

BUS STOP FILMS

INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING



ANNUAL REPORT 2024





CHAIR'S REPORT

As I reflect on the achievements of Bus Stop Films in 2024, I am once again filled with pride at the incredible impact our organisation continues to make.

In a world that still presents barriers for people with disabilities, Bus Stop Films has remained steadfast in its mission to unite through inclusion, kindness, and creativity.

The reach and capacity of our Accessible Filmmaking Program has continued its remarkable growth.

Our geographical footprint also widened with the addition of three new locations – Gold Coast, Carlton, and Coffs Harbour – bringing our total to 13 locations across Australia.

We're also proud to be preparing for further expansion to Hobart, Cairns, and Darwin in 2025.

Throughout the year, we celebrated numerous milestones including our CEO Tracey Corbin-Matchett speaking at the United Nations, our LA delegation to the Oscars, the innovative Screen Me cervical cancer project, and the Peaches and Cream film collaboration with Northcott.

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we farewell Their Excellencies, David Hurley AC CVO DSC and Mrs Linda Hurley as our patrons, I want to thank them for their unwavering support for our organisation and our community.

They remain a key part of our history and heart. During the year we welcomed a new Governor-General, Sam Mostyn AC as our new patron, demonstrating the continued high-level support for our mission.

Bus Stop Employment (BSE) continues to boom with exciting partnerships like Netflix, Neighbours, and Afford and on projects such as The Assembly and Headliners, while our presence at the Down Syndrome World Congress further expanded our industry influence.

Our first of its kind Driving Change summit, brought the film, TV and advertising sectors together for the first time to explore what it truly means to be inclusive on both sides of the camera.

The event garnered much industry support from leaders and advocates and showcases the leadership of our organisation in this space.

As Chair, I lead a committed board who generously give their time and expertise to guide the governance and strategic direction of this impactful organisation. Together with our dedicated staff led by Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM, we continue to create meaningful change in the screen industry and in the lives of people with disabilities.

As we look to 2025, we remain committed to expanding our programs, fostering innovation, and advocating for greater inclusion in the screen industry. I sincerely thank all our supporters, partners, and the entire Bus Stop Films community for their continued dedication to our vision.



PETER TONAGH
CHAIR | BUS STOP FILMS



CEO'S MESSAGE

What a remarkable journey 2024 has been for Bus Stop Films! My heart brims with gratitude as I look back at all we've accomplished together as a community.

This year marked significant growth with 190 participants across our programs, up from 170 last year, and the opening of three new program locations in Gold Coast, Carlton, and Coffs Harbour. Each new location means welcoming more wonderful participants and their families into our Bus Stop community.

Among our highlights this year was the opportunity to speak at the United Nations in New York, advocating for greater disability inclusion in the media globally.

Our delegation to the Oscars in Los Angeles was another pinnacle moment, showcasing the international recognition of our work in inclusive filmmaking. What memories and impact we made!

It was an honour to be appointed as Executive Producers of the Pathways program with Screen NSW as we continued to create professional development opportunities for industry to grow capacity to support disabled creatives.

Our employment arm, Bus Stop Employment, has flourished with partnerships with Netflix, Fremantle and many more.

CEO'S MESSAGE

It was a true honour to share my story with the dynamic presenter Tony Armstrong on Tony Armstrong's Extraordinary Things, with the production unlocking an employment opportunity for a BSE member Joel, on the production. Meeting Bob's widow Blanche d'Alpuget was a momentous opportunity for me.

The inaugural Driving Change: Disability Employment Summit was a monumental event, moving the needle on accessible events in the screen industry. I'm so proud of our team for the dedication and creativity they demonstrated to build out a groundbreaking fully accessible event, which brought the sector together to elevate and celebrate the employment of people with disabilities across film, TV and advertising sectors for the very first time.

None of this would be possible without our incredible team, now expanded with the additions of Judith Frost, Laura Imbruglia and Olivia Tartaglia. While we said farewell to Monica Power after 14 years, her contributions remain part of our foundation.

Our team's dedication, alongside our ever supportive board, advisory board, ambassadors, and partners, forms the beating heart of Bus Stop Films. With much unwavering support from our brilliant Chair Peter Tonagh (Including driving us safely around LA!!), our board and my 2IC, Dianna La Grassa, we achieved lots and grew our reach and impact.

