

Supplementary Questions

1. Does GRNSW agree:

a. That the inter-code agreement was entered into voluntarily by the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) on behalf of the Industry?

GRNSW is not presently aware of any evidence that would suggest the agreement was not entered into voluntarily.

b. There was the opportunity to for the GRA and interested bodies to obtain independent legal and financial advice?

GRNSW came into existence in 2003. The inter-code agreement was negotiated half a decade earlier in 1997/98. No member of the GRNSW Board or senior management team was involved in these discussions to provide a view on this matter.

c. The GRA and interested bodies failed to obtain independent legal and financial advice?

Refer to 1(b). If this is so, it is a fundamental failing on the part of a Government entity whose role was to protect and promote the interests of the greyhound racing industry in NSW.

d. The motivation of GRA and interested bodies for accepting a reduced percentage in the inter-code agreement, as compared to Harness Racing, arose from the difference in revenue forgone from on-course TAB transactions?

GRNSW came into existence in 2003 and the agreement was negotiated half a decade earlier in 1997/98. No member of the GRNSW Board or senior management team was involved in these discussions to provide a view on this matter. GRNSW notes however that this rationale is not reflected in the inter-code Agreement.

e. The decision by GRA and interested bodies to accept a fixed percentage arose out of a fear that the Thoroughbreds would "overrun" the other two codes, including by extending the times and dates of their TAB race meetings?

GRNSW does not have an evidentiary basis upon which to answer this question however the suggestion is lacking in a logical foundation. Thoroughbred racing already enjoyed a significant market which was likely to be challenged going forward. In addition, thoroughbred racing simply did not have at its disposal the number of race horses required to significantly increase the number of race meetings it conducted to "over run" the minor codes. It should also be noted that the marginal costs incurred to stage an additional thoroughbred race meeting are significantly greater than those of greyhound racing, therefore the prospect of thoroughbred racing being able to implement such a strategy in a sustainable manner would have been highly unlikely.

f. There is no evidence of corrupt conduct on the part of any party who executed the inter-code agreement on behalf of the racing codes?

GRNSW does not have an evidentiary basis upon which to answer this question.

g. That the other two racing codes, Thoroughbreds and Harness Racing, are opposed to a renegotiation of the inter-code agreement?

Yes, it is to be entirely expected that a party receiving a benefit over and above their contribution will be unwilling to forgo that benefit voluntarily.

Over the last 10 years there have been a number of approaches to the other racing codes by GRNSW to amend the inter-code agreement in a manner that would allow for growth and innovation in the NSW racing industry. Each of these approaches has been rejected by Racing NSW and Harness Racing NSW.

h. That GRNSW cannot identify any prejudice or financial disadvantage arising from the public release of the inter-code agreement?

GRNSW is bound by confidentiality clauses within the inter-code agreement and would require the cooperation of the other parties to agree to its public release.

i. It is in the public interest for the inter-code agreement to be publicly released by the Inquiry?

Yes.

2. Does GRNSW maintain an injury database?

Yes.

If so,

a. Please provide a description of GRNSW's injury database, how it is maintained and how the industry uses the information in it as part of the monitoring and continuous improvement process.

GRNSW's injury database is currently maintained in an Excel spreadsheet. GRNSW regularly draws on the injury database when investigating reported track issues and as part of the continuous improvement process.

In the future, injury reporting and associated data management will be administered using GRNSW's computer system 'OzChase'.

b. Please describe how the injury database has been used to reduce the incidence of injuries in greyhound racing. Can you provide a list of changes have been made to racetracks and industry practises as a result of the database?

As outlined in GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry, at the time of assuming responsibility for the regulatory affairs of the sport in July 2009 GRNSW inherited a range of legacy Information Technology (IT) systems for key regulatory functions. At this time, no injury data was collected in any electronic format.

The existing Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority (GHRRA) systems inherited were incapable of collecting the range of information required to enable GRNSW to monitor key aspects of the industry. More specifically, there were major issues with breeding and greyhound injury data. For a detailed overview of the issues faced at the time, GRNSW

refers the Select Committee to its response to Term of Reference 13 in its submission to the Inquiry.

