

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

A discussion guide for congregations



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

This study guide is designed to be used in conjunction with reading the *Journey* article “[Deal or no deal?](#)” (October 2014). It would be best to allocate 30 minutes to this conversation. If the group is more than six people consider breaking into smaller groups and allowing ten minutes extra for a report back from each group to the BIG questions.

Storytelling

1. Have you ever bought raffle tickets? Did you expect to win? Have you ever won anything?
2. Do you ever gamble for money? Do you enjoy it? Why/why not?
3. Have you ever been to a casino? Describe the experience.

Reflecting

1. Is there a difference between buying shares in the stock exchange and playing bingo?
2. There are a number of different forms of gambling which are legal in Queensland. What are they? Would you like any aspects of legal gambling to change?
3. What are some of the impacts of legal gambling on individuals, families and the community?
4. Why do you think the government supports a proportion of gambling revenue being allocated to community groups and organisations?
5. Is there a difference between a congregation applying for a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) and holding a raffle to raise funds for the same purpose?

The BIG questions

1. Should our congregation apply for funds from the GCBF?
2. If the answer is “yes”, what projects should we make application to fund?
3. If the answer is “no”, to whom should we make this known?

Resources available

Applications for funding from the GCBF can be found at the Queensland Government Department of Justice and Attorney General website justice.qld.gov.au. There is also a customer service area within Community Benefits Fund Unit. For additional support in making application for funding and support documentation from The Uniting Church Property Trust (Q.) contact Ian Harding, Administration Officer – Resources at 07 3377 9860 property@ucaqld.com.au.

Support documents for congregations wishing to make their decision against applying for GCBF grants known more widely include:

- a sample press release for local newspapers
- sample letters for local state members of parliament
- sample statements or logos for church newsletters or noticeboards.

Contact Research Officer on 07 3377 9935, 07 3377 9774 or research.officer@ucaqld.com.au.

Further reading

Assessment of poker machine expenditure and community benefit claims in selected Commonwealth Electoral Divisions UnitingCare Australia April 2012 unitingforchange.org.au/sites/default/files/120412_research_poker_machine_expenditure_and_community_benefit_1.pdf.

Visit the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce website for research, news and opinion at gamblingreform.org.

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