It was an honour to receive the AWFF Groundbreaker Award at the Australian Women's Film Festival, a festival led by amazing women celebrating women in film, and I am humbled and grateful to have the award bestowed on me.

The joy of making a difference and helping to create a more fair and just world continues to be what drives me, and all of us at Bus Stop Films. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being part of this journey.



TRACEY CORBIN-MATCHETT OAM
CEO | BUS STOP FILMS



COO'S REPORT

The Bus continues its incredible journey around the sun, and 2024 has been a year of tremendous growth and impact.

Under the visionary leadership of Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM, we've witnessed milestone after milestone being achieved, further cementing our role as change-makers in the screen industry.

Our expansion to Gold Coast, Carlton, and Coffs Harbour has brought the magic of inclusive filmmaking to new communities while we prepare for even broader reach in 2025 with Hobart, Cairns, and Darwin on the horizon.

This growth demonstrates not just our commitment to geographical expansion but to ensuring the transformative experience of Bus Stop Films reaches as many people as possible.

In 2024, our creative output was exceptional with 21 classes producing films, including the innovative PLACES program which pushed boundaries with boat scenes, underwater filming, and mermaids.

COO'S REPORT

The diversity of stories told through these productions continues to be the heartbeat of what makes Bus Stop Films unique – authentic voices that are too often unheard in mainstream media.

The Screen Me cervical cancer project and our collaboration with Northcott on Peaches and Cream and Love Rights exemplify how we're using filmmaking not just as an art form but as a powerful tool for health education and social change.

From a personal perspective, I've been thrilled to see the continued growth of Bus Stop Employment, with partnerships with Netflix, Neighbours and Afford, creating meaningful professional opportunities for people with disabilities.

After years of advocacy, it's heartwarming to see the industry not just acknowledging the importance of inclusion but actively embracing it.

The momentum for authentic inclusion continues to build, and as we head into 2025, there's no stopping the Bus from continuing to forge new pathways, reshape the stories we see on our screens, and change hearts and minds within the industry.

I couldn't be more honored to be part of this next chapter of growth and to see our wonderful community continuing to achieve, flourish, and be embraced by the screen industry.

Here's to 2025 – beep beep!



DIANNA LA GRASSA
COO | BUS STOP FILMS

BSF BOARD 2024

Our board is a collection of advocates, talented creatives, business minds and hearts who keep the Bus on track with good governance, strategic direction and impact. We are extremely grateful for their time, expertise and kindness.

BSF BOARD 2024:



• **PETER TONAGH**
BOARD CHAIR

• **GENEVIEVE CLAY-SMITH**
BOARD MEMBER

• **JOANNA AGIUS OAM**
BOARD MEMBER

• **BRIAN MAGUIRE**
TREASURER

• **JENNIFER COLLINS**
BOARD MEMBER

• **KATIE PEARCE**
BOARD OBSERVER

• **EMILY DASH**
BOARD MEMBER

• **FIONA STUART**
BOARD MEMBER

• **KATE AITKEN**
BOARD MEMBER

• **TRENT BLACKETT**
BOARD MEMBER

We're delighted to have Katie Pearce join us as a Board Observer through the Board Observership Program in 2024.

The Board was supported by the dedication and fantastic skills of Kalistene Vihas together with BSF staff Michelle Griffith and Judith Frost.

OUR PATRONS

FAREWELLING THEIR EXCELLENCIES

In 2024, we bid a fond farewell to His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Her Excellency Mrs. Linda Hurley, who have been tremendous supporters of Bus Stop Films during their tenure in office both as Governor of NSW and then as Governor General.

It was lovely that our Participant Ambassadors got to interview Their Excellencies about their term in office as part of their wrapping up of their roles. We wish them a relaxing retirement from official duties and hope to see them remain as part of the BSF community.



OUR PATRONS

INTRODUCING HER EXCELLENCY

We are honored to welcome our new patron, incoming Governor General, Sam Mostyn AC extending our tradition of vice-regal support for our work of inclusion and kindness.

Sam's support of the screen industry and of inclusion has been a lifelong commitment. Her patronage continues to amplify our message to the Australian people and beyond.

We look forward to building a wonderful relationship with GG Sam and continuing to work with our patrons to elevate the work of our community and show Australia the profound impact of inclusive filmmaking on the lives of people with disabilities.



