

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

**Organisation:** Young & District Greyhound Racing Club  
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## THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING

To The Committee

I currently hold the position of Secretary to the Young & District Greyhound Racing Club. I did hold this position for a while 20 odd years ago, and during the time that has elapsed, have seen drastic changes to the number of greyhounds that are bred and racing. During the previous period, a grand idea of “rationalisation” was introduced. Since then the whole idea of the governing body of greyhound racing in NSW seems to have been aiming to reduce country tracks and the amount of greyhounds racing to a bare minimum. Due to closure of regional tracks made, more breeders, owners and trainers are giving the game away as it’s become more costly to maintain for the ordinary people in this day of financial hardship. Regional non TAB tracks have had meetings and monetary distribution cut to the bone and owners and trainers are now facing the fact that they are missing out on getting a run with their greyhounds, sometimes week after week. This is mostly in part due to the current agreement on the distribution of funding from the government, and of which greyhound racing gets a paltry percentage against horse and harness racing. The other part is as stated above, added to the fact that there doesn’t seem to be anyone other than people with “financial minds” running GRNSW. These people seem to be so obsessed with the closure of the regional country tracks and making TABC tracks available that they have lost sight of the grass roots of greyhound racing. It’s not just having greyhounds to race; there must be breeding and nursery training to provide the bigger tracks with the dogs to partake in races. It’s not good enough for them to say that there are TABC tracks for everyone to race at; people in the country haven’t got the money or time to travel 2 or more hours during the week to race at these tracks. Also, the criteria for being able to get a run, is to have a performance trial or have a good point score, and this also is almost impossible for owners/trainers to achieve as the same problems as stated in the previous sentence applies.

Hopefully, this government inquiry will bring about a more equal division of TAB income and a more even distribution to the greyhound industry which will see a result of better support from GRNSW for regional country tracks and which will instigate confidence in breeding and racing greyhounds to the benefit of owners/trainers and punters alike.

Yours sincerely,  
Geraldine Ricketts  
Secretary  
Y&DGRC