



Media release

QRIC makes a mark one year on

4 July 2017

Saturday, 1 July, marked one year since the commencement of The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC).

The Commission which was born of the live baiting scandal after the MacSporran Inquiry into the Greyhound racing industry found the industry self-regulation model was compromised by an inherent conflict of interest.

QRIC Commissioner Ross Barnett said the Commission's achievements in its first year of operation demonstrated the value already being added, by an independent welfare and integrity function.

"The QRIC's achievements in its first 12 months of operation demonstrates the value of an independent welfare and integrity agency," he said.

"The QRIC has expanded the drug sampling regime to test for prohibited substances in 100 per cent of winning animals across all three racing codes.

The QRIC has enhanced its stable and kennel inspections including the establishment of a dedicated kennel inspection team and increased its integrity complaints and investigation capacity.

The investigations team has also randomly drug tested participants at race tracks and meetings throughout the state.

Licensing Standards for all participants across all three codes of racing have been created to strengthen the QRIC's powers to exclude people based on convictions for animal welfare or cruelty, dishonesty, fraud, forgery, match-fixing, trafficking or supply of drugs, illicit and illegal substances.

The QRIC's Internal Review process provides a free and independent mechanism for industry participants to challenge the decisions and penalties handed down by Stewards by applying to the Internal adjudicator.

The Commission has finalised 100 Internal Reviews resulting in the alteration of 31 original decisions, 23 of which have been amended and eight overturned.

Overall there have been 794 thoroughbred and 227 harness and 324 greyhound racing stewarding decisions eligible for Internal Review."

The QRIC in partnership with the Queensland Police Service's Queensland Racing Crime Squad (the Squad) has resulted in 44 charges against 24 offenders.

In 12 months, more than 100 investigations have been finalised and 60 QPS Racing Intelligence submissions completed.

The QRIC has established a formal partnership with Crime Stoppers to provide a trusted avenue for people to anonymously report animal abuse and misconduct within the racing industry.

The QRIC has developed the first Compliance and Enforcement Framework for the Queensland Racing Industry articulating the welfare and integrity outcomes it is striving for and improvements required to achieve them.

The QRIC has employed two additional vets and created an Equine Welfare program to support the transitioning of retired racehorses into other sports such as show jumping, dressage and eventing.

The achievements noted are in addition to managing the seamless transition of business-as-usual activities to the QRIC, including:

- Rehoming 313 greyhounds through the Greyhound Adoption Program
- More than 19 000 race day and non-race day samples tested for prohibited substances
- Approximately 1000 stable and kennel inspections conducted.
- Eight animal welfare directions issued under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016*.

ENDS..
