth Loans	Fixed rate \$200,000 - \$500,000 loans for SMEs
Loan	Loan Guarantees	Government guarantee for SMEs for up to 50% of a commercial loan (up to \$5 million of the loan amount)

Tax incentive	<u>Asset write-off</u>	Small businesses can write off assets of up to \$30,000 for assets which are purchased and used in the year the write-off is claimed
Arts funding	<u>Post-production, Digital & Visual (PDV) offset</u>	30% rebate for work on PDV in Australia, with minimum qualifying expenditure of \$500,000
Loan	<u>Regional Growth Loans</u>	No interest \$200,000 - \$500,000 for SMEs in regional areas
Loan	<u>Strategic Growth Loans</u>	Fixed rate \$500,000 - \$1.2 million loans for SMEs
Research	<u>TechVouchers</u>	Funding of up to \$15,000 for SMEs to connect with certain research organisations
Talent	<u>Jobs Action Plan</u>	Payroll tax rebate of up to \$6,000 for each new job
Talent	<u>Small business grant</u>	Small businesses that increase their number of FTE receive a grant of up to \$2,000 per FTE
Trade support	<u>Export Capability Building Program</u>	Export coaching and workshops
Trade support	<u>Invest NSW – Investment Concierge</u>	General advisory service for businesses and investors
Arts Funding	<u>Small Project Grants.</u>	Grants between \$500 and \$5000 to support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers.
Business Funding	<u>Boosting Business Innovation Program</u>	Giving small businesses access to research organisations to build strong local business communities and stimulate economic growth in metropolitan and regional NSW.

Victoria

Type	Name	Summary
Arts funding	Games release	Funding of up to \$30,000 to assist games companies develop and deliver a marketed release of their project
Talent	Games company placement	Grants of up to \$20,000 for games companies to engage a local practitioner for professional development
Arts funding	Assigned Production Investment – Games	Funding of up to \$150,000 to assist games companies produce a game
Advisory	Small Business Mentoring Program	Small business mentoring service, some free and some at a cost
Arts funding	<u>Creators Fund</u>	Funding of \$20,000 - \$50,000 for independent creators or small creative collectives
Arts funding	Development funding	Development funding for narrative VR projects
Arts funding	<u>Production Incentive Attraction Fund – PDV</u>	Grants for PDV work in Victoria with qualifying expenditure of \$1 million or more
Business funding	Innovation in Marketing Fund	Up to \$20,000 for SMEs within the creative industries to support one-off discrete marketing projects
Business funding	LaunchVic funding rounds	Varied grants rounds focused on start-ups, diversity and capacity-building
Business funding	Small business grants	Grants of up to \$30,000 for innovative small businesses within the City of Melbourne

Investment support	<u>Invest Victoria</u>	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in Victoria. Invest Victoria has offices in Asia, the Middle East Europe and San Francisco.
Talent	<u>Regional Jobs Fund</u>	Strategic projects and infrastructure funding through five program streams: investment attraction, innovation and productivity, market access, employment precincts and skill dev
Trade support	<u>Asia Gateway Voucher</u>	Funding of up to \$50,000 for businesses to develop market development plans to access Asia
Trade support	<u>Festivals travel</u>	Grants of up to \$3,000 for game developers to travel to international festivals
Trade support	<u>Trade missions</u>	Outbound trade missions to international gaming expos

Queensland

Type	Name	Summary
Incubator	Sqhub	Screen Queensland incubator hubs in Brisbane and Gold Coast open for 12-month residencies for screen creatives including game developers
Project support	Screen Queensland Investment	Support of Queensland-created content across three tiers: Ideas, Market, Finance. Includes travel grants of up to \$7500 and finance of up to \$50,00 for games
Talent	SQ Attach	Funding for development studios to engage early to mid-career professionals for attachment opportunities
Arts funding	PDV Attraction Grant	10% uncapped offset for projects with a minimum Australian PDV spend of \$500,000
Business funding	Business Development Fund	Funding of between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million for innovative businesses, particularly in emerging industries
Business funding	Business Growth Fund	Funding of up to \$50,000 to high growth SMEs for the purchase of specialised equipment or services
Business funding	Ignite Ideas Fund	Funding of up to \$100,000 for 1 year or up to \$200,000 for up to 2 years to support SMEs commercialise innovative products and services
Business funding	Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program	Funding of up to \$5,000 for small businesses to engage a consultant, advisor or business growth