Whilst GRNSW is still plagued by historical data issues which will never be remedied (i.e. inaccurate and missing data) any new data collected in OzChase is something that GRNSW, industry participants and other stakeholders will be able to rely upon in the future and continue to improve upon.

Like many issues in the greyhound racing industry, the collection and management of injury related data is an important national issue that is currently being progressed by Greyhounds Australasia (GA). Over the past 18 months, in consultation with GA, GRNSW has been pushing for a consistent national approach to injury reporting at race meetings, to assist in the development of minimum standards for track preparation and the monitoring of injury trends.

In parallel with the work underway at the national level and as referenced above, GRNSW is currently in the process of developing a dedicated injury reporting module in OzChase which will manage injury reporting and associated data management into the future.

Injury data, along with track inspections and steward reports, inform the development of ongoing track maintenance and GRNSW funding regimes, such as the Safety, Racing & Welfare Maintenance Fund. An overview of state-wide projects contributing to improved track safety since July 2009 can be found in **Attachment A**.

c. Does GRNSW have any numerical estimates of the reduction in injuries resulting from measures taken to address issues with racetracks or industry practices identified from data in the injury database?

No.

3. Is GRNSW aware of Harness Racing's injury database?

No.

4. In evidence presented to the Inquiry, Mr Hogan, in critiquing my call for a separation of regulation, auditing and management functions of the greyhound racing industry in NSW, you referred to the industry structure between 2003 and 2009 under the former Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority as a 'disaster'.

a. Please provide further details of the nature of the 'disaster' and the causes of this disaster, identifying how the separation was responsible for it.

The matter was subject to review in the Auditor-General's Report 'Performance Audit – Managing the Amalgamation of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority', April 2008. The report addresses the shortcomings of the Authority.

In addition, the Malcolm Scott Review into the Regulatory Oversight of NSW Racing also considered the matter, ultimately recommending the disbanding of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority in 2008. This recommendation was implemented with the creation of GRNSW.

In chapter six of the review, it states:

"I have observed that the relationship between existing commercial bodies and the GHRRA is one of disengagement and antagonism. Doing the best I can to disregard current personalities and those parts of the audit reports which can be seen as dealing with establishment and teething issues, it is apparent that the commercial organisations and the GHRRA are driving towards different targets and objectives. Without a common, unifying person or structure the organisations appear to act tangentially, each believing that it is acting in the best interests of the industry, but however acting antagonistically to each others views as to the respective organisations value to the industry."

The full version of Auditor-General's Report 'Performance Audit – Managing the Amalgamation of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority', April 2008 can be found in **Attachment B**.

The full version of the Malcolm Scott Review into the Regulatory Oversight of NSW Racing can be found in **Attachment C**.

b. Can GRNSW produce any evidence that the cause of this disaster was the separation of commercial and regulatory functions?

See 4a.

c. Does GRNSW believe that the only way to separate functions within the industry is to adopt the previous model operating under the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority?

If the object is to separate commercial and regulatory functions, it is unlikely that there is a different model to the previously failed model of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority. The broad commercial and integrity objectives of the industry are, and always will be, aligned. The integrity of the racing product is paramount to the commercial success of the industry. The separation of functions leads to a disengagement of common purpose.

i. If not, please identify other ways to separate the functions

Not Applicable.

5. On Wednesday 5 February, GRNSW released jointly with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) a new joint Animal Welfare Strategy

a. When did discussions with GRV begin on this document?

Discussions about achieving a nationally consistent approach to animal welfare commenced in March 2013.

b. When was the draft of the final version approved by the GRNSW board?

28 January 2014.

c. When was the draft of the final version approved by the GRV board?

3 February 2014.

d. What factors influenced the timing of the public release of the document?

The timing of Board meetings and the agreement of the press release.

e. How is the document different to existing GRNSW animal welfare codes and other documents?

The document represents an attempt by GRNSW and GRV to ensure a more nationally consistent approach to welfare issues. Uniform standards of care, education, accountability and enforcement are provided for in this document to ensure the best possible outcome for greyhounds at every stage of their lifecycle. The initiatives include a:

- Move towards all greyhounds having to be under the care of a Registered Participant at all times during their lifecycle unless retired as a pet;
- National approach to breeding to reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed a litter of greyhounds is a considered one; and
- National approach to education and linking vocational training to licensing.

f. Will GRNSW and GRV proceed with the implementation of this if the other states refuse to sign up?

