

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: lgsbcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Consultation response – INQUIRY INTO VOLUNTEERING IN QUEENSLAND

The Lottery Corporation Limited (**The Lottery Corporation**) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Government's inquiry into volunteering in Queensland (the **Inquiry**).

The Lottery Corporation values its contribution to the community through our charity partnerships. We understand the importance of volunteering in delivering the benefits these organisations bring to communities throughout Queensland. While it is our charity partners that have the most firsthand experience with volunteering and can provide detailed insight into the questions posed in the Terms of Reference, it is worth highlighting how our initiatives facilitate the participation of volunteers to help deliver services in the Queensland community.

The Lottery Corporation provides administrative and operational support to the 50-50 Foundation (the **Foundation**), a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission (**ACNC**). The Foundation conducts the Play For Purpose raffle, which benefits from an alignment to our consumer brand, The Lott, along with the 50-50 Raffle. These raffles raise funds for a wide range of charities and not-for-profit organisations across Australia. The success of these raffles is supported by thousands of volunteers selling raffle tickets at major sporting and community events. The Lottery Corporation helped raise over \$3.3 million in funding in FY24, benefiting more than 600 charities and community organisations nationwide.

The Lottery Corporation also facilitates a community engagement program, designed to help our employees volunteer in the community. Each employee is provided one full day of volunteer leave per year, with the option for the volunteering opportunity to be organised by the employee or to participate in a company-organised activity with our community partners.

We have notified our community partners of this consultation and have encouraged them to share their insights regarding the questions posed in the inquiry's Terms of Reference.

Background on The Lottery Corporation

The Lottery Corporation is a top 50 ASX-listed company and one of the highest performing lotteries businesses globally. Our trusted brands include The Lott and Keno, and national games such as Powerball and Oz Lotto are iconic names in Australian households. The Lottery Corporation is permitted to sell its products under state or territory issued exclusive and/or long-dated licences and approvals operating across Australia (excluding Western Australia).

We have a retail network of more than 7,200 points of distribution making it one of the largest retail networks in the country. In FY24, more than \$700 million in commissions were paid to lottery retailers and licensed venues, with \$1.9 billion paid in lottery and Keno taxes across Australia. Our retail footprint and digital reach, with 4.75 million registered players, enables The Lottery Corporation to deliver the benefits the lottery and keno ecosystem is designed to give back to the Australian community.



The Lottery Corporation in Queensland

Our head office is in Queensland and we value our contribution to the community and connection to local small business lottery retailers and licensed venues. The Lottery Corporation, via Golden Casket, holds the sole Lottery Operator's Licence in Queensland authorising us to conduct the games of Saturday Gold Lotto, Powerball, Oz Lotto, Weekday Windfall, Set for Life, Super 66, Lucky Lotteries and Instant Scratch-Its. The licence expires in 2072. We also operate Keno in Queensland via Keno (Qld) Pty Ltd, with the sole Keno Licence, expiring in 2047.

In Queensland, we have around 1.3 million registered lottery account customers, 938 lottery retailers, including newsagents, and 1064 Keno venues. In FY24, \$190 million in commissions on lottery and Keno sales were paid to Queensland small businesses and venues, and more than \$456 million was returned to the community via lottery taxes. The Lottery Corporation's lottery tax contribution is around 1.8% of Queensland's total taxation revenue.

Community partnerships

Australia's earliest state lotteries were established to fund vital infrastructure and services for the community. More than 100 years later, that legacy continues, with Australia's official lotteries working alongside state governments to play a significant role in raising funds for vital causes.

We are proud of our long-standing partnerships, which underscore our commitment to advancing health, education, and social well-being. This legacy of community support is continued in Queensland, with over \$3 million contributed to our community partners in FY24 through unclaimed prize money, lottery proceeds and sponsorships, including:

- \$600k to the Mater Foundation for the Queensland Children's Hospital Telethon to help fund life-saving research, care services and equipment;
- \$1.5 million to the Queensland Children's Hospital Foundation and Children's Brain Cancer Centre;
- \$300k to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, helping support Australia's largest child safety education and awareness day;
- \$200k to The Lott by Golden Casket City Hall Lights;
- \$250k to the Starlight Children's Foundation Wishgranting Program in celebration of Starlight Day, the foundation's biggest fundraising event of the year; and
- \$500k to the University of Queensland, helping fund key research areas.

Play For Purpose and 50-50 Charity Raffle

As part of our support of the 50-50 Foundation, The Lottery Corporation provides resources and financial support to every Play For Purpose raffle. A minimum of 50% of each ticket directly supports a charity chosen by the customer, and the other 50% is used to fund prizes and help run the raffle. Our support helps reduce the Foundation's administration costs, which means more money from every raffle ticket goes directly to a good cause.

Some of the key Play For Purpose charity partnerships in Queensland include:

- **Mackay Hospital Foundation** which helps ensure outstanding healthcare is available to all those who live, work and visit the Mackay region;
- **Rural Aid** which provides support services such as counselling and disaster relief to farming communities in times of need; and
- **Children's Hospital Foundation** which helps fund cutting-edge equipment, vital research and on the ground support for kids with all illnesses, injuries and conditions.



The Lottery Corporation also provides financial resources and support for 50-50 Charity Raffles which take place at major events across Queensland, such as NRL and AFL matches and race meetings. These raffles have helped raise funds for charities such as:

- **Ronald McDonald House Charities** which provide essential services to ensure the best health outcomes for Queensland children;
- **Women's Legal Service Queensland** which offers free legal help for women in Queensland experiencing domestic and family violence; and
- **Rural Aid** which provides support to farming families across Queensland and other parts of Australia that have been impacted by drought.

These charities are reliant on volunteers getting involved and selling tickets, which is another reason why The Lottery Corporation is supportive of any initiatives that can uplift volunteering in Queensland and help foster a vibrant giving culture.

Volunteering and fundraising initiatives at The Lottery Corporation

We encourage our employees to become involved in their communities by providing one full day of volunteer leave per year with our community partners.

For example, The Lottery Corporation last year provided around 60 volunteers who helped with packing bags for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's Walk for Daniel event on the Sunshine Coast. We also provided volunteers who used their volunteer leave to support Foodbank NSW & ACT at the distribution centre packing Christmas hampers for families.

Every year in December The Lottery Corporation organises a 10 Days of Giving campaign where we donate gifts or volunteer with 10 of our community partners. Last year, this included volunteering for the Children's Hospital Foundation in Brisbane, making joey pouch liners for WIRES, Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation, and donating gifts for children for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, whose aim is for a future where all children are provided with education, protection and support to be safe from abuse and risk of harm.

In summary

The Lottery Corporation values its partnerships and their positive impact on Australian communities, as is outlined in this submission. We remain deeply committed to supporting volunteering in the community through empowering our employees to volunteer for meaningful causes and by providing resources to the Play For Purpose and 50-50 Charity Raffles and, in turn, the charities they help raise funds for.

Please contact Government Relations Adviser, Lily Dingle on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED] if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Tzaferis
General Manager Corporate Affairs