

## GREYHOUND INDUSTRY REFORM INSPECTOR (GIRI) 1-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

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On 8 July 2024, I commenced in my role as the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector (GIRI) to oversee the progress of the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the *Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry* (the 'Ashton Report') conducted by Mr Graham Ashton AM APM.

Since commencing in the role, my initial focus was to familiarise myself with the Greyhound industry in South Australia and meet with key stakeholders. To this end, I have now engaged with over 300 stakeholders and industry participants. I have also attended greyhound race meetings at all five racetracks across the State and conducted site visits to various industry-related operations. In this first year I have developed regular communication with a range of key stakeholders including:

- Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Greyhound Racing SA (GRSA)
- Government of South Australia
- RSPCA; and
- Greyhound Industry Participants

I have also established a Greyhound Racing Reforms Advisory Group (GRRAG) to assist in providing professional expertise and advice throughout the review period.

This report provides an overview of the reform progress at the halfway point of the two-year period, since my appointment. At the end of the two-year period, as required by the Ashton Report, I will provide a final report to the Minister for Racing as to my level of satisfaction with the reform progress. If a decision is made to continue Greyhound racing, I will express a view as to the most appropriate oversight model going forward.

**RECOMMENDATION PROGRESS**

As of 7 July 2025, of the 87 total recommendations arising from the Ashton Report, I have verified 41 as being completed. One other recommendation (#25) is considered partially implemented. Of the 87 Recommendations, 78 are considered the responsibility of GRSA and nine are considered the responsibility of Government. I will continue to monitor the progress of the recommendations and report on their status throughout the two-year period.

The following list details the recommendations I have verified as complete at the time of writing:

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	The Terms of Reference for the Integrity Welfare Committee be amended such that members of the Integrity Hearings Panel cannot also sit on the Integrity Welfare Committee, to ensure the functions of the IWC and IHP are free from any potential conflicts.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	The duties and responsibilities of the Board in relation to integrity and welfare be included within “Accountability” at point 4 of the Board Charter to bolster the importance of the IWC’s reporting function to the Board and the IWC Minutes be added as a standing item on the Board’s Agenda.
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	GRSA to amend its Constitution and Board Charter to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clearly outline the Board’s role in driving and upholding integrity within the greyhound racing industry in South Australia, and</li> <li>• redefine the objects of the company to better reflect the functions of GRSA as the controlling authority for greyhound racing.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	GRSA adopt and implement McGrathNicol’s recommendation with respect to periodic declaration of private interests and periodic probity statements by the Board.
<b>Recommendation 5</b>	GRSA develop and implement a Steward’s Manual addressing the elements listed above identified by McGrathNicol with version control.
<b>Recommendation 8</b>	GRSA to develop and implement a staff code of conduct to provide its employees with clear instructions about what they can and can’t do in the workplace, including ethical obligations, values, accountability, standard of conduct, standard of practice, and disciplinary procedures.
<b>Recommendation 12</b>	GRSA, in consultation with an on-track vet(s), develop and document an on-track vet folder similar to Greyhound Racing Victoria.
<b>Recommendation 13</b>	GRSA finalise its documentation of all swabbing and sampling procedures.
<b>Recommendation 14</b>	GRSA to document their internal policy outlining their approach to swabbing and sampling (acknowledging its sensitivity) for review by General Manager, Integrity and Welfare, including targeting of participants subject to suspended suspensions for prohibited substance outcomes.
<b>Recommendation 15</b>	GRSA replace the <i>KnowTellProtect</i> webpage with a prominent “Contact GRSA” webpage with separate forms for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting animal welfare concerns, suspicious behaviour or any other unlawful conduct relating to greyhounds and the greyhound racing industry</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a complaint or providing feedback about GRSA or its staff</li> <li>• Submitting a media enquiry</li> <li>• Submitting a general enquiry</li> </ul> <p>Each avenue for contacting GRSA should autogenerate an appropriate acknowledgement from GRSA with details regarding timeframes for consideration of the same and when a response can be expected.</p>
<b>Recommendation 16</b>	GRSA implement a procedure for managing complaints regarding animal welfare and other unlawful conduct to ensure they are actioned in a timely manner by the appropriate branch within GRSA. All reports/complaints of that nature should be tabled at the Integrity Welfare Committee meetings to identify trends and ensure they have been actioned appropriately.
<b>Recommendation 18</b>	GRSA introduce a local rule prohibiting participants from lay betting on any greyhounds racing at South Australian tracks.
<b>Recommendation 20</b>	GRSA should ensure a person representing GRSA is available to participants at race meetings to ensure stewards can focus on their core functions.
<b>Recommendation 21</b>	Stewards should only record significant interference on stewards' reports and append video footage of the race to the steward report.
<b>Recommendation 22</b>	GRSA should incorporate hair testing as a more regular feature of their drug testing environment. Targeted out of competition testing by using hair samples should also be increased.
<b>Recommendation 24</b>	GRSA publish a quarterly analysis of greyhound injury data in the same manner as GWIC. This analysis must be published to the community.
<b>Recommendation 25 (Partial completion)</b>	GRSA implement the following track safety initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of 6 dog races.</li> <li>• Establishment of GWIC style quarterly racetrack injury report.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation 31</b>	Greyhound Racing SA to review format of Inspection record to require date of last inspection, more descriptive answers and include important questions which were previously asked in relation to care and management of property, cleaning and feeding regime, exercise regime, description of kennels and require photographs of non-compliant items to be inserted at relevant points as evidence and future reference.
<b>Recommendation 32</b>	That the Premises Inspection/Greyhound Audit template should require the inspector to record how many dogs are registered against the participant prior to the audit being carried out and how many dogs were located at the premises and require an explanation to be recorded for any discrepancy (in addition to the microchip audit).
<b>Recommendation 33</b>	Government to consider, in the context of the review of the Animal Welfare Act 1985, to mandate the controlling authority for greyhound racing to report suspected breaches of the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations to the RSPCA.
<b>Recommendation 35</b>	Government should consider allocating funding to appoint a full-time animal welfare officer at the RSPCA dedicated to greyhound welfare.
<b>Recommendation 40</b>	GRSA Animal Welfare Policy 2021 should be amended to make expanded and specific reference to tethering. A policy position should be that greyhounds are only to be tethered for the minimum practical time and for no more than two

