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Pokie Funding and Community Grants a Troublesome Addiction

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Categories

4 - Applying principles of Social Justice

Abstract

For a number of years, community organisations and community sporting groups have relied on grants from pokie machines to support their operations. In many cases they are taking gambling losses to work with the very whanau who are experiencing mental health and addiction problems, family violence and poverty. In many cases the gambling losses leave the community and support national interests from which all New Zealanders benefit. Between 30%-60% of gambling losses are from problem gamblers and 50% of pokie machines in pubs and clubs are in the most deprived (Health decile index 8-10) communities in Aotearoa. We argue that the community grants funding model is unjust, lacks transparency and is exacerbating disparities. We propose a new approach, one where we are not robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Biography

Paula Snowden

Ko Ngatokimatawhaorua te waka

Ko Whangaroa te moana

Ko Pupuke te kainga

Ko Ngapuhi ki Ngati Kahu e nga iwi

Ko Ururoa te tangata

Ko Paula Snowden ahau

Paula Snowden has wide government and not-for-profit sector experience. She joined PGF Group (Problem Gambling Foundation) as Chief Executive in December 2016. Her non-government leadership experience is broad having been Deputy Chief Executive of the former Alcohol Advisory Council where

she led the social marketing programme and Chief Executive of the Quit Group Trust/Quitline through one of its most successful periods. Paula also has a strong executive leadership background in both Housing New Zealand and the Accident Compensation Commission and has also had a number of policy roles including in the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Maori Development. In all her leadership roles, Paula has focussed on addressing equity and on sustainable and effective programme delivery. Paula is passionate about making a difference and supporting people and organisations to be the best they can be through. She is both a skilled leader of culturally diverse workforces and is a skilled change manager. Paula was formerly on the Board of UNICEF New Zealand and a Trustee of the UNICEF Children's Foundation. Paula is a director on the board of Melon Health and until recently as a lay member appointment to the Nursing Council of New Zealand.