



# Media release

## First harness drug testing operation clears all but one

**11 May 2017**

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Integrity Regulation Unit (IRU) carried out random drug and alcohol testing on harness racing participants at the Albion Park Harness races earlier this week with pleasing results.

QRIC Commissioner Ross Barnett said results from 32 drug and alcohol tests conducted on site at the Albion Park harness meeting cleared all but one of the harness participants who provided a sample.

“The tests showed a very high level of compliance with the rules of racing and it was a positive result, as the vast majority of participants provided clear samples,” Mr Barnett said.

“The first random tests of their type by QRIC at a harness racing venue in Queensland included trainers, drivers, stable hands and clerks of the course.

“This type of no notice operation ensures a high level of compliance in the racing industry and gives confidence to the betting public and good people in the industry that those flouting the law will be caught,” he said.

“One test sample from this week’s operation returned a positive result to drugs and has been sent for further analysis; further disciplinary action may be taken depending on the result.

“A stable hand disobeyed an officers’ direction to take the drug and alcohol test and left the race course.

“This breach resulted in charges of failing to provide a sample and the stable hand was immediately stood down. This breach will be the subject of a Stewards’ inquiry later this month.

“The IRU conducted a similar testing operation on March 14 at Doomben during thoroughbred track work testing 72 participants and returning two positive results to drugs and one positive result to an alcohol breath test.

“Again this was an excellent result reflecting positively on the safety and integrity of racing in Queensland.”

ENDS...