

Submission
No 72

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Miss Corinne Mackenzie

Date Received: 16 January 2021

I tried three times to complete the online survey - no problems with any other internet function or website - just yours. So, here are my answers below.

I am an interested member of the public and am dissatisfied with regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

I am also very dissatisfied with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, and Greyhound Racing NSW in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds.

I believe disciplinary action for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission is currently inappropriate.

Given Greyhound Racing's past track record I doubt the industry or govt has any real interest in cleaning up systemic animal cruelty practices that horrify the public. However, in the remote chance this inquiry is not merely lip service (to provide a mendacious appearance of improved regulation but with no actual positive impacts) you may consider the following comments in your considerations to address current legislative inadequacies and shortcomings...

While there appears to be some improved transparency surrounding the reporting and oversight of animal welfare and integrity matters, the current GWIC structure is restricted by inadequate powers, insecure funding and resources and not surprisingly a lack of ministerial support. This impedes GWIC effectiveness as an independent regulator, in line with the NSW State Government's commitments and undertakings, and public expectations.

For GWIC to achieve its stated purpose and principal objective of "promoting and protecting" greyhound welfare, in the face of competing govt objectives to promote socially harmful gambling industries, the GWIC must be supported, fully funded and adequately equipped to perform its role

Current disciplinary action/s for industry participants who breach GWIC legal requirements are inadequate, and fail to deter ongoing and repeated animal cruelty breaches which are systemic within the industry. Research reveals regulatory models with a high level of enforcement of appropriate penalties and/or consequences are the most effective in achieving compliance with relevant laws. However, the government is continuing to fail to meet its commitments and undertakings regarding animal welfare and cruelty matters, including where the welfare of greyhounds is compromised, risked and/or impacted. The penalties awarded against participants for administering a prohibited substance should be substantially increased to adequately reflect the seriousness of the breach, and the long-term suffering and welfare impacts experienced by any greyhound/s.

Should options for appeal be made available for those industry participants who breach legal requirements then I believe any license suspension/revocation or banning of individuals should remain in place for the entire appeal process.

The lack of secure, permanent and independent government funding and legislative limitations included in the NSW Greyhound Racing Act 2017 restricts GWIC in its powers to undertake and fulfil its role to the standard expected by the NSW public and in line with government commitments and undertakings regarding greyhound welfare and integrity.

The Act restricts GWIC from monitoring all greyhounds over a whole-of-life approach, and a lack of resources including an insufficient number of inspectors, exacerbates this predicament.

GRNSW has failed to act on the University of Technology Sydney's report on how to make greyhound racing tracks safer. As a direct consequence, an un-acceptable and completely avoidable number greyhound injuries and deaths continue to occur in NSW. GRNSW has also failed in regards to ensuring every greyhound no longer participating in the greyhound racing industry is re-homed in a suitable life-time home.

The past and ongoing inaction and ineffectiveness of Greyhound and Horse Racing bodies to protect animals from cruelty has brought your industry into disrepute. As an aside my friends and I are appalled we previously attended animal racing events and now avoid any association with such horrific practices in our social gatherings and will never again attend.