OUR AMBASSADOR

Celebrity chef Miguel Maestre has continued his enthusiastic support, coming on board as our Ambassador.

After starring in our 2023 film *Mis en Place*, we knew Miguel was a person with a strong understanding of our community and the value of our work.

Miguel's infectious energy and genuine commitment to inclusion have made him an invaluable advocate for our mission.

This year, Miguel brought so much energy and passion to his role.

His natural affinity with our participants and his ability to communicate our message to wider audiences has helped elevate awareness of Bus Stop Films and the importance of inclusive filmmaking.

We're grateful to Miguel for jumping on board the Bus and helping to drive our message of inclusion forward.



BSF ADVISORY BOARD

Bus Stop Films continues to benefit from the wealth of advice and support from our Advisory Board.

They provide a great sounding board for ideas and strategy to connect our projects and programs into the disability and screen industry.

The Advisory board consists of Paralympian, aerial artist and disability advocate Paul Nunnari together with screen and media executive Courtney Gibson and our CEO Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM.

Their respected insight, information and ideas help shape how we do what we do, ensuring our work remains relevant, impactful, and aligned with best practices across the disability and screen sectors.



PARTICIPANT AMBASSADORS

Our participant ambassadors have continued their outstanding work as advocates for their community in 2024.

These passionate individuals represent the heart of what Bus Stop Films is all about – authentic voices creating change through personal stories and leadership.

Existing ambassadors Breanna Swan (Brisbane), Daniel Hodgson (Canberra), Gerard O'Dwyer, Nathan Basha, Joni Campbell, Audrey O'Connor, Ronan Soussa (Sydney), Liam Vosu (Parramatta), Brandon Fairley and Heather Ridge (Wollongong), and Mikhael Crossfield and Darby Thompson (Adelaide) were joined by new ambassadors from our expanding locations. Caleb Lyons (Perth) Georgia Davies (Blue Mountains) Mia Talbott (Launceston) and Rhys Ballis and Mimi Varasdi (Melbourne).

Throughout the year, our ambassadors represented Bus Stop Films at industry events, public speaking engagements, and media opportunities and numerous local advocacy initiatives.

The BSF team continued to work with the ambassadors to support them in developing their personal brands and public speaking skills, ensuring they have the confidence and tools to share their stories effectively.



ALL ABOARD THE BUS

The team that supports our programs and processes continues to be an amazing group of people who combine professional excellence with genuine kindness, the only way to work at Bus Stop Films.

As we've expanded our programs and scope, new team members have brought fresh expertise and skills to the organisation.

This year, we said farewell to Monica Power, whose contributions to our organisation have been invaluable, with Monica moving on after 14 years to pursue new opportunities. Her dedication to our participants and their support will be remembered with gratitude.

Our existing team members continue their exceptional work and dedication to our community. We are forever grateful to all staff members across the country.



ALL ABOARD THE BUS

Our team of workshop facilitators continues to provide quality learning experiences for our participants, sharing their passion for filmmaking both in the classroom and on set.

Their expertise and dedication help our participants develop skills while creating meaningful content.

Our disability support workers remain the backbone of our inclusive learning environment, providing guidance and assistance to participants in the classroom and on set.

In 2024, our team of disability support workers grew to meet the needs of our expanding participants base, ensuring every participant has the support needed to fully engage with the filmmaking process.

We're incredibly grateful to all our workshop leaders and support workers for their commitment to our participants' growth and wellbeing, and for helping to make Bus Stop Films a truly inclusive and supportive learning environment.



EDUCATE

ACCESSIBLE FILMMAKING PROGRAM

GROWING OUR REACH AND COMMUNITY

In 2024, we expanded our reach with three new locations, at the Gold Coast in partnership with Griffith Film School, Carlton in partnership with Shopfront Arts Co-Op, and Coffs Harbour in partnership with TAFE NSW.

The incredible commitment of Laura Daley and the Coffs Coast Autism community, who hosted a ball to raise funds to bring the Bus to Coffs, deserves special recognition. That level of community support continues to inspire us.

