



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): I am pleased to announce that 545 local community groups will share in more than \$12.7 million worth of Queensland government grants through round 107 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Not-for-profit organisations are the heart and soul of our communities, and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is able to support so many fantastic organisations across this state, especially in regional Queensland.

Every round receives a high number of impressive and varied applications for funding. Round 107 provided some wonderful examples of not-for-profit groups looking at new and meaningful ways to support their local community and deliver services. One example includes Mackay based not-for-profit OneLife NQ, which are using their \$30,000 grant to upgrade three purpose-built residential villas for people with a disability. Accommodation upgrades will ensure tenants are living in safe accommodation and that other service providers and family and friends are safe whilst visiting.

Round 107 will also fund a gem and mineral club in Hervey Bay after polling in the local community uncovered an interest in gem cutting. The grant of \$20,000 will purchase new equipment and improve their space for workshops, which I am sure the new member for Hervey Bay will be very excited to see take shape.

Toowoomba's Downs Rugby club continues to use sport to build community connections and promote inclusivity, particularly encouraging girls and boys with difficulties to get off the sidelines and onto the field. A grant of \$33,000 will buy vital medical equipment and a medicab vehicle for use across nine separate rugby competitions across South-West Queensland.

For Queensland communities, 2020 was a difficult year, making organisations that are at the heart of their communities even more critical in keeping Queenslanders connected and bringing communities together. This funding will stimulate the economy by encouraging the purchase of much needed equipment and the hiring of contractors and builders for facility improvements and engaging services for the purposes of hosting events or workshops. The Palaszczuk government encourages groups to buy local and support local suppliers.

I am also happy to announce that round 109 of the fund will open today. I encourage members to share this with organisations in their electorates that need funding of between \$500 and \$35,000 to continue to bring Queensland communities together.