

**Submission  
No 1021**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.)

**Date received:** 29/01/2014

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# Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Greyhound racing in NSW



## From the Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.)

This submission is being done at the request of John Miller, Principal Council Officer, Parliament of New South Wales to clarify confusion between the Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.) and Greyhound Racing NSW's Greyhounds As Pets.

The Greyhound Adoption Program (NSW), Inc. was co-founded by Dr Denise Wigney and Mrs Kerry O'Flynn in 1997. It became fully incorporated in February 1999, and has been colloquially known since then as GAP NSW.

It was only the second group formed specifically for rehoming retired racing greyhounds in Australia, following GAP (Victoria), which was started in 1996 and taken over by Greyhound Racing Victoria in 1998.

The Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.) is run by a management committee and other volunteers and is not funded by the racing industry. We rely on membership fees, donations and fund-raising efforts to cover operating costs. While GAP NSW does not have its own facility, we rent kennel space for newly acquired dogs, but rely mostly on foster carers to take the Greyhounds into their own homes to help them adjust to pet life and to continue the assessment process of each dog. We run a website ([www.gapnsw.org.au](http://www.gapnsw.org.au)), a Facebook page (GAP NSW) and a Twitter feed (@GreyAdoptNSW). We source our Greyhounds from racing owners and trainers in an attempt to encourage responsible rehoming of retired racers, and have a waiting list of dogs being held. Our chief limiting factor to the number of Greyhounds adopted annually is the number of foster homes available.

As a senior member of the Greyhound rehoming groups in Australia, GAP NSW has participated in annual GAP conferences since their inception, until excluded by Greyhounds Australasia in 2011 because we are not affiliated with the state racing authority. At these conferences GAP NSW members presented papers and contributed to the development of the National Greyhound Adoption Program Temperament Test, which is used by most GAPs in Australia to test the suitability of a Greyhound for rehoming. This test is the basis of the assessment used in NSW to allow pet Greyhounds to be muzzle-free under the Greenhounds Program. Two of our management committee have also become Greenhounds assessors, to facilitate the integration of Greyhounds into the community without muzzles.

In 2009 Greyhound Racing NSW developed their own rehoming program which they named Greyhounds as Pets, and also refer to it as GAP NSW. Their funding is much greater than that of the Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.), with paid staff and a dedicated vehicle as well as greater access to the Greyhound Racing Industry. They have in recent times started a website ([www.gapnsw.com.au](http://www.gapnsw.com.au)) which is very similar to our own.

The (deliberately) identical acronyms confuse many people from adopters, racing owners, donors and the media, to our distress and general disadvantage. Even speakers at the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry have confused the independent Greyhound Adoption Program NSW (Inc.) with Greyhound Racing NSW's Greyhounds as Pets.