

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 6/11/2013

Partially Confidential

- To the Legislative committee, On Greyhound Racing in NSW.

NAME WITH HEALD,

I have been involved in greyhound racing since I was a teenager am IN MY 30,S with a young family, I have meet a lot of wonderful people in the days that I used to travel my greyhounds to country tracks like Gunnadah,Orange,Tamworth,E.t.c

99% of greyhound participants treat their racing and retired greyhounds like humans. In fact I remember visiting a families place that I went to to buy a pup from and when I knocked on the door 4 retired greyhounds greeted me at the door, in-between these greyhounds was a little foxy.

When I went and had a look at the pups these pups plus their racing dogs were kept in a purpose built air-conditioned kennel block.

What other dogs are kept in good conditions like these?

-

Animal welfare.

In any industry it is a must to keep on top of but I feel that most greyhound participants are way over the top on animal welfare with their greyhounds.

-

My thoughts about the state of greyhound racing in NSW?

Yes is could be better but most people keep comparing NSW with VIC.

Now doing this is like comparing apples to orange.VIC has 14 tracks all being TAB tracks,NSW has around 38 tracks that have to be funded by GRNSW.

So you would say as I don't have figures that 50% of prize money would go to subsidies racing in country areas.

I believe GRNSW are doing a good job in this area were YES they have closed some country tracks that did not perform or were under performing ,but they have also opened up TAB tracks in these areas like Dubbo. Goulburn

But they could keep working this model not just in the country areas but on the TAB tracks as well, I believe an area like the area Taree,Wauchope,and Kempsey would benefit from a TAB track in this area. You could also do this model in the Gunnadah,Tamworth,Armidale area. Where closing down tracks but making one track TAB would compensate the country people who race in these areas and they would be racing for more money, plus if the track was loam(sand)they could race twice a week,1, being TAB the other being country prize money. This would compensate for this area loosing 2 clubs, you still have the two clubs racing at one track under the one banner but halving all racing cost.

-

I do agree the Inter-code and non Tax Compensation are hurting greyhound racing in NSW Very badly.

If this was an easy fix ,I think it could be fixed tomorrow, But I also believe that back in the days it was signed something underhanded did happen and the government of today need to look into this closely to make this funding model between the 3.Racing codes better off. I don't have blinkers on like most of my friends in greyhound racing, The horse racing does bring in more funds then greyhounds and trots, But a more evenly funding model from the Inter-code agreement would be a lot better. But so would more funding from the NSW Government.

Drugs in sport,

No matter what sport you are in where money is involved you will always have people trying to make money, Just look at Lance Armstrong,(cycling)Carl Lewis(running) most recently the scandal that has rocked the Rugby League.

What I'm trying to get at if the penalties were more substantial this hopefully would detour people from doing this. I believe that the procedures the GRNSW have in place at time of writing is the best they have ever had in detouring and catching drug cheats, but let's not be silly as said before it happens in all sports not just The racing industry.

In summing up Yes there is things that need to be done better Integrity should be our number one thing, As just look at what was on the 7.30 report recently, If we got our share from the Inter-code we could be able to put more money into prize money, wealth fare and integrity. But you must understand as in living money only goes so far.

-

Number two ,GRNSW should look at clubs better then what they doing and stop conflicts of interest in our secretaries that run our clubs. We have a secretary that runs 3,race clubs, runs a public training track and

parents also trains greyhound from this persons property. If this is not a conflict of interest I don't know what is.

-

They should make public training tracks be brought up to a standard as well

Most of the training tracks in Nsw have not had work done by the proprietor for years. Don't get me mentioned on OH and S on race tracks or training tracks.

The stewards should be doing more kennel inspections .Racing kennels and rearing kennels, plus the GRNSW has their own vets, why don't the vet also make this trip with the steward to make sure all animals on the property are healthy.

-

In finishing I personally think Greyhound racing in NSW is going along OK,but

Little things need to change for it to thrive, But also don't let the heavy handed tactics of the GAG leaders (when the industry went on strike they lost support with their heavy handed tactics by threatening people.) Please don't let their submission cloud your judgment on the way the greyhound industry is being run at the moment as it's not all doom and gloom as they would like you to believe.

Also don't let the animal activist cloud your judgment as well as I said in my first paragraphs greyhound owner trainers love their dogs like they were there kids.

Yours sincerely