Yes.

6. The new Animal Welfare Strategy proposes a Star rating system be introduced for all greyhound facilities at which greyhounds are housed during their lifecycle. Can you explain how this will improve animal welfare outcomes? Will the new system provide information to owners selecting greyhound housing facilities? If so what sort of information?

The star rating system will improve animal welfare outcomes because every facility will be inspected and be required to meet minimum standards and code of practice requirements in order to be allocated a star rating. Those venues failing the assessment will not be allocated a star rating and will therefore not be licensed to house greyhounds on the property (other than as personal pets). The star rating system is still to be finalised but it is anticipated that owners will have access to information on what each star level corresponds to in terms of general greyhound care (i.e. food, size of kennels, size of runs etc).

7. Is GRNSW concerned that a tiered star rating system for greyhound facilities as proposed in the Animal Welfare Strategy might result in a perverse outcome where rogue owners, who are not interested animal welfare outcomes, are assisted in seeking out rogue housing operators who offer the lowest possible standards?

No

a. If not, why not?

Because the operators who offer the 'lowest possible standards' will still need to comply to the requirements of the assessment explained in the response to question six to be allocated a star rating. Every operator with a star rating will be at or above the minimum care requirement standards. The rating system will simply give consumers a system by which to

differentiate. 'Rogue housing operators' that are not allocated a star rating will not be licensed to house greyhounds on the property (other than as personal pets).

8. Animal Welfare Strategy section "Inspection and Compliance" states that:

"All facilities at which greyhounds are housed with licensed people, throughout their lifecycle, to be subject to regular inspection"

However, in response to questions on notice lodged following the hearing in Penrith on November 15, GRNSW answered "yes" to the following two questions:

Are greyhound breeders regularly or randomly inspected by officers of GRNSW

Are greyhound trainers regularly or randomly inspected by officers of GRNSW

a. In light of your new strategy, would you like to revise those answers?

No.

b. What are GRNSW's concerns regarding the current 'regularity' of inspections?

As outlined in GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry, it is GRNSW's intent to conduct kennel inspections for all licensed persons once every two years, in order to improve greyhound welfare, increase the education of participants and ensure industry leading standards in integrity.

9. In regards to lifetime tracking, GRNSW's 2006 animal welfare policy states that:

"GRNSW will work with stakeholders to develop Lifetime tracking of all registered greyhounds pups to ensure industry accountability for the welfare of all greyhounds bred in NSW."

The new Animal Welfare Strategy, released 5 February 2014, states that:

"Opportunities exist to improve the tracking of greyhounds throughout their lifecycle to ensure that all greyhounds, not just those within the racing population, are housed and cared for in a manner that maximises their welfare, as well as their chances of a long and successful racing career;"

a. Can GRNSW please outline

i. Why lifetime tracking has not yet been implemented

ii. The change in circumstance since 2006 that will result in the successful implementation of lifetime tracking as stipulated in the Animal Welfare Strategy?

As outlined in GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry, GRNSW assumed responsibility for the regulatory affairs of the sport on 1 July 2009. In 2006, GRNSW did not have control or responsibility for the lifetime tracking of greyhounds. The above statement was simply a commitment from GRNSW at the time to work with the GHRRA on the issue.

As also outlined in GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry, at the time of assuming responsibility for the regulatory affairs of the sport, GRNSW inherited a range of legacy IT

systems for the key functions of licensing, grading and stewarding, which were all outdated, largely unsupported and unable to be fully integrated.

The existing systems inherited from the GHRRA were incapable of collecting the range of information required to enable GRNSW to monitor this aspect of the industry. More specifically, there was difficulty with tracking the number of litters born, number of pups named and information on greyhounds after their racing careers.

Through OzChase, GRNSW has been able to build a customised system that can cater for ongoing changes in this area. OzChase now gathers more detailed information on pups from the time they are born, through until the end of their careers and beyond. This enables a one stop-shop for statistics. OzChase also provides GRNSW with the opportunity to make changes and enhancements as necessary to make sure that information is readily available to assist in addressing animal welfare concerns.

GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry also provided an overview of National Rule 106, which requires registered persons who are responsible for a greyhound to notify GRNSW if there has been a change to a greyhound's status. This might include if a greyhound has transferred ownership; been retired as a pet or a breeding greyhound; been transferred to an adoption program; exported; surrendered to another agency; has been humanely euthanised by a veterinary surgeon or is deceased. This information must be lodged with GRNSW using the prescribed form that represents the greyhound's status. The rule states:

R106 (3)

At any time after the registration of a litter, the last registered owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time, shall, within ten working days, notify the Controlling Body by lodging of the prescribed form, if that greyhound has transferred ownership, been retired as a pet or a breeding greyhound, been transferred to an adoption program, exported, surrendered to another agency, been humanely euthanised by a veterinary surgeon or deceased.

Over the past six months, GRNSW has been working with its joint venture partner, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, to add specialised functionality to OzChase that will enable automatic notification of a greyhound's status at key stages throughout its lifecycle. This functionality will enhance compliance with National Rule 106 and lead to significant improvements in the quality and accuracy of greyhound data.

Further to this, GRNSW's new Animal Welfare Strategy outlined the intention of moving "towards all greyhounds having to be under the care of a Registered Participant at all times during their lifecycle". Having a greyhound with a registered / licensed person at all stages of the lifecycle will help ensure that all greyhounds, not just those within the racing population, are housed and cared for in a manner that maximises their welfare, as well as their chances of a long and successful racing career.

10. In relation to breeding, the Animal Welfare Strategy seeks to reduce the time allowed for the "Notification of a Result of Service" to seven days from the original 14.

a. Can GRNSW outline how this will this “reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed a litter of greyhounds is a considered one” as stated in the strategy?

GRNSW notes that this is one of four initiatives outlined under the heading of “*introduce a national approach to breeding to further reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed a litter of greyhounds is a considered one*”. GRNSW does not contend that this measure in and of itself will achieve this outcome; instead it is part of a holistic and strategic approach to achieve cultural change within the sport.

11. The new Animal Welfare Strategy identifies moving “towards all greyhounds having to be under the care of a Registered Participant at all times during their lifecycle” as a strategy objective.

a. Please outline how this differs from the current situation

b. If greyhounds are currently not in the care of a registered participant, how will this policy change that? What reforms are you suggesting?

Under the current regime, not all people involved in the greyhound lifecycle are licensed or registered with GRNSW. As noted in the Animal Welfare Strategy, GRNSW intends to move to licensing of all people involved in the greyhound lifecycle, including those who may not currently be licensed or registered participants – i.e. whelpers, rearers, breakers etc.

Having a greyhound with a registered / licensed person at all stages of the lifecycle will help ensure that all greyhounds, not just those within the racing population, are housed and cared for in a manner that maximises their welfare, as well as their chances of a long and successful racing career.

12. Will GRNSW be allocating additional funding for GRNSW inspectors/officers in order to meet the objectives outlined in the Animal Welfare Strategy?

Yes.

13. GRNSW's existing Code Of Practice – For The Keeping Of Greyhounds In Training states that:

“It is acknowledged that the specific needs of a greyhound vary throughout its lifecycle. Separate Codes of Practice will be available to define the requirements in the following areas including: 1. Breeding 2. Rearing 3. Education”

Do these codes exist?

These codes are currently being developed and are not yet finalised.

Currently, commercial operators within the greyhound racing industry are required to comply with the NSW Department of Primary Industries’ Code of Practice No 5 – Dogs And Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments which is the current standard for all commercial canine rearing and education facilities.

Commercial breeders come under the NSW Department of Primary Industries' Code Of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats.

Commercial breeders, rearers and operators will still need to comply with these two codes once the GRNSW Codes of Practice are finalised.

If so,

a. Why are they not available on GRNSW's website?

When the Codes of Practices are finalised they will be publicly available on the GRNSW website.

b. When were they finalised?

Not applicable.

c. Were any animal welfare bodies or organisations consulted in their drafting?

i. If so please state which ones and when such consultation took place

The Department of Local Government's Companion Animals Taskforce and RSPCA NSW have been consulted during the development of the Codes of Practice.

d. How will the recently announced Animal Welfare Strategy cause changes to these documents? Please outline the nature of these changes and when such changes will be coming into effect.

