

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation

# Community benefit funds

Annual allocations report 2014–15



Queensland  
Government

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## Forward

On 20 May 2014, a Bill was passed to amalgamate four Community Benefit Funds into one state-wide funding program that encompasses the whole of Queensland. During 2014-15 the amalgamation has resulted in significant streamlining of grants provided to not-for-profit organisations in Queensland.

The four funds prior to amalgamation were the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund, Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund and the Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund. Those four funds were amalgamated into the new Gambling Community Benefit Fund which held its first meeting in August 2014.

## The Community Benefit Funds Unit

The Community Benefit Funds Unit sits within the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The unit consists of 20 officers including a management team and grants officers. The team provides an efficient support service to the not-for-profit community who apply for grants, the Committees who make recommendations about payment of grant applications to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills who approves grant payments.

During 2014-15 the unit provided administrative and executive support to the Gambling Community Benefit Committee and to the former Committees during their last meetings. The unit oversaw the transition to the new Gambling Community Benefit Fund, providing governance training to all members of the new Gambling Community Benefit Committee and worked with the members to develop an Allocations Guide to prioritise funding applications.

The amalgamation of the former funds provided the unit with an opportunity to streamline many of its procedures and to provide a more efficient service to its stakeholders.

In 2014-15 the unit received 5,649 grant applications. Each application was processed by the unit and assessed for eligibility against specific Funding Guidelines. The unit prepared eligibility reports to the Committee ensuring each application is prioritised according to its Allocation Guide so applications are considered appropriately and efficiently by the Committee.

A professional secretariat support service is provided by the unit to the Gambling Community Benefit Committee, ensuring meetings are run efficiently and reports about funding applications are prepared to assist the Committee make appropriate funding decisions.

The unit recorded all funding recommendations made by the Committee during the year and presented applications determined as most meritorious by the Committee to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills for approval. The unit then processed those approved grants, making 2,461 grant payments to successful applicants.

Grants recipients must acquit their grants within twelve months of receiving the grant and can apply for extensions. The unit assesses acquittal documents, completes agreements and grants extensions where appropriate.

The full cost of administering the unit in 2014-15 was \$1,853,000. A survey conducted of fund applicants in July 2015 showed the unit provided 99% positive, satisfactory or neutral support to applicants who needed to contact the unit for support.

## Gambling Community Benefit Fund

Established in 1994 under the *Gaming Machine Act 1991* the Gambling Community Benefit Fund aims to enhance the capacity of community organisations to provide services and activities for Queenslanders. The fund demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to returning revenue from gambling to the community.

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund is the state's largest one-off grants program offering grants in four funding rounds per year. Eligible not-for-profit groups can apply to the fund for grants of up to \$35,000 (including GST).

Sourced from gambling taxes, the fund has helped various community groups cover the costs associated with development activities, minor capital works and the purchase of equipment and motor vehicles.

In 2014–15, more than \$51.9 million was distributed to over 2,300 applications. Since its inception, the fund has distributed in excess of \$628 million to more than 45,500 applicants based on recommendations made to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills by the Gambling Community Benefit Committee.

### ***Benefit of the grant program***

In July 2015 the unit conducted a survey of organisations who had applied for a grant during the previous two years. Applicants were asked a number of questions about the application process and their experience when contacting the unit.

Applicants were asked about whether the grant assisted the organisation in achieving its objectives and of those who responded, over 83% agreed the grant did assist the organisation achieve its objectives. Almost 85% also responded that the grant itself provided a benefit to the organisation in the way it anticipated in the application. The main reason applicants said the grant did not benefit the organisation was because they did not receive the grant, or the grant was pending. This response shows the grants program is providing benefit to the organisations it intends to assist.

### ***Committee remuneration and meeting costs***

The amount of \$30,329 in sitting fees was paid to Committee members in 2014–15. Meeting costs totalled \$38,236 including air fares, accommodation, meals and other travel costs.

### ***Meeting attendance***

Four committee meetings were held in 2014–15.

<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Meetings attended in 2014-15</b>	<b>Total years of service on the GCBF and pre-amalgamated Committees</b>
Ashley Robinson (current Chair)	4	2
Julie Strudwick (former Chair)	4	8
Andrew Costello	3	4
Michael Sarquis*	4	5
Narelle Galloway	4	2
Monica James	4	8
Sophie McIntosh	4	2
Deidre Ford	3	2
Terrence Moore	3	2
Robert Gordon	3	5
Tony Condon	3	1

Peter Lindsay	3	2
David Conry	1	1

\* Michael Sarquis is departmental representative and sat on the GCBF, JCCBF and RHCCBF during 2014-15, representing one year of service.

