



MEDIA STATEMENT

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2020

GWIC provides industry with transparency around its expenditure and funding

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has today released further financial information to provide clarity and transparency in relation to the cost of greyhound welfare and integrity functions in NSW.

In the 2019/20 financial year the Commission's cash outlays were \$16.42 million and \$15.66 million in 2018/19. The increase from the prior year is largely due to employment costs associated with staff that were not in place at the commencement of the Commission on 1 July 2018.

The Commission receives funding from [four sources](#) comprising a grant from the State Government; a distribution from Point of Consumption Tax on wagering; a direct contribution from Greyhound Racing NSW and 'own source revenue' generated directly from registration fees.

In January 2019, an independent review conducted by the Department of Industry determined that the average costs of integrity and welfare functions conducted by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) in the three years preceding the commencement of the Commission, was \$13.89 million.

In 2019/20, GRNSW paid \$8.4 million to the Commission for integrity and welfare functions, \$5.49 million less than the costs previously incurred by GRNSW for the same functions and almost \$0.8 million less than GRNSW paid to the Commission in 2018/19.

Media commentators have also recently claimed that Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) spends only \$10 million on integrity and welfare and has more tracks, more dogs and more participants than NSW. To fact check these claims the Commission has produced a [comparison of key elements](#) of the industry and integrity and welfare costs reported in NSW and Victoria.

That comparison shows that NSW operates vastly more tracks and has jurisdiction over a much larger number of greyhounds due to the Commission's integrity and welfare programs covering all greyhounds, including retired greyhounds owned by industry participants.

The Commission notes that GRV reported a cost of \$19.3 million for its integrity and welfare functions in the 2018/19 financial year. The Commission has endeavoured to compare the cost of "like for like" functions with GRV's costs. The figure arrived at of \$15.3 million appears reasonable but because of differences in the respective organisations, is difficult to accurately reconcile.

Since inception the Commission has produced regular reports to inform the industry of key measures, including breeding data, injury data, retirement data and the outcomes of disciplinary actions. The Commission's Annual Report also contains detailed information about its program costs, outcomes and comprehensive financial accounts.

The Commission welcomes informed discussion about its operations and performance and invites all interested stakeholders to engage with it on these issues. The Commission also invites suggestions about the development of further analysis that could be produced to deepen understanding of the industry's performance. All such requests can be directed to ceofeedback@gwic.nsw.gov.au.

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GWIC FUNDING SOURCES

Source of Funding	Financial Year 19/20	Financial Year 18/19
GRNSW	\$8.403 million	\$9.187 million
State Government Grants	\$3 million	\$5.201 million*
Point of Consumption Tax on wagering	\$4 million	\$2 million
Total grants and contributions	\$15.403 million	\$16.388 million
Own source revenue from registrations	\$0.660 million	\$0.326 million
Total funding	\$16.063 million	\$16.714 million

*cash figure only, does not include in-kind contributions from Department of Industry

NSW & VICTORIA COMPARISON OF KEY DATA AND WELFARE AND INTEGRITY COSTS¹



Element of Comparison	GRV - Victoria	GWIC - NSW	Comment
Racing data			
No. of tracks	13	32	Significantly more tracks in NSW
No. of race meetings	1,189	1,153	Comparable
No. of races	13,777	11,399	Less than Victoria due to GRV conducting 12 races per meeting as opposed to the standard 10 in NSW.
No. of unique greyhounds raced ²	6,860	6,520	Comparable
Greyhound data			
No. of greyhound pups whelped/registered	4,533	3,747	Slightly more, with NSW coming off the back of the ban.
No. of greyhounds registered and under the jurisdiction of the controlling body	7,919 greyhounds in training, as per IER study in 2015-16.	26,842	GWIC has legislative jurisdiction over every greyhound owned and kept by registered participants. This means the total dog population under the control of GWIC much larger than other jurisdictions.
Participant data			
No. of participants	15,000	2,970 custodial participants and 25,000 owners ³	Much higher population of participants in NSW
Organisational data			
Number of Full Time Equivalent employees who work on welfare and integrity functions	71	67	Comparable
Geographical size of State	227,444 kms	801,105 kms	The Victorian industry is centralised within a much smaller geographical footprint compared to NSW, where the industry, both tracks and participants spread over a vast geographical area.
Welfare and integrity expenditure	\$19.3 million, with Commission estimate of like for like costs of \$15.3 million	\$15.6 million	The Commission has endeavoured to compare the cost of like for like functions but because of differences in respective organisations it's difficult to accurately reconcile.
Welfare and integrity cost per track	Indeterminate	\$0.49 million	
Welfare and integrity cost per unique greyhound raced	Indeterminate	\$2,393	
Welfare and integrity cost per greyhound population	Indeterminate	\$581	

¹GRV has been consulted on this comparison.

²These figures related to the 19/20 financial year.

³NSW operates off a 'once off whole of lifetime' owner registration scheme. GWIC is currently conducting an audit to determine how many of the 25000 life time registered non-custodial owners are still active in the industry.