Our Accessible Filmmaking Program reached 190 participants across 13 locations: Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Parramatta, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Blue Mountains, Perth, Launceston, Gold Coast, Carlton, and Coffs Harbour. Each location represents a community of participants, families, and supporters dedicated to inclusive filmmaking. Thank you to our program partners AFTRS, University of Western Sydney, University of Wollongong, Shopfront Arts Co-op, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Film Plus, Screen Canberra, RMIT University, TasTAFE, University of South Australia, Edith Cowan University, Griffith Film School and Tafe NSW. We couldn't do what we do with your support.



EDUCATE

ACCESSIBLE FILMMAKING PROGRAM

GROWING OUR REACH AND COMMUNITY

Our program partners provide so much more than classroom space, they offer a gateway to a community of learning, independence and social connectedness.

Throughout the year, we also prepared for further expansion in 2025, with plans to launch in Hobart, Cairns, and Darwin, further extending our national footprint.

PLACES, a new program supporting participants who have attended our programs over many years or have undertaken previous courses, was co-designed by project leader Dr Veronica Wayne, together with team member Mary Morrison, industry professionals and disabled filmmakers.



EDUCATE

ACCESSIBLE FILMMAKING PROGRAM

GROWING OUR REACH AND COMMUNITY

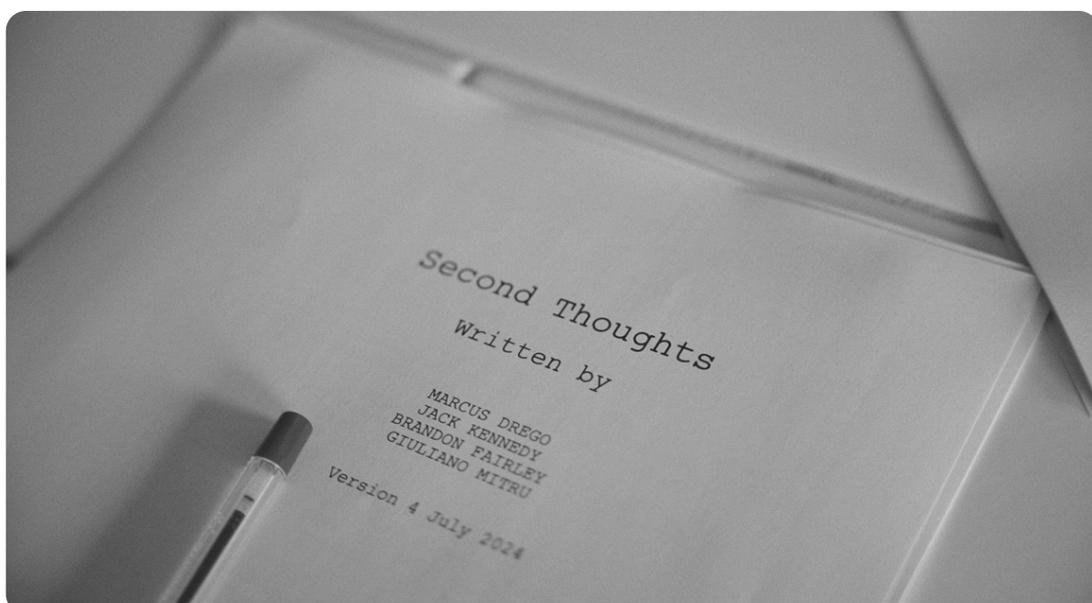
PLACES is Peer led filmmaking, Leadership, Advocacy opportunities, Creativity and artistic outlets, Employment pathways, Social and community connections.

The PLACES pilot was delivered in Sydney with three focus streams of directing, screenwriting and cinematography.

The project was funded by the federal government with a Social and Community Participation (SCP) grant.

Our participants remain the heart and soul of our community. In 2024, they participated in numerous exciting experiences, including our LA delegation to the Oscars, excursions, industry visits, and masterclasses.

We're incredibly proud of all they've achieved and the growth they've demonstrated throughout the year.



CREATE

CREATIVITY... WE HAVE IT BY THE BUS LOAD

2024 was a year of creative flourishing with 21 classes producing films, including our innovative PLACES program.

The films produced through the program showcased the boundless imagination and talent of our participants while pushing the boundaries of what inclusive filmmaking can achieve.

We are grateful to over 500 people who worked together to bring the participants ideas to life. It truly takes a village to keep the bus on the road.

The Peaches and Cream film collaboration with Northcott demonstrated the power of partnership in creating meaningful content that reflects diverse experiences.



