



Media release

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QRIC calls on debtors to pay up

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner is urging the Commission's outstanding debtors to pay up before the Christmas-New Year holiday is over.

"We have a list of more than 170 racing industry participants across Queensland who combined owe the Commission more than \$100,000 in fees and fines," Commissioner Ross Barnett said.

"This is a comparatively small number given there are about 6,000 licensees in the state, but some of these debts are greater than 90 days old, with some invoices remaining unpaid for more than a year.

"But in the spirit of the season, we have suspended our efforts to recover the outstanding amounts until the New Year and I would like people to do the right thing and settle up their accounts voluntarily," Commissioner Barnett said.

"If they're still on our list of outstanding debtors by the time the Commission's offices reopen after the holiday break then I will have to consider my options, including licence suspensions."

The Commission is empowered by the Licensing Scheme Standard to immediately suspend any licence where a licence holder fails to pay a debt owed to the Commission within 30 days or such other period of time agreed between the Commission and the licence holder.

"This money is owed to the people of Queensland through the Commission as a statutory body and we have been very patient in dealing with people up to this point," Commissioner Barnett said.

"It appears some people may be confusing kindness with weakness and are simply ignoring us."

Some individual participants owe the Commission between \$5,000 and \$8,000 each.

"We know from their racing successes that most of these people have the capacity to pay but choose to delay doing so," Commissioner Barnett said.

"I would urge our debtors to pay what they owe or enter into payment plans before they find themselves being called upon to demonstrate why their licences should not be suspended."

Payment arrangements can be made by contacting the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission on 1300 087 021.

ENDS

If you have any information about serious misconduct in racing, contact Crime Stoppers on their toll free number 1800 333 000 or e-mail reportsomething@qric.qld.gov.au