## Grant distributions 2013–14

### Grants by funding round

Funding round	Amount approved (\$)	Applications approved
Round 81 (closed 31 May 2014)	10,919,322	484
Round 82 (closed 31 August 2014)	13,989,736	640
Round 83 (closed 30 November 2015)	13,512,925	611
Round 84 (closed 28 February 2015)	13,539,562	612
Total	51,961,547	2,347

### Geographical distribution of grants for rounds 81, 82, 83 and 84<sup>1</sup>

Local Government Area	Amount distributed (\$)
Aurukun	35,091
Balonne	252,998
Banana	664,096
Barcaldine	247,524
Barcoo	57,330
Blackall Tambo	148,716
Boulia	4,091
Brisbane	10,006,683
Bundaberg	1,244,516
Burdekin	636,510
Burke	27,308
Cairns	2,129,128
Carpentaria	67,036
Cassowary Coast	791,901
Central Highlands	556,031
Charters Towers	510,048
Cherbourg	31,600
Cloncurry	131,515
Cook	211,408
Croydon	18,182
Diamantina	33,305
Doomadgee	48,636
Etheridge	56,957
Flinders	167,370

<sup>1</sup> Amounts distributed may vary from quarterly approvals due to grants management system reporting.

<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b>Amount distributed (\$)</b>
Fraser Coast	1,199,405
Gladstone	646,135
Gold Coast	3,474,512
Goondiwindi	644,233
Gympie	902,955
Hinchinbrook	475,492
Ipswich	1,750,380
Isaac	399,148
Livingstone Shire	24,750
Lockyer Valley	949,769
Logan	2,211,189
Longreach	210,364
Mackay	1,356,640
Maranoa	317,475
Moreton Bay	3,556,979
Mount Isa	325,415
Murweh	322,537
Napranum	31,818
Noosa	31,818
North Burnett	464,073
Paroo	41,217
Redland	1,092,530
Richmond	132,739
Rockhampton	1,306,986
Scenic Rim	1,015,633
Somerset	372,543
South Burnett	1,052,794
Southern Downs	706,740
Sunshine Coast	3,520,910
Tablelands	859,697
Toowoomba	1,746,363
Torres	17,273
Townsville	1,585,169
Weipa	48,500
Western Downs	416,833
Whitsunday	541,311
Winton	27,273
Yarrabah	92,273

## Grants by expense type for rounds 81, 82, 83 and 84<sup>2</sup>

Expense type	Amount distributed (\$)
Advertising	81,386
Audio Visual Equipment	913,730
Boat	222,684
Books	55,926
Building Approvals	114,472
Catering Equipment	1,271,737
Commercial Furniture	450,345
Craft and Hobby equipment	171,490
External Building upgrades	10,059,397
Miscellaneous items - GST Exempt	110,492
Miscellaneous items - GST Inclusive	2,620,160
Hire Costs	154,567
Hot water system	5,589
Internal building Upgrades	8,583,147
IT Equipment	1,102,277
Landscaping	2,127,839
Medical (GST Exempt Items)	779,218
Medical (GST Inclusive Items)	120,955
Motor Vehicle	2,261,180
Mowers	974,897
Musical Equipment	743,392
Office Equipment	277,700
Office Furniture	258,570
Outdoor Furniture	318,745
Pilot Project	95,980
Playgrounds	3,328,632
Printing and Publishing	75,708
Safety Equipment	1,224,199
Shade Structures	2,989,217
Sheds	3,283,212
Solar Products	167,569
Sports Equipment	4,005,188
Tools	522,618
Toys	252,730
Tractors	805,378
Trailers	576,567
Volunteer Training	172,655
Whitegoods	438,891
Workshops/Conferences	231,417

<sup>2</sup> Expense types are self-selected by applicants

## Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

The Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund was established in 1987 under the *Casino Control Act 1982*. The fund is sourced from gambling taxes to assist community organisations located in the fund's jurisdiction which extends from the Queensland/New South Wales border to the northern boundaries of Boulia, Winton, Barcaldine and Isaac.

On the 20 May 2014 a Bill was passed to amalgamate the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund into the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The final funding round closed 31 May 2015 and was paid in the 2014-15 financial year. In 2014–15, more than \$1.5 million was distributed to 63 applicants. Since its inception the fund has distributed in excess of \$108.5 million to more than 4,300 applications.

### **Board remuneration and meeting costs**

The amount of \$423 in sitting fees was paid to board members in 2014–15. Meeting costs totalled \$266 including catering and travel costs.

### **Meeting attendance**

The final meeting was held in August 2014.

