

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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To the Parliamentary Inquiry into Greyhound Racing

I have had greyhounds in my life since I was a child. The past 15 years I have bred, reared and raced my greyhounds quite successfully.

These animals love to race and also love the human race, They settle into retirement well also. There is something very special when you bring puppies into the world, care for them, watch them grow, break them in and see them become successful on the race track.

I have made very cherished friendships during this time from all over NSW and Victoria. I have travelled extensively and seen places I would never have seen.

Being involved in greyhound racing has expanded my knowledge in so many areas of life, some of which I would never have experienced without my dogs.

I have had the privilege to sit on the committee at Young and learn the function and running of a club from a life member and our treasurer Pam Grant. I have watched this dedicated woman take our club from the brink of closure to a successful and productive club. These sort of people are inspiring and valuable to the greyhound industry as volunteers.

In the past 10 years I have watched the industry decline with less money being available to clubs, meeting cuts to country clubs which is really starting to impact on participants and their greyhounds, frustrated and disgruntled owners and trainers that can not understand decisions made by management. There has been no where for participants to air their grievances and no attempt by GRNSW to improve the situation. Now we have this one and only chance to turn the industry around as did Victoria, which shows us how the industry is a viable proposition and can be for NSW with capable and passionate management.

I personally believe that the unaccountability of GRNSW has a lot to do with the state of the industry and this must be rectified if we are to thrive. Secrecy and arrogance is rife at GRNSW as is discrimination and this must cease as well. More conversation and consultation as well as open administration. I also believe clubs have to be more professional and viable to be able to survive.

Our country tracks play an important role I feel in animal welfare, supplying a life for less talented greyhounds, providing our communities with business and jobs, they also are an important part of the sporting charity fundraising when called on to do so.

All of this of course needs more money for greyhound racing in this state and all we need is the typical Aussie fair go.

Thank you for this chance to have my opinion

Vicki Prest