

**Submission  
No 171**

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

**Name:** Mrs Karen Gosling

**Date received:** 19/10/2013

---

I grew up in a house where both my parents were greyhound trainers. We had 20 + dogs in the yard constantly. We lived in the regional town of Broken Hill and most greyhounds came to my parents from city trainers and breeders as a last chance. They had raced in the city and had not proved fast enough or profitable enough. I prayed for each dog that came to us, for I knew that they would be put to sleep if they did not perform. My father was a cruel man who has been banned from the sport several times and been prosecuted for animal cruelty, and yet I know for a fact that right now he has a yard full of dogs. I had a traumatic childhood to say the least. Not only were the greyhounds treated cruelly, but so were chickens, rabbits, ferrets and cats. I watched on helplessly as these poor animals were used to 'tease' the greyhounds on lures....if they were lucky they lived to fight another day or if the greyhounds got to them they had their bodies ripped apart and were left to die a horrible death. The most traumatic thing that I have ever had to do was when I was 10 I was made to hold 5 greyhounds one after the other while my father injected them with a lethal drug to end their life. All because the dogs didn't run fast enough or earn enough. This occurred in our driveway in the early hours of the morning after a race meeting, the poor animals were then piled on top of each and taken to the 'meat hole' at our local tip. This is only scratching the surface of the horrors that I have seen occur to these poor animals over the first 15 years of my life. I left home at 15 and have never associated with my parents since. Yet they both still are allowed to have animals.