CREATE

CREATIVITY... WE HAVE IT BY THE BUS LOAD

Each film project not only developed our participants' skills but also contributed to changing perceptions of disability in the media.

Screen Me, starring our very own Rae Pastzuak, was an important project made in partnership with the Daffodil Centre and The Centre for Disability Studies at Sydney University.

The project shone a light on cervical cancer screening for people with disability, with the successful campaign putting inclusive filmmaking firmly in the spotlight.

The return of our Accessible Acting Program in partnership with Actors Centre Australia provided opportunities for participants to develop performance skills in an inclusive environment.



ADVOCATE

RESOURCING THE INDUSTRY AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Our advocacy work reached new heights in 2024, with our CEO Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM speaking at the United Nations in NYC at the Global Summit of the Unstereotype Alliance. The invitation recognised Bus Stop Films as a global leader in inclusive screen production.

The UN, as an international platform allowed us to share our methodology and impact with a worldwide audience, furthering our mission of industry transformation.

Our amazing Golden Bus awards recognised our community and celebrated their success and impact.

Our LA delegation to the Oscars represented another significant milestone, demonstrating the growing recognition of inclusive filmmaking at the highest levels of the industry.



ADVOCATE

RESOURCING THE INDUSTRY AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

With a team of 10 people representing our participants, staff, parents and leaders at a series of meetings in LA with key companies and stakeholders including Netflix, Disney, Universal NBC and Hello Sunshine.

Each meeting unlocking opportunities and highlighting our work in Hollywood. We are grateful for QANTAS for their support in getting the bus to LA.

Throughout the year, our staff, ambassadors, and participants spoke at numerous events including the Down Syndrome World Congress in Brisbane, sharing our message of inclusion and demonstrating the impact of our work.

Through these advocacy efforts, we continue to change minds and practices within the industry, moving closer to our vision of a fully inclusive screen sector.



ADVOCATE

RESOURCING THE INDUSTRY AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

DRIVING CHANGE: DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT

The inaugural Driving Change: Disability Employment Summit brought together industry leaders to discuss practical steps toward greater inclusion.

The sold out event held in person at Bondi Pavilion, and online, was officially opened by the Governor General Sam Mostyn AC, and presented over 55 speakers, from across government, broadcasting, advertising and film production sectors together with deaf, disabled and neurodivergent creatives from across Australia and the USA.

The event included over 35+ employment opportunities for people with disabilities including for our Bus Stop Employment members, such as working with Cass Brothers production team.

The Summit included a First Nations panel presented by First People's Disability Network, an all deaf panel and exportation of sports media and disability including paralympian Ellie Cole and an exploration of the role of governments hosted by Leigh Sales AM and a speech by Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services.



ADVOCATE

RESOURCING THE INDUSTRY AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

DRIVING CHANGE: DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT

Other highlights were an exclusive screening of the feature film *Audrey*, including Q and A with the film's star the amazing Hannah Diviney and keynote address on disability in Hollywood, by acclaimed advocate Keely Cat-Well, co-founder and CEO of Making Space Media.

It was truly a groundbreaking experience event which has forever changed the landscape for accessible events in the industry, with inclusions such as a dedicated quiet room styled by Ikea.

The event was supported by Netflix, Screen Australia, ABC, Screen NSW, Department of Social Services, US Embassy in Australia, Ikea, Waverley Council, North Bondi Surf Club, QT Hotels, Australian Traffic Network, Casting Guild of Australia, The Depot and the Unstereotype Alliance.



SUMMIT '24 GALLERY



FACILITATE

BUS STOP EMPLOYMENT



Bus Stop Employment (BSE) experienced significant growth in 2024, building on the foundations laid in previous years. The demand for our employment services continued to increase, reflecting the industry's growing commitment to inclusive practices.

Key productions we BSE were part of included:

- Partnerships with Netflix for Heartbreak High
- The Assembly (Helium) with ABC
- Headliners (Endemol Shine and ABC)
- Tony Armstrong's Extraordinary Things (Fremantle and ABC)
- Collaboration with Neighbours (Fremantle)
- Partnership with disability organisation Afford
- Paralympic Broadcast (Nine)
- This is Going to Be Big (Truce Films/Fremantle)
- Shift 20 campaign with the Dylan Alcott Foundation.
- TVC's with some big name brands - ANZ, Google, Continental, Paralympics, Hahn, Telstra, Medicare, Woolworths Group and Amazon.



