

**Submission
No 285**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Michael Hooper

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Government initiatives have helped the other 2 racing codes in recent years. However greyhound racing has been left behind. Harness racing recieved the benefits from the re-zoning of Harold Park which netted a large sum. Allowing the relocation and reconstruction of a first class facility at Menangle Park. Thoroughbreds have recieved extra income via development grants for Randwick and Rosehill and the cash from the sale of the rights to "Trackside" from the TAB. However the greyhound code has been far less fortunate. At Wentworth Park we have been governed by a less than supportive trust, have only a tennant status at the venue with little income benefits. Have not become the licensee at Wentworth Park and have recieved no capital works grants as delivered to the thoroughbred code. Our tax takeout ratio is leaving us behind in comparison to Victoria and thus the standard of racing is ever decreasing. During the EI outbreak where greyhound racing continued to race. Our code suffered substantial losses and reduced prizemoney during this period. The Federal Government of the day offered a \$225million dollar assiatance package to the Horse codes and nothing to the greyhound, all we recieved was \$1/2million from the state Government of the day, yet sustained losses not incurred by us of over \$2.5million. Quiet an untennable situation.

Government assistance is of any form would be of great value to our industry.