Not applicable.

If not:

e. Please explain why not

They have not been finalised. The Codes of Practices identified in the question need to have the regulatory support to be enforced as the breeding, rearing and education sector of the industry is not currently licensed. The introduction of these codes will be linked to the significant national regulatory reform outlined in the Animal Welfare Strategy.

f. Has any progress been made towards finalising these documents?

Yes.

g. Have any animal welfare bodies or organisations been consulted on these matters?

As part of the development of the codes, the NSW Department of Local Government's Companion Animals Taskforce and RSPCA NSW have been consulted.

14. The Committee received evidence of live baiting and the use of animal carcasses in the training of greyhounds: see for example submissions 502, 531 and 858 which are available on the Committee's website.

a. Could you explain why this evidence appears to contradict GRNSW's assertion that coursing, live bating and other such practices do not occur in the industry or are extremely rare?

Coursing, live baiting and other such practices are offences under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012, Greyhound Rules of Racing and are totally unacceptable.

GRNSW has reviewed the cited submissions closely as it reviews all such claims.

The submissions cited in this question are allegations and provide no actual evidence of live baiting occurring in the greyhound racing industry in NSW. No evidence about live baiting has been detailed in any submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

GRNSW encourages anyone with evidence of live baiting and the use of animal carcasses to contact GRNSW and RSPCA NSW so they can investigate the matter.

b. Please provide the evidence on which you base this assertion?

GRNSW, with the full cooperation of RSPCA NSW, investigates all reports of the alleged illegal use of animals for training purposes. All matters concerning allegations of live baiting are dealt with under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation. To date, GRNSW has charged two licensed persons since it assumed responsibility for all animal welfare matters within the NSW greyhound racing industry in July 2009.

Both convictions were overturned on appeal by the NSW Racing Appeals Tribunal. Other investigations by GRNSW and RSPCA NSW found that the allegations were not substantiated.

15. What steps do GRNSW take to secure the animal welfare of greyhounds that are exported from the NSW industry to Macau?

GRNSW does not support the export of greyhounds to any country that do not meet contemporary animal welfare standards. The Rules of Greyhound Racing require a licensed participant to obtain a "greyhound passport" when exporting a greyhound. GRNSW advocated, and supports the decision of Greyhounds Australasia, to suspend the issuing of "greyhound passports" to Macau in March 2013. That suspension still exists.

16. Has GRNSW raised the issue of the welfare of greyhound exported to Macau with Greyhounds Australasia?

Yes.

a. If so, what was the nature and outcome of this interaction?

Greyhounds Australasia agreed to suspend the issuing of "greyhound passports" for greyhounds being exported to Macau in March 2013.

b. If not, why not?

Not applicable.

17. Greyhounds Australasia promised a formal review of its approach exports by the end of 2012, yet no such document has been seen in public. Does GRNSW have a copy of that document or a draft of it?

GRNSW understands that the report has been completed and that Greyhounds Australasia is liaising with the Commonwealth Government with respect to it.

a. If so, would GRNSW please provide a copy to the Committee?

Not applicable.

i. If not, why not?

Not applicable.

18. It has been alleged that the treatment of some greyhounds in training and education facilities is resulting in some dogs becoming physically and mentally damaged and in many cases unsuitable for rehoming without substantial and expensive re-education.

a. Does GRNSW accept this allegation?

No.

i. If not, please outline what GRNSW considers to be the role and impact of training and education practices on the suitability and costs of rehoming?

There is insufficient peer-reviewed research and/or data available to answer this question.

ii. If so, what steps has GRNSW taken to address practices in training and education facilities that are resulting in poor welfare outcomes?

GRNSW has been proactive in the development of our education initiatives via the Certificate II Racing (Greyhounds) and the pilot education program developed with TAFE NSW. The GRNSW Greyhounds as Pets Program also provides participants with information on how to assist in improved welfare outcomes and re-homing opportunities for greyhounds in NSW.

b. How will the new Animal Welfare Strategy address the mistreatment of dogs in some training and education facilities?

