



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Monday 10th May 2010

For immediate release

LABOR RAID ON COMMUNITY CHEST A NEW LOW

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has condemned the Bligh Labor Government's multi-million dollar raid on the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, branding it a "new low" for an incompetent and arrogant government that was happy to withdraw a key source of financial support for community based not-for-profit organisations in Queensland.

Mr Cripps said the extraordinary decision by the Bligh Labor Government to pinch \$10 million from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to prop up a program involving small solar power projects was an absolute disgrace during National Volunteer Week, as most of the organisations that would be disadvantaged were run by volunteers.

"I'm not a big fan of poker machines. I do get concerned about their social impacts, but if there is one good thing to come out of poker machines, it is the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Many grants have been received by community based, not-for-profit clubs and organisations in the Hinchinbrook electorate and across Queensland" said Mr Cripps.

"These grants have been very useful and they have become an important opportunity for groups to fund projects they might not otherwise be able to afford. The Gambling Community Benefit Fund has become a "community chest". I think it's an absolute disgrace the Bligh Labor Government thinks it can just help itself to this money" he said.

"Every sporting club, every school P & C or P & F, every charity and every community organisation in Queensland is worse off today because of this selfish decision by the Bligh Labor Government. For the last 12 years, Labor has squandered taxpayers money on a long list of failed policies and driven up state debt to record levels" said Mr Cripps.

"Now they have got their greedy hands on a small bucket of money that has been very helpful to community organisations across the state to help fund one of their policies, I'm concerned there will be no end to the interference with and manipulation of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the political purposes of the Bligh Labor Government" he said.

"It's like parents raiding a child's piggy bank. Anna Bligh and Labor have sent Queensland broke and now they are so desperate for money, they will take money from volunteers, charities, sporting clubs and community groups to fund their failed policies" said Mr Cripps.

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au	Fax:	07 4776 3503
