



# NEW WAVE

## What is New Wave?

New Wave is an initiative to find and fund the best of Australia's emerging and mid-career comedy podcasting talent and discover the next great Australian comedy podcast.

It is all about discovering fresh perspectives, fostering bold new ideas, providing access to the ABC's unparalleled suite of production resources and creating a pathway for comedy talent to build their skills and make exciting, distinctive, hilarious podcasts with the ABC.

## Who can apply?

Anyone who meets the below criteria.

- We are looking for teams (of maximum 3 people) with the ability to write, research and host their own podcast.
- You must be an Australian citizen or Australian resident.
- Aged 18 and over.
- You will need your own ABN ([Australian Business Number](#)). Existing or willing to obtain.

## Is funding available?

Yes!

Up to 4 teams (maximum 3 team members per team) will be paid to produce development materials, with training and support provided by the ABC.

Teams will be paid \$5,000 to create their pitch materials.

Each team member will be paid \$2,500 to participate in the workshops.

## How do I apply?

You will be taken to an online application form where you will be asked to nominate a contact person from your team, with name, contact number and email address.

You will be required to upload the below onto the application form.

1. Audio upload in 1 minute or less addressing the below question. Your voice recording can be casual and conversational and just a voice memo on your phone. It doesn't need to be super polished, just authentic.
  - a. *'What most excites your team about this podcast idea?'*
2. A proposal documents (5 pages or less) providing an overview of your application as outlined below.
  - a. A short show pitch including the concept, genre, audience and a reference to one podcast that is similar in tone, style or genre.
  - b. Details of the team members, including a short biography and brief description of the role of each key member will play.

- c. Links to any of your existing work and/ or outline any audio (max 3 minutes) associated with the project you are pitching.
- d. Details of each team members existing social media profiles.
- e. A personal diversity statement outlining how you contribute to diversity in content and practice.
- f. Contact details for all team members.

## **What format should my podcast be?**

We're open to any comedy podcast format!

Formats could include unscripted-chat, researched-chat, narrative non-fiction or even scripted-fiction.

Podcasts also do not need to be solely comedic in focus. In fact, most comedy podcasts are 'genre-blends'. (e.g. Off Menu is an interview podcast about food, hosted by two stand-up comedians.)

## **Can I submit a video-podcast idea?**

Of course! But please spell out clearly how you see the video element functioning in the application.

## **Can I submit multiple podcast ideas or be a part of multiple teams submitting?**

We ask that you please only be attached to one submission

## **What is the application and assessment process?**

Applications close strictly at 8pm AEST Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>. We are unable to accept late submissions.

Submissions must be uploaded via the online application form. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

If you require any additional information not provided in the FAQ's you can email [newwave@abc.net.au](mailto:newwave@abc.net.au).

Submissions will be viewed and assessed by the ABC. Those applicants progressing to the next stage will be notified by email or phone by Monday 16 June. If you are not successful in progressing to the next stage, you will receive an email advising of the outcome by Monday 16 June. We are anticipating a high volume of applications, so unfortunately, we will not be able to provide individual feedback on submissions.

When assessing applications for this program, the ABC will use the following criteria:

1. The strength, quality and originality of the concept and comedy.
2. The potential of the series to appeal to its target audience demographic (40 years and under). Please note – existing fan bases may be used as evidence of appeal to target audience (please provide details).
3. Whether or not the podcast is distinctive or serves an underserved audience.

4. The potential of the series to become an on-going or multiple-season podcast for the ABC.
5. The experience and skillset of team members.
6. The career development benefits of this project for the individual or team, including consideration of diversity.

## **If selected, What Next?**

Those teams selected will need to attend workshops over 4 days in Sydney from **Monday 14 July 2025 to Thursday 17 July 2025**.

The pitch materials, comprising of a detailed 5-page pitch document and 3-5 minutes of 'sizzle reel' audio that is representative of the tone and style of the podcast, are expected to be delivered by **Monday 18 August 2025**.

These materials will be considered by ABC commissioners.

All teams that attend the workshops will be provided with detailed feedback on their podcast pitch.

The successful four teams will enter into a **Podcast Development Services Agreement** with the ABC.

- Under this agreement, teams shall:
  - (a) attend four days of workshops in Sydney from Monday 14 July to Thursday 17 July 2025;
  - (b) produce and deliver Development Material in consultation with the ABC by Monday 18 August 2025; and
  - (c) record audio samples of the podcast at the ABC Sydney.
- The Development Material shall consist of:
  - A series treatment (detailed 5 pages outlining the podcast's concept, style, themes, episode plan, structure, audience, and distribution plan to be written in collaboration with the ABC); and
  - An audio sample (3-5 minute 'sizzle' reel of audio indicative of the tone and approach of the podcast, recorded in collaboration with the ABC).
- For their attendance at the workshops, **each team member** will be paid **AUD\$2,500**, and for producing and delivering the Development Material, **each team** will be paid **AUD\$5,000**.
- The Agreement shall include the following options for the ABC:
  - An exclusive first option for the ABC to further develop the Development Material; and
  - A matching right for the ABC to commission the successful applicant to produce the podcast. If this option is exercised, any further agreement will require all rights in the podcast to be assigned to the ABC upon creation.
  - If the ABC decides to exercise their options under the Agreement, they will alert the successful applicant within the Option Period which commences six (6) months from the date the ABC accepts the Delivery Material.

Please note:

ABC Audio Studios respects the confidentiality of your podcast proposal, however projects with similar ideas may already be in development or production at the ABC. We cannot be held responsible if a program with similar themes to yours is broadcast at a later date.

**If we are selected as one of the four teams but not commissioned to series, will the ABC own our idea?**

If you are not commissioned to series, you will be able to make your podcast independently. If you make your podcast with another media company, the ABC has a first-and-matching offer, meaning you must disclose this offer to the ABC and the ABC will have 20 business days to match the offer. If the ABC does not match the offer, you will be able to make your podcast with this media company after they repay the cost of the Development Material.