Mistreatment, abuse or cruelty of any greyhound is totally unacceptable and is condemned by GRNSW.

Mistreatment of any greyhound by a licensed person is currently dealt with under the Greyhound Rules of Racing in addition to potential charges under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

GRNSW condemns the mistreatment of any animal and the Animal Welfare Strategy will reinforce this through greater licensing requirements, monitoring and education.

19. Can Mr Hogan please outline step by step the process of how GRNSW investigates any reported cases of animal cruelty, whether it be to a greyhound/s or any other animal used in the rearing, training or education process, including:

a. GRNSW personnel and/or departments involved in investigating such claims;

Up until the end of 2013, all cases of alleged animal cruelty involving greyhounds are referred to both the GRNSW Integrity Department and the Welfare and Veterinary Services Unit.

From 2014 all investigations will be initiated and managed by GRNSW's dedicated Education, Welfare and Veterinary Services Unit, whose primary concern is the improved welfare of NSW greyhounds and the education of participants.

b. External bodies consulted

GRNSW notifies RSCPA NSW about all alleged cases that may involve alleged acts of animal cruelty. Local Councils and/or NSW Police are also notified where appropriate. Any investigation into alleged animal cruelty involving licensed participants is conducted jointly by GRNSW and RSPCA NSW. These arrangements have been in place since 2011.

GRNSW's General Manager, Growth and Sustainability is in regular contact with the RSPCA NSW Chief Inspector in relation to ongoing investigations and or persons of interest, both licensed and not.

c. Maximum time frames for investigations to be initiated

Investigations have to be initiated immediately when it involves a serious risk to greyhounds and or other animals.

For unsubstantiated allegations, investigations have to be initiated within 48 hours.

20. Can Mr Hogan please outline the number of people employed in the Greyhound Welfare And Veterinary Service Unit?

Nine (9) full-time employees as well as contract labour when required

a. Can Mr Hogan list the job titles of each of these employees?

As of 1 February 2014:

- General Manager, Growth and Sustainability
- Rehoming and Welfare Operations Leader
- GAP Marketing & Administration Assistant
- Consultant Greyhound Behavioral Assessor
- Training and Assessment Officer
- Welfare and Education Officer
- Members Services – Welfare and Education Coordinator

- Senior Veterinary Officer – Metro (vacant)
- Senior Veterinary Officer – South
- Senior Veterinary Officer – Hunter

b. Are the above employees paid by GRNSW?

All positions are paid directly by GRNSW.

21. Are people employed as stewards in the NSW greyhound racing permitted to:

a. Own and/or race their own greyhounds?

No, under Greyhound Racing Rules R104 (7) a controlling body steward shall not own, train or lease a greyhound.

i. If so, please outline how GRNSW ensures that the functions of such stewards are not compromised by their additional involvement in the industry

See above.

22. Are members of the GRNSW Board permitted to own and/or race greyhounds?

Yes. This is the case for all board members for all three racing codes in NSW. There are active owners and breeders on the Boards of Racing NSW and Harness Racing NSW.

a. If so, please outline how GRNSW ensures that the functions of these board members are not compromised by their additional involvement in the industry

All GRNSW Board members are required to abide by the Greyhound Racing Act 2009 and the GRNSW Board Code Of Conduct.

The GRNSW Board Code Of Conduct is a requirement of the Greyhound Racing Act 2009. Breaches of the code may result in GRNSW recommending to the Minister for Gaming & Racing that the member be removed from office (Greyhound Racing Act 2009, Schedule 1, c5.2). Members' activities may also be reported to, and investigated by, the Greyhound Racing Integrity Auditor.

23. Does GRNSW require stewards to declare a conflict of interest if they are personally or financially involved with an owner and/or trainer who is participating in a race they are overseeing?

Yes.

a. If not why not?

Not applicable.

24. Is there anyone currently employed by GRNSW who:

a. is the subject of fraud charges?

Not to the knowledge of GRNSW.

b. has been convicted of for fraud charges?

Not to the knowledge of GRNSW.

