

**Submission  
No 371**

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

**Name:** Ms Wendy White

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The Director

Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW

### SUBMISSION to the GREYHOUND RACING INQUIRY

I have had concerns about the greyhound racing industry for some time particularly from the animal welfare perspective so welcome the chance to make a submission to this inquiry.

#### 1 ANIMAL WELFARE

The reported number of greyhounds put down each year in NSW alone because they can no longer race, 3000, is extremely concerning and the fact that only 300 have been rehomed since 2009 is a total disgrace and indicates that Greyhound Racing NSW has little interest in the welfare of those dogs that they see as "beyond their use by date". Has GRNSW attempted to work with animal welfare groups and, if not, why not?

There seems to be a complete lack of information about the incidence of deaths and injuries of dogs in the racing industry each year but we know the number is significant as there are reports from various race meets on deaths and injuries. The public should also be told how many pups are born each year and what happens to those which do not show promise. If GRNSW has data on the above the public needs to know, if not GRNSW has to put in place mechanisms which can supply the data

#### 2 GOVERNANCE

There is a need for an independent body (or a return to government regulation) to oversee the greyhound racing industry in NSW. At present the GRNSW appoints the integrity auditor, a totally unsatisfactory state of affairs as there is a conflict of interest as this officer would have to, on occasion inform against the body employing him/her.

David Landa, a former racing integrity officer, resigned in 2012 as he was unable to facilitate inquiries into the industry due to "failings in the legislation making his job as an independent oversight impossible". It would seem that without a change in legislation any attempt to introduce transparency is doomed to failure. The government if it truly wishes to facilitate change in this industry must enact the necessary legislation to enable an independent officer/ body to ensure the transparency that is needed to ensure the welfare of dogs in the industry

I am reluctant to even try to address the matter of funding as I feel strongly that any form of gambling that allows the exploitation of animals for the gratification of the punters is totally wrong. I fully realise that abolishing any racing code is unrealistic at the present but argue that if there is such an industry every step should be taken to ensure there is regulation and transparency to prevent exploitation and cruel practices.

Wendy White