



44 Avenue Road
Mosman NSW
Australia 2088

T : 61 2 8968 7100
F : 61 2 9969 3520
W : freetv.com.au

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Free TV Still Australia's Drama Powerhouse

Free TV today welcomed Screen Australia figures that confirm commercial free-to-air broadcasters make more hours and invest more dollars in Australian drama than anyone else.

Free TV CEO, Bridget Fair said "We are extremely proud of our ongoing commitment to Australian drama.

"The latest Screen Australia Drama Report once again highlights that our members are the major source of funding for Australian drama and have produced the lion's share of total hours. We contributed more than any other sector with \$84 million across 17 titles.

"15 of the top 20 most watched Australian dramas in 2017/18 were on Free TV.¹

Commercial free-to-air television is by far the largest contributor to domestic content production in Australia, responsible for \$6 out of every \$10 spent on domestic content and supporting 15,000 jobs in broadcasting and the independent production sector.

"We invest over \$1.6 billion annually in Australian content. Over 80 per cent of total program expenditure by commercial broadcasters is spent on Australian content.

"This is reflected in Free TV's diverse and exciting Australian drama slate – which going into 2019 will include shows such as *Between Two Worlds*, *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*, *Bad Mothers*, *SeaChange*, *How to Stay Married* and *Mr. Black*," Ms Fair said.

-ENDS-

Media contact: Bridget Fair 0417 260 478

¹ Source: OzTAM and RegionalTAM, 5 cap cities, 6 aggregated regional markets, 01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018, total people, based on drama coded programs, metro and regional audiences are added to form a combined average audience estimates and ranking, based on program title matches, consolidated data.