25. How many dogs in NSW are owned by greyhound syndicates?

For the 2013 calendar year, 741 greyhounds that raced in NSW were owned by syndicates. Please note that of these 741 greyhounds, 384 were owned by syndicates based in other states and territories in Australia and New Zealand.

a. Please provide a comparison of this figure in relation to:

i. the total number of greyhounds in the industry

For the 2013 calendar year, 10,894 greyhounds raced in NSW. Please note that of these, 1,356 were owned by owners based in other states and territories in Australia and New Zealand.

ii. Greyhounds owned by individuals

For the 2013 calendar year, 7,609 greyhounds that raced in NSW were owned by individuals. Please note that of these, 899 were owned by individuals based in other states and territories in Australia and New Zealand.

26. Can GRNSW confirm that lump sums of money are provided to individual tracks?

a. If so, when did this practice begin?

On 10 May 2013 the GRNSW Board announced reforms to the Non-TAB racing sector funding model, which came into implementation from 1 July 2013. Fiscal constraints placed on GRNSW by the limitations of the current industry funding model were the key driver for the funding changes.

The new model recognises the Non-TAB sector's importance as the hobbyist and community segment of the sport, and provides a viable and sustainable model for the medium term, avoiding the closure of any tracks around the state.

Under the model, every Non-TAB club can choose the number of Non-TAB race meetings they conduct each racing season and have greater discretion over prizemoney levels, subject to minimum operating standards being met.

Under the model, Non-TAB clubs are allocated an amount of funding for the financial year and notify GRNSW of the number of race meetings they wish to run during the season. Non TAB clubs can choose to receive their allocated funding amount in instalments or in one lump sum.

Under this model, the following conditions are placed on Non-TAB clubs:

- 1) All Operating Standards must be adhered to;
- 2) All conditions of registration of a race club must be adhered to;
- 3) A veterinarian must be in attendance at all meetings;

- 4) A Club Steward must be engaged at all meetings;
- 5) A race meeting must consist of a minimum of six races; and
- 6) A 'floor' level of 60% of funds provided by GRNSW must be paid out as prizemoney.

27. Can GRNSW please outline the processes involved in maintaining greyhound racing tracks, including:

a. Mechanisms in place to deal with an individual club that fails to maintain the track to an acceptable standard?

b. The responsibilities of:

i. GRNSW

ii. individual clubs

iii. stewards

in maintaining the track to an acceptable standard?

The responsibility for track preparation on trial and race days rests with NSW greyhound racing clubs.

On race day at TAB tracks, part of the stewards role before a race meeting is to conduct an inspection of the track, racing equipment and kennels. As part of this process, stewards prepare a track inspection report and return this information to GRNSW as part of their race day paperwork.

Further, as part of its Work Health & Safety obligations as a duty holder, GRNSW has developed a hazards escalation process for GRNSW field staff for identifying, reporting and controlling hazards identified at NSW tracks.

When an issue is identified through either of the above channels, it is reported to the Planning & On-Course Operations Manager who is responsible for investigating and resolving the issue in consultation with the relevant club and track staff.

28. Do individual clubs contribute to the direct or indirect costs associated with having a veterinarian present on race day?

As outlined in GRNSW's submission to the Inquiry, GRNSW established its own Greyhound Welfare and Veterinary Services Unit in July 2011. This resulted in GRNSW assuming responsibility for the provision of on-course veterinarians at TAB meetings. GRNSW directly pays for the costs of on-course veterinarians at the majority of TAB tracks, and indirectly pays for the costs of on-course veterinarians at the remainder of TAB tracks through club administration funding.

In 2012 GRNSW moved to ensure that all race meetings in NSW would have the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon, including all Non-TAB meetings.

Prior to funding changes to the sector in July 2013, Non-TAB clubs received \$400 per meeting as a contribution to race day veterinarian costs. Under the new Non-TAB funding

model, Non-TAB clubs are allocated funding for the financial year and notify GRNSW of the number of race meetings they wish to run during the season. It is an individual club's responsibility to manage administration costs within the limitations of their budget and level of racing activity.

29. Are veterinarians required to be present on trial days?

No.

a. If not, why not?

Given the majority of trials are 'solo' in nature, i.e. one dog trials, the risk of injury is significantly reduced on trial days.

b. If not, what process is followed when a greyhound is injured on track?

The process varies from club to club and is dependent on a range of factors, including the volume of trialing and the time of day when trials are conducted.