 Resource 3 – Moral dilemmas

What would you do in the following situations?

Question 1

You are at McDonald’s and your friend is working at the cash register. You order a small fries and a medium drink. He puts a supersize fries in your bag and gives you a large strawberry milkshake, winks at you, and tells you don’t worry about the ‘hook-up’.

* Do you take the food?
* Your friend works at a family owned takeaway shop, do you still take the food?

Question 2

John’s wife is dying. A drug was recently discovered that will cure her but the scientist who developed it is charging $100 000.00 for a single course of the medication. John has been able to raise half the money but the scientist refuses to reduce the cost, or allow him to pay the rest in instalments. Out of desperation, John decides to break in and steal the drugs.

* Should he have stolen the drug to save his wife?
* What if it was his child that was dying? Does this change things?

Question 3

The building you are in is on fire – you are trapped in a room with one of your parents who is incapable of getting out unaided and a scientist who has the cure for a major disease. Who should you save – the one you love or the one who could cure millions?

* Is it the ‘greatest good for the greatest number’? Or should family be put above all?
* What would happen if another person you love has the disease the scientist has the cure for?

Question 4

You run a charity for abandoned and mistreated animals and have had a hard time making ends meet. A car dealership offers you a new van worth $15,000 if you will falsely report to the government that the dealership donated a van worth $30,000. You really need the van to collect the animals and take them to vet appointments.

* Do you take the van?
* What if the charity was for sick and disabled children?

Question 5

You are driving home from a night out when you accidentally hit a pedestrian who looks seriously injured. You know you will probably end up going to jail if you stay as you were not paying attention properly and have been drinking. No one is around and if you leave now it is likely you won’t get found out.

* Would you stay and help the person you hit and face the risk of going to jail? Or would you leave the person, even though it is likely they will not be found for hours and will die.
* You notice that the person you hit has a prison uniform on and is obviously an escapee, but you don’t know what their crime was.
* You notice that the person you hit has a prison uniform on and is obviously an escapee. You heard on the news earlier in the day that a serial killer had escaped from a nearby jail and this person matches their description.