

**Submission
No 97**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Wade Bowden

Date received: 16/10/2013

To the Director and Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in New South Wales,

My name is Wade Bowden; I am a 22-year-old university student

. I am responding in calls for submissions on the issue of animal welfare in respect to the recent ABC report on the greyhound racing industry in Australia. I do not consider myself the most learned person in respect to the issues of the racing and gaming industry but I was sincerely shocked and appalled with the facts that were presented in the report and subsequent research I have undertaken independently into the welfare of greyhounds in the industry.

As a confessed animal lover, I have always been concerned in regards to animals being used in the racing industry but the “pros” have always outweighed the “cons” in my eyes. Whilst this industry does have positive aspects such as employment opportunities and wealth creation, the revelation of the facts such as the ridiculous number of greyhounds that are given grim death sentences, has made me rethink my stance on the industry. Australia is one of the greatest countries in terms of animal welfare in general, we have a rich culture of caring for animals as pets and our farming industry is held in high esteem on the global market. This of course has attracted inquiry into the welfare of animals in the farming and pet industry, and it is clear that the issues presented about the racing industry are equally if not more important.

It is clear that something must be done about this issue, and whilst people shudder at the notion of “increased government funding”, I believe a greater amount of funding should be considered to address this issue point blank. For example, an increase in the amount of funding for charitable or not for profit organisations dealing directly with greyhounds that have been abused or abandoned by breeders or trainers, the implementation of an ethics committee whose sole purpose is to address the issues of mistreatment and doping in the industry. The person/s elected to this committee would be realistic, I am not saying to elect someone who will call for an end to greyhound racing, but the issue needs to be dealt with in an effective, realistic manner.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,

Regards,

Wade Bowden