Committee member	Attended
Ms Sarina Russo (Chairperson)	1
Mr Robert Gordon	1
Mr Michael Sarquis	1
Mr Terrence Moore	1
Mr Bill Malone	0
Mr Stephen Leeds	1
Mr Gary Thorpe	1

### **Grant distributions 2014–15**

#### **Grants by funding round**

Funding round	Amount approved (\$)	Applications approved
Round 86 (closed 31 May 2014)	1,506,761	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,506,761</b>	<b>63</b>

#### **Geographical distribution of grants for round 86<sup>3</sup>**

Local Government Area	Amount distributed (\$)
Balonne	32,864
Banana	35,000
Blackall Tambo	16,000
Brisbane	217,053
Bundaberg	96,619
Fraser Coast	93,207
Gold Coast	93,156
Goondiwindi	20,000
Gympie	85,139
Lockyer Valley	4,075

<sup>3</sup> Amounts distributed may vary from quarterly approvals



<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b>Amount distributed (\$)</b>
Logan	81,908
Moreton Bay	20,000
Murweh	34,000
North Burnett	8,000
Redlands	142,236
Rockhampton	180,083
Scenic Rim	44,968
South Burnett	34,100
Sunshine Coast	109,057
Toowoomba	123,545
Western Downs	35,750

#### **Grants by expense type for round 86<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Expense type</b>	<b>Amount distributed (\$)</b>
Audio Visual Equipment	5,817
Catering Equipment	1,792
Commercial Furniture	2,636
External Building upgrades	364,431
Miscellaneous items - GST Inclusive	439,215
Internal building Upgrades	201,117
IT Equipment	10,922
Landscaping	21,411
Medical (GST Exempt Items)	54,500
Motor Vehicle	98,604
Mowers	7,880
Musical Equipment	1,756
Office Equipment	50,054
Office Furniture	3,672
Outdoor Furniture	1,091
Safety Equipment	26,286
Shade Structures	33,995
Sheds	66,257
Sports Equipment	32,670
Tools	15,244
Toys	455
Whitegoods	66,955

<sup>4</sup> Expense types are self-selected by applicants

## Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund

The Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund was established in 1988 under the *Casino Control Act 1982*. The fund is sourced from gambling taxes to assist community organisations located in the fund's jurisdiction that covers the areas of Burdekin, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Mackay, McKinlay, Mount Isa, Richmond, Townsville and Whitsunday.

On the 20 May 2014 a Bill was passed to amalgamate the Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund into the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The final funding round closed 31 May 2015 and was paid in the 2014-15 financial year. In 2014-15 more than \$199,000 was distributed to 51 applicants. Since its inception the fund has distributed in excess of \$6.9 million to more than 1,900 applications.

### **Board remuneration and meeting costs**

The amount of \$282 in sitting fees was paid to board members in 2014-15. Meeting costs totalled \$2,142 including flights and catering.

### **Meeting attendance**

One meeting was held in 2014-15.

Committee member	Attended
Mr Les Tyrell OAM (Chairperson)	1
Mr Craig Turner	1
Ms Anna Gianoulis	0
Ms Wendy Bailey	1
Mr Peter Lindsay	1
Mr Tony Parsons	1
Mr Warren Hegarty	0

## **Grant distributions 2014-15**

### **Grants by funding round**

Funding round	Amount approved (\$)	Applications approved
Round 53 (closed 31 May 2014)	199,571	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,571</b>	<b>51</b>

### **Geographical distribution of grants for round 53<sup>5</sup>**

Local Government Area	Amount distributed (\$)
Brisbane	10,804
Burdekin	20,286
Charters Towers	3,700
Hinchinbrook	22,755
Mackay	46,706
Townsville	63,343
Whitsunday	31,978

<sup>5</sup> Amounts distributed may vary from quarterly approvals

**Grants by expense type for round 53<sup>6</sup>**

<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Amount distributed (\$)</b>
Audio Visual Equipment	9,433
Books	1,455
Catering Equipment	7,761
External Building upgrades	21,241
Miscellaneous - GST Inclusive	5,682
Internal building Upgrades	16,035
IT Equipment	29,699
Medical (GST Exempt Items)	1,573
Mowers	10,800
Musical Equipment	3,798
Office Equipment	9,117
Outdoor Furniture	5,176
Safety Equipment	21,704
Sheds	700
Sports Equipment	33,703
Tools	8,645
Toys	1,364
Trailers	9,545
Volunteer Training	2,140

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<sup>6</sup> Expense types are self-selected by applicants

## **Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund**

The Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund was established in 1996 under the *Casino Control Act 1982*. The fund was sourced from gambling taxes to assist community organisations located in the fund's jurisdiction extending from the north of Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon, Etheridge, Tablelands and Cassowary Coast to far North Queensland including the Torres Strait and Thursday Islands.

On the 20 May 2014 a Bill was passed to amalgamate the Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund into the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The final round closed 28 February 2014, and was paid in the 2013-14 financial year. No meetings were held in the 2014-15 financial year.