FACILITATE

BUS STOP EMPLOYMENT



With over 75 members in 2024, undertaking over 300 full days and approximately 51 half days of employment opportunities in 2024.

These opportunities not only saw BSE members collectively earn above \$100,000 in direct income, which is more than just money in the pockets of people with disability.

Through these jobs, the BSE team supported our members to achieve their employment goals and much personal and professional success.

This year marked a significant move forward in our journey toward inclusive employment, with our internship program thriving like never before.



FACILITATE

BUS STOP EMPLOYMENT



We were proud to support two internships through an exciting partnership with Fremantle's Heartbreak High (Netflix).

One intern was even extended beyond their original engagement, a testament to the talent and value our members bring to the screen industry.

They have also fostered ongoing learning opportunities, resulting in organic and meaningful relationships that continue to grow.

Another standout moment was the incredible contribution of six of our members behind the scenes of the Paralympic broadcast, a true celebration of representation beyond the screen.

Working as loggers and edit assistants across all hours of the day and night, they played an essential role in a broadcast they felt deeply connected to.

For everyone involved, it wasn't just work, it was purpose-driven, empowering, and unforgettable.



FACILITATE

BUS STOP EMPLOYMENT



Opportunities like these don't just offer industry experience, they create lasting impact.

Our employment team worked tirelessly to match our members with suitable opportunities, providing on-set support and mentoring to ensure successful placements.

The growth in employment opportunities reflects changing attitudes in the industry and the effectiveness of our advocacy work.

We continued to receive valuable support from Westpac Foundation, The Snow Foundation, and other philanthropic partners, enabling us to expand our employment services and support more people with disabilities into meaningful screen industry roles.

As we look to 2025, we remain committed to growing our employment program, creating more pathways for people with disabilities in the screen industry, and supporting productions to implement truly inclusive practices.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2024 has been another year of strong financial management and sustainable growth for Bus Stop Films.

Our diverse revenue streams, including program fees, employment services, philanthropic grants, corporate partnerships, and government support, have enabled us to expand our programs while maintaining financial stability.

Our revenue for 2023/24 was \$3.978m which was a 102% increase on previous year and ending the year with a profit of \$135k, which will be reinvested to our resources to help us achieve our mission.

Key partnerships with Snow Foundation, Woolworths Group, Netflix, Screen NSW, and Screen Queensland provided valuable support for our showcase events and program delivery.

The continued backing of our long-term supporters, including Panavision, Westpac Foundation, Ashurst, Sherry Hogan Foundation, Team Lopez, James N. Kirby Foundation and many others, have been instrumental in our ability to expand our reach and impact.

The NDIS continues to support many of our participants to access our programs, ensuring we can provide high-quality, accessible programs to participants across Australia.

Our commitment to sound financial management, under the guidance of our Treasurer Brian Maguire and CFO Donal Brady, ensures that we maximize the impact of every dollar while planning sustainably for future growth.

We extend our thanks to Gregory Richards and the team at Page, Harrison & Co for their ongoing support with audit requirements.

A full copy of our financial report is available on the ACNC website.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025!

As we look toward 2025, Bus Stop Films is poised for continued growth and impact. With plans to expand to Hobart, Cairns, and Darwin, our geographical footprint will continue to grow, bringing inclusive filmmaking to more communities across Australia, including our first feature film *Boss Cat*.

We're excited about developing new programs, deepening our industry partnerships, and continuing to advocate for meaningful inclusion in the screen sector. Our employment services will expand further, creating more pathways for people with disabilities into professional roles.

Through creativity, education, and advocacy, we'll continue our mission to change lives and minds through film, moving closer to our vision of a screen industry that reflects and celebrates the full diversity of our society.

We thank all our supporters, partners, participants, families, staff, and the wider Bus Stop Films community for their continued dedication to our vision. Together, we're driving change and creating a more inclusive future for everyone.

BUS STOP FILMS

LET'S MAKE
MAGIC TOGETHER!

Your support directly helps our mission to empower people with disabilities through film education, creative expression, and industry access.

Because of you, we can continue breaking down barriers and building a more inclusive and representative screen industry.



DONATE TODAY!

Every cent donated helps us to change lives and minds through #inclusivefilmmaking.

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