Incubator	Hotdesq	Funding of \$50,000 to \$100,000 to attract international and interstate entrepreneurs to Queensland
Investment support	<u>Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund</u>	\$150 million Queensland Government strategy to encourage the relocation and establishment of new projects or major expansions in Queensland
Trade support	<u>Trade & Investment Queensland Australia – Exporting</u>	Guidance and trade missions for exporters

South Australia

Type	Name	Summary
Arts Funding	Games Innovation Fund	Grants of up to \$25,000 to support the progress of outstanding, original and creative games for production in South Australia
Arts funding	PDV rebate	10% rebate for PDV work undertaken with qualifying expenditure of \$250,000
Business funding	Research, Commercialisation and Startup Fund	Various funding streams, including grants of \$20,000 - \$100,000 and \$100,000 - \$1 million for start-ups and early stage companies
Business support	Entrepreneur's Programme	Up to \$20,000 in grant funding to support business development (SA Chamber of Commerce)
Investment support	Inbound investment support	Guidance and support for companies to establish and build their business in SA. They have an international team, with an office opening in the US in the future.
Investment support	South Australian Landing Pad	Up to \$80,000 for international incoming businesses to access coworking spaces and professional support
Research	Future Industries Accelerator	Includes the infrastructure access scheme (technical equipment access), R&D Voucher Scheme (up to \$100,000) and mobility grants (between businesses and universities)
Trade support	Department of Trade, Tourism and Investment	Export assistance and guidance for SA businesses

Trade support	<u>SA Export Accelerator</u>	Grants of up to \$5,000, \$15,000 or \$30,000 (for the emerging exporter, new market entry and export accelerator programs respectively) for marketing, export development and travel
Business funding	<u>Economic and Business Growth Fund</u>	Financial assistance may be provided through direct expenditure by State government, or grants and (in some instances) loans to external infrastructure providers, industry associations, companies, universities, other research institutions or not-for-profit organisations. Funding will generally be provided for a project from one of the three funds (Research, Commercialisation and Start-Up Fund, the Regional Growth Fund or the Economic and Business Growth Fund).

Northern Territory

Type	Name	Summary
Trade Support	<u>The Trade Support Scheme</u>	Funding for SMEs to develop export markets through reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible marketing expenses Funding is offered as a taxable cash reimbursement.
Business Funding	<u>Aboriginal Business Development Program</u>	Grants between \$1,000 and \$30,000 offered to Aboriginal people to start or expand their business. Grant recipients also get one-on-one support from a small business champion.
Business Funding	<u>Business Innovation Program</u>	Helps businesses develop and commercialise innovation concepts via mentoring and funding of up to \$30,000.

Western Australia

Type	Name	Summary
Business Funding	<u>International Access Pass</u>	Funding of up to \$5,000 for travel funding to attend international digital media content including video games
Business Funding	<u>Create X</u>	Up to \$20,000 in funding towards travel and residency costs to artists, creative industry professionals and arts organisations to undertake collaborations and cultural exchange opportunities in SA Asia
Business Funding	<u>Innovation Vouchers Program</u>	Provides SMEs with financial boost to access professional skills, services or knowledge, funding of up to \$20,000 vouchers.
Business Funding	<u>New Industries Fund</u>	\$16.7 million to support and accelerate new and emerging businesses to diversify the WA economy and create new jobs and industries.
Business Funding	<u>Regional New Industries Fund</u>	Funding of up to \$300,000 to catalyse the competitiveness of regional WA by building entrepreneurial and innovation capabilities and trade linkages in the regions
Business Funding	<u>Access Asia</u>	Up to \$10,000 (excl. GST) for Western Australian SMEs working in "Technology" to advance their international business efforts in Asian markets
Business Funding	<u>Innovator of the Year</u>	Up to \$70,000 to raise the profile of innovation in WA and support the delivery of government initiatives to advance the growth of the State's innovation-based industries

Tasmania

Jurisdiction	Type	Name	Summary
ACT	Project funding	Screen Arts Fund	Funding of up to \$15,000 (“soft cap”) for screen projects in games
Tasmania	Project funding	Games development	Grant of up to \$10,000 for conceptual design or recoupable investment of \$30,000 for game development
Tasmania	Project funding	Production Investment	Equity investment into major screen productions, including games and interactive projects seeking investment above \$30,000
Tasmania	Talent	Traineeship and attachments	4–12-week paid attachments for trainees to work on supported Tasmanian game development projects



Canberra

Type	Name	Summary
Project funding	<u>Screen Arts Fund</u>	Funding of up to \$15,000 (“soft cap”) for screen projects in games

