

## Dr Ruth Harley commences as Screen Australia CEO

**Monday 17 November 2008:** Dr Ruth Harley commenced work today as Screen Australia's first Chief Executive Officer.

Dr Harley brings more than 20 years' experience in the film and television industries to the role. Most recently she was CEO of the New Zealand Film Commission where she has overseen the strengthening of support for New Zealand filmmaking. Prior to this, Dr Harley held other important roles in the sector including Executive Director of New Zealand on Air, Commissioning Editor at Television New Zealand Ltd (TVNZ) and National Media Director of Saatchi and Saatchi in New Zealand.

"I am really excited about the future for the Australian screen industry and the fantastic opportunities that exist to expand its potential," Dr Harley said. "I am looking forward to the challenges ahead in this time of change and am eager to work with Australia's film and television practitioners to grow a more sustainable Australian screen production industry."

Screen Australia staff and Board members gathered with representatives of the New Zealand Film Commission in Sydney this morning to welcome Dr Harley.

Screen Australia commenced operations on 1 July 2008 and will deliver the programs of its three predecessor organisations – the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia – until the end of the year.

Following industry consultation and final decision by the Screen Australia Board, the 2009 guidelines for agency's development, production support and Indigenous programs will be released in early December 2008.