

Question on Notice

No. 468

Asked on 4 June 2014

MR HOLSWICH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr JARROD BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General outline the steps the Newman Government has taken to reduce red tape and compliance burdens for community not-for-profit and volunteer organisations and the practical benefits these changes will have for community groups in Pine Rivers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Pine Rivers for his question.

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) administers four grant funding programs: the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF); Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund (JCCBF); Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund (BICCBF) and the Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund.

Collectively, the four funding programs receive more than 6,000 applications each year. To date in the 2012-13 financial year, the four funding programs collectively distributed in excess of \$47,000,000 in funding to more than 2,400 applications.

On 20 May 2014, the Queensland Parliament approved the Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 to amalgamate the four funding programs, as part of the Queensland Government's reform program aimed at reducing red tape.

Currently, there are a number of inefficiencies to both the clients applying for grant funding and in the administration of the programs which include:

- differing yearly budget allocations;
- differing funding limits;
- differing regions for applications;
- differing organisation and application eligibility;
- differing committee/boards recommending the grant funding;
- Parents and Citizens associations being eligible under the GCBF guidelines, but ineligible under other three funding program guidelines; and
- organisations located within the JCCBF jurisdiction being able to apply for funding of up to \$75,000 (inc. GST), while organisations located in the BICCBF jurisdiction are only able to apply for funding up to \$5,000 (inc. GST).

The amalgamation of the four funding programs will result in practical efficiencies for all community groups, including those located in Pine Rivers, encompassing:

- consistency in funding guidelines;
- consistency in funding limits (at \$35,000);
- consistency in application eligibility;
- organisations will only need to submit one application each funding round rather than multiple applications across different funds; and
- all organisations will have access to the same amount of funding regardless of their location in Queensland.

The first round of the new, amalgamated State-wide funding program (the new funding program) will open in mid July 2014 and close on 31 August 2014. The total budget available for grants will not decrease, with the new funding program having an estimated budget of \$50,000,000 in the 2014-15 financial year.

The Queensland Government has also passed laws to make it easier for eligible community organisations to hold one-off fund raising events without the need to obtain a liquor permit. This means that certain events like trivia nights, fetes and charity golf days organised by non-profit groups such as Rotary or Parents and Citizens associations will be able to serve alcohol without needing a liquor permit.

Another recent legislative change will soon allow charitable and non-profit organisations to conduct art unions, with estimated gross proceeds of up to \$50,000 without requiring a licence. The previous limit was \$20,000.

There has also been a range of regulatory concessions provided to the licensed club industry in Queensland. These have included a reduction in the amount of paperwork required to be kept and the types of staff employed as well as an increase in the range and number of gaming machines available.