

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Kristoffer Della Casa

Date received: 28/10/2013

28th October 2013

Legislative Council
Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

Re: Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in New South Wales

Please accept this submission on behalf of myself, Kristoffer Della Casa Owner/Trainer of Greyhounds in NSW.

The Terms of Reference for the Parliamentary Inquiry are quite substantial. I am responding on the following grounds; Inter-Code Agreement, animal welfare and efficacy of Greyhound Racing NSW's control and testing processes.

1. Inter-Code Agreement

- Under the 99 year agreement greyhound racing receives 13 per cent of TAB funds which are distributed amongst the three racing codes. Greyhound racing accounts for 20 per cent of TAB sales.
- The 99 year agreement needs to be revised and have some sort of system set in place to allow for some form of financial gain. The current agreement means that as the years pass on and inflation, cost of living, taxes and all other expenses increase, greyhound racing will still be receiving minimal funds. No current business would be able with stand this financial hardship for 99 years. This leaves no room for growth within greyhound racing and will fundamentally leave a lot of people out of work and stop a lot of people participating in the hobby they love.

2. Animal Welfare

- I am outraged at the accusations put forth to this inquiry regarding mistreatment of greyhounds. I am an owner/trainer and my dogs are fed high quality meat, kibble and supplements to keep their health at an optimum level. My dogs are kennelled but spend most of their day out in yards free galloping or taken for walks. My dogs are regularly washed and wormed, they are also taken to the vet for regular check-ups and to have their blood work done.

- My dogs love going to racetracks as they love to run, it is what greyhounds have been doing for centuries.

3. Efficacy of Greyhound Racing NSW's control and testing processes.

- GRNSW scrapped the red marble approach to greyhound swab testing and introduced the process that it is up to the Stewards discretion on which greyhounds are swabbed.
- This new approach is open to too many variables and also opens the window for corruption. It also places the Stewards reputation and character into question regarding numerous dogs repeatedly being swabbed.
- The Red Marble is a game of chance. And every trainer has the same odds of being swabbed, its fair, and leaves every trainer in the same position when it comes to drug testing.

Yours Sincerely

Kristoffer Della Casa