




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.11 am): I am pleased to announce that more than 600 community groups will share in \$14.6 million worth of Queensland government grants through the approval of round 104 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The fund is Queensland's largest one-off grants program, distributing approximately \$59 million per year and over \$287 million since the election of the Palaszczuk government.

The approval of this latest grant round is timely, given the challenges Queensland communities are facing in managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the heart of each community, these grassroots organisations keep Queenslanders connected and united. That is why the Palaszczuk government is encouraging Queenslanders, including our community organisations receiving these grants, to support local businesses and suppliers. This funding will stimulate metropolitan, regional and remote economies by encouraging the purchase of much needed equipment, the hiring of contractors and builders for facility upgrades, and the contracting of services for events and workshops.

I would like to share with the House just a few examples of the fund in action. Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the member for Noosa at the Noosa Animal Care Centre, which is an RSPCA site, to announce that the centre, which was opened by Labor MP the Hon. Terry Mackenroth in 1994, was receiving \$35,000 for new facilities. I want to acknowledge the manager, Nicole, who recently was recognised for 25 years service at the RSPCA. I am pleased that the RSPCA across Queensland will receive \$140,000 to support their vital animal welfare program.

I also visited the Caloundra Men's Shed and had the pleasure of being joined by Jason Hunt, Labor's candidate for Caloundra, to announce over \$18,000 worth of funding to purchase a new saw and extractor to help the group set up their new site. This funding will help stimulate the local economy through the purchasing of new equipment, which I know will be well used.

Finally, I visited the Aspley Special School, a school which I have known and been part of for many years. I am pleased to announce, with the amazing member for Aspley, Bart Mellish, \$35,000 to install air-conditioning in the school's hall. This funding will see not only local tradies supported through the installation of the air-conditioning but also an upgraded, cooler space for our next generation to learn in.

The Palaszczuk government, through a variety of programs and grants, including the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, is supporting our local community and not-for-profit groups and, by association, supporting local businesses and jobs as these groups spend the funds in their communities. This is particularly important when many of these groups rely on sponsorship and support by local businesses and when our community clubs, who are doing it really tough at the moment, will not be providing as much support and sponsorship as they have in past years. These grants are really critical at this time. I congratulate all of those organisations on their successful grants, supporting their local communities and local jobs.