



25 January 2008

The Principal Research Officer  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Gordon

### **INQUIRY INTO COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES IN GOVERNMENT**

I am pleased to have been invited to provide a submission for the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's Inquiry into Collaborative Approaches in Government.

I have prepared a briefing to provide you with general background about Lotterywest Grants and Community Development, and more specific examples of our collaborative grants approach.

Thanks to the profits derived from the sale of games such as Lotto and Scratch'n'Win, Lotterywest is able to support a wide variety of not-for-profit, community based proposals that enhance the lives of Western Australians throughout the State. Our grant making role is unique in Australia, with private and Government lottery organisations in other States providing surplus funds to consolidated revenue.

Lotterywest's grant making approach continues to be submission based, and we aim to be flexible and responsive to changing community needs. Our grants support people with special needs, disadvantaged people in our community, and initiatives that contribute towards the quality of life for all members of the Western Australian community.

Lotterywest grants are an investment in the future of not-for-profit organisations and the Western Australian community. Our grant opportunities support the diversity of communities and community services, and complement contributions from the applicant, Government, and the private sector.

The Lotteries Commission Act 1990 [as amended] determines what types of organisations can receive a Lotterywest grant, and for what purposes grants can be used.

Grants are available to:

- Not-For-Profit Organisations, and
- Local Government Authorities.





Grants cannot be made to individuals, private or for-profit organisations, Government bodies or organisations with a statutory base.

In 2006/07 a total of 1,361 grants totalling \$74.8 million were made to 1,067 different organisations.

Through a statutory allocation Hospitals, Sports and Arts also benefit from Lotterywest support. Last year Lotterywest provided \$116 million to the Departments of Health, Sport & Recreation and Culture & the Arts to support their work with the community.

We continue to undertake and participate in activities which aim to improve our service delivery and successfully collaborate across government through strategies such as those outlined below:

### **Customer Feedback Survey**

For the last seven years the Lotterywest Grants and Community Development has undertaken a customer feedback survey about grant customers contact with Lotterywest and how happy they are with the grants process and the way that we deal with inquiries, applications and approved grants.

The survey's purpose is:

- To provide an external and confidential feedback mechanism for our grant customers;
- To track trends in customer satisfaction and feedback from previous years; and
- To inform our grant making and business improvement processes.

The survey results give us useful information about customer's experiences and help us improve our customer services. The survey is managed by Market Equity, as an independent research company.

### **Support to Physical Activity Taskforce Initiatives**

Since 2002 Lotterywest has supported grants towards initiatives endorsed by the Physical Activity Taskforce (PAT) and managed by the National Heart Foundation of Australia WA Division and WA Local Government Association (WALGA).

WALGA and Lotterywest are members of the PAT, a government and community partnership under the leadership of the Department of Sport and Recreation. Its objectives are to develop, co-ordinate and implement strategies to increase physical activity in the community.

More recently Lotterywest has partnered with WALGA in providing grants (comprising \$400,000 in 2005/06, \$200,000 in 2006/07, \$700,000 in 2007/08 and \$300,000 in 2008/09) to enable it to manage a Local Activity Grants Program (LAGP).

The LAGP offers grants of between \$5,000 and \$30,000, on a matching dollar basis to Local Government Authorities and community organisations for projects to encourage new and innovative approaches to increasing physical activity.



PAT and WALGA have demonstrated that the LAGP supported by Lotterywest has engaged local government and is resulting in greater participation in physical activity across the community.

Lotterywest support in 2007/08 and 2008/09 will enable the involvement of local governments who have not accessed funds to date.

### **Early Years Development Grants**

During 2004–2007, Lotterywest partnered with the former Department for Community Development (DCD) through an Early Years Development Grants program. The program offered grants for new initiatives in identified sites throughout Western Australia which support children aged up to 8 years, their families and carers to improve the well-being of children.

The process involved an initial assessment of all applications received and preliminary discussions between DCD and Lotterywest to identify applications that may be suitable for consideration by Lotterywest. This was followed by assessment by a DCD appointed panel involving DCD officers, Lotterywest, and non-government sector representation.

### **Companion Card Program**

An example of collaboration between Lotterywest, the Disability Services Commission and the community sector is the Companion Card Initiative. The Companion Card Program was established so that people who have a life-long need for assistance to participate in recreational, leisure, sporting and cultural events have a clearly recognisable way of identifying their need for a companion and can access reduced attendance and participation fees. In 2005 Lotterywest committed up to \$200,000 over three years towards project costs associated with the Program.

### **Local Government Liaison**

We regularly liaise with various Local Government Authorities (LGA's), regional development organisations, the WA Local Government Association and associated bodies toward a coordinated approach to our grant making. Where possible we seek to work with LGA's to build our understanding of their communities as well as to understand and accommodate their needs.

We engage in a more formal and strategic relationship with some LGA's where ongoing matters have been identified or a high demand for Lotterywest support is likely. Currently this is occurring with LGA's including Mandurah, Bunbury, Swan, Joondalup, Kwinana and Wanneroo.

We also often play a complementary funding and leverage role to local government led projects that require a variety of financial supports. Our early commitment to a project can help encourage other funders to confirm their support to its development.



### **Disability Equipment Grants for Individuals**

In 2002 Lotterywest initiated a partnership whereby the Independent Living Centre of WA (Inc) (ILC) would take responsibility for the administration of a Lotterywest supported Disability Equipment Grants Management Project (DEGMP).

Under the DEGMP applications for assistance are made through organisations supporting people with disabilities. Where individuals are not associated with an organisation, the ILC takes on the role of locating a suitable agency or can sponsor the application itself. Feedback received from both the organisations applying for grants as well as individuals indicate that this process has significant community benefit. Regular meetings of a Sector Advisory Group chaired by Lotterywest, formal reporting by the ILC, research undertaken as part of the Project and feedback from grant recipients confirm the effectiveness of the community based grants model to date and support the continuation and development of the Project.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for input into this Inquiry. If you have any further queries please contact

Yours sincerely