

ERRATUM

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

(Tabled 27 September 2019)

Minister: **Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP – Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs**

Title: **Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Annual Report 2018-2019**

Action: **Replace pages 5, 6, 20 and 28.** This corrects an incorrect Greyhound Adoption Program return rate percentage and clarifies performance against finalised Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal matters.

Ensuring

industry integrity



208

current welfare and integrity investigations as at 30 June 2019



welfare and integrity investigations finalised since January 2018

In 2018-19

88 intelligence submissions were made to the Queensland Police Service Racing Crime Squad

90 human samples were taken by the Integrity Investigations Team



1,571
race meetings supervised

10

licence applications declined on grounds of ability or suitability



1,525

original decisions were made by Commission staff in 2018-19 and **102** of those matters were subject to an internal review

96%

of the original decisions made in 2018-19 stand as originally made

5,924
licensed participants, with a code breakdown of:

4,227



Thoroughbred

1,752

trainers, with a code breakdown of:

913



Harness

447

253

1,250



Greyhound

586

40

external review applications were made to the QCAT in 2018-19 and **27** matters have been finalised

Of the **102** internally reviewed decisions,

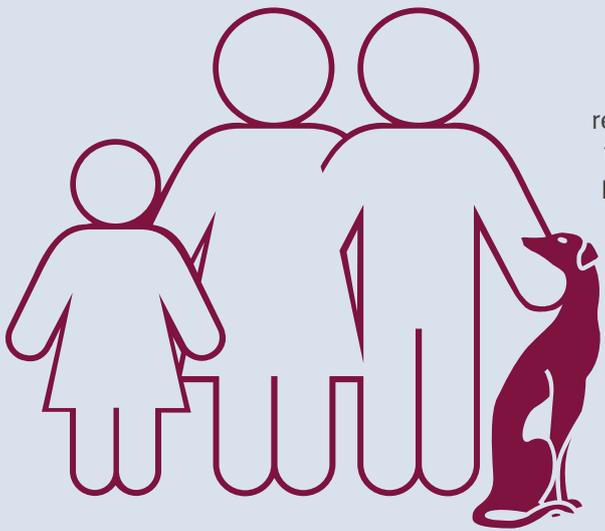
23

were amended or substituted by the Internal Adjudicator

Of the **27**

matters finalised through the QCAT process;

- **6** matters (**22%**) were finalised in favour of the Commission
- **6** matters (**22%**) were finalised in favour of the applicant
- The remaining **15** matters (**56%**) of matters were settled between the Commission and the applicant and the review application was withdrawn



274

retired racing greyhounds rehomed through the Greyhound Adoption Program, **with a return rate of 2.9%** compared to

223

adopted in 2017-18



13,488

animal registration applications received in 2018-19, with **12,944** finalised by 30 June 2019

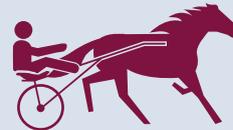
Safeguarding the welfare of racing animals

689 Kennel and Stable Inspections undertaken by stewards and the Integrity Investigations Team



417

Thoroughbred stable inspections



94

Harness stable inspections



178

Greyhound kennel inspections

19,985

animals samples tested for prohibited substances, with

78

animal samples (0.39 per cent) reported positive for prohibited substances



20

Animal Welfare Directions issued by Authorised Officers

Progress against our strategic objectives

Objective 1: Safeguarding the welfare of animals involved in racing

Performance Indicators

- Number of information reports made to the Commission about integrity and animal welfare issues
- Percentage of re-homed greyhounds returned to the Greyhound Adoption Program
- Percentage of greyhounds accepted into the Greyhound Adoption Program re-homed within four months

Results

- 178 kennel inspections conducted by Stewards and the Integrity Investigations Team
- 511 stable inspections conducted by Stewards and the Integrity Investigations Team
- 20 Animal Welfare Directions issued
- 462 welfare and integrity investigations finalised
- 274 retired racing greyhounds rehomed through the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP)
- 2.9% return rate for re-homed greyhounds returning back to the GAP
- 80% of greyhounds were re-homed within four months of entry into the Program

Objective 2: Administer the rules of racing with integrity, independently, impartially, and consistently

- Percentage of original decisions confirmed at internal review
- Percentage of external review (QCAT) matters finalised in favour of the Commission
- Industry participants and community engagement, satisfaction and confidence in the Commission

- 1,571 race meetings supervised
- 1,525 original decisions made by race-day Stewards
- 77% of original decisions subject to internal review confirmed (79 decisions confirmed out of 102 original decisions subject to internal review)
- 58% of industry participants perceive the Commission as somewhat, quite or very firm but fair

Objective 3: Exercise best practice, skills and processes to detect, investigate, and prosecute compliance and integrity breaches

- Percentage of samples reported positive for prohibited substance
- Percentage of original decisions confirmed at internal review
- Percentage of external review (QCAT) matters finalised in favour of the Commission
- Number of successful legal challenges to double certified reports on analysis

- 78 animal samples (0.39%) reported positive for prohibited substances from 19,985 animal samples tested for prohibited substances
- 38 offenders charged with 173 offences by the Queensland Police Service Racing Crime Squad
- 1,525 original decisions made by race-day Stewards
- 77% of original decisions subject to internal review confirmed (79 decisions confirmed out of 102 original decisions subject to Internal Review)
- 22% of matters finalised through the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal process were finalised in favour of the Commission (22% were finalised in favour of the applicant and 56% of matters were settled)
- Zero successful legal challenges to double certified reports on analysis
- 88 intelligence submissions made to the Queensland Police Service Racing Crime Squad
- 11 reports made to Crime Stoppers referred to the Commission for investigation.

In 2018-19, there were 1,525 original decisions made by the Commission. Of those decisions, 102 were subject to internal review. A total of 23 decisions were altered at internal review.

Individuals also have a right, under the Racing Integrity Act, to apply for an external review if they are dissatisfied with their internal review outcome. The external review of decisions by QCAT offers a further layer of transparency and independent oversight of the Commission's decision-making process. In 2018-19, 40 external review applications were made to QCAT, with 27 matters finalised. Of the matters finalised, six resulted in favour of the applicant (with two being amended and four set aside), six resulted in favour of the Commission and 15 were settled between the Commission and the applicant. This demonstrates that the review mechanisms available to participants is genuine and effective.

QPS Racing Crime Squad

Our partnership with the QRCS continues to deliver outstanding integrity outcomes for the Queensland racing industry. In 2018-19, 38 offenders were charged with 173 offences. Since the inception of the Commission on 1 July 2016, the QRCS has charged 81 offenders with 260 offences.

The QRCS continues to investigate matters of serious animal cruelty, major and organised crime (including fraud and race fixing), and any other statutory offences relating to licensed persons across the three codes of racing in Queensland.

The most significant investigation conducted by the QRCS in 2018-19 was Operation Quebec Creed. In May 2018, Operation Quebec Creed was established to address allegations of match fixing conduct and associated illegal race day treatment practices. The investigation uncovered the involvement of two other industry participants, and their roles in the production, supply and dishonest application of unregulated horse products to licensed thoroughbred horses.

As a result of the investigation to date, three industry participants have been charged with fraud with the period of offending being between 30 November 2016 and 6 March 2019. The participants remain before the courts.

Of those prosecutions commenced by QRCS as a result of the initial greyhound live-baiting investigation, one remains before the courts. During 2018-19, 10 prosecutions relating to animal cruelty/breach of duty of care have been commenced by the QRCS with eight finalised and four persons found guilty.

Procurement

To further our governance and planning maturity, the Commission prioritised implementing recommendations from internal auditors on the design and operating effectiveness of our procurement practices.

The Commission appointed a dedicated Principal Procurement Officer in December 2018 with the priority of this role being to implement a Procurement Policy, Procedure, Authorisation matrix and Framework that aligns to both the Whole of Government Policy and principles plus industry best practice. The implementation of the Procurement Policy and supporting tools addresses internal audit recommendations.

To increase the maturity of the procurement functions across the Commission, procurement training has been developed and will continue to be delivered to relevant staff in 2019-20.

To assist the procurement compliance function, the Commission implemented an automated workflow and system enforced controls for goods and services procured and identified Cost Centre Managers and key staff that are involved in procurement to undertake procurement education and training programs.

Strategic policy

In guiding and administering its regulatory obligations, the Commission developed the 2016-2020 Compliance and Enforcement Strategy which incorporates elements of better-practice strategy frameworks, strategic objectives, priority actions, measure of success and details the compliance threats facing the Queensland racing industry, articulates welfare and integrity outcomes and outlines a comprehensive plan for working towards these outcomes.

The framework is supported through six key strategies:

- Animal Welfare
- Sampling and Analytical Services
- Intelligence Capability
- Licensing
- Workforce Development
- Communications