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	hours. If a greyhound is tethered for any period of time, it should be provided access to water.
<b>Recommendation 41</b>	GRSA should adopt the following policy regarding pest control in both indoor and outdoor kennel facilities: Safe and effective measures must be taken to control pests and vermin (including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, spiders, snakes and rodents) in greyhound housing areas. Pest control chemicals must be kept in their original container and used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Greyhounds must be removed from any areas where and while noxious pest control chemicals are being used.
<b>Recommendation 42</b>	The existing GRSA exercise, socialisation and enrichment recommendations contained within the GRSA Animal Welfare Policy 2021 be augmented with the inclusion of the following requirements covering greyhounds in training and racing: Greyhounds in training or racing must be provided with at least 30 minutes of free exercise per day, in the form of either free play outside the housing area, or being walked on a lead, and provided access to toys.
<b>Recommendation 43</b>	The existing GRSA exercise, socialisation and enrichment recommendations be given mandatory status and non-compliance should constitute a disciplinary offence.
<b>Recommendation 46</b>	Standards enforced by GRSA under its Animal Welfare Policy be upgraded from recommendations to mandatory requirements. Failure to adhere to these requirements should result in disciplinary action being taken.
<b>Recommendation 47</b>	Greyhound Racing SA immediately ban the use of Surgical Artificial Insemination in the South Australian Greyhound Industry. Any participant who knowingly utilises this method of breeding either directly or indirectly should be the subject of a disciplinary offence.
<b>Recommendation 48</b>	The IHP/Stewards must ensure that prohibited substance Inquiry outcomes are published with details of and having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name of the Steward or IHP member(s) who determined the matter</li> <li>• The names of the greyhound(s) involved and their placing</li> <li>• How the sample or swab was taken (urine, blood or hair sample) and the relevant concentration</li> <li>• The category of substance by reference to the penalty guidelines</li> <li>• What effect the nature of the prohibited substance is known to have on the performance of the greyhound</li> <li>• Whether the registered person pleaded guilty or was found guilty</li> <li>• The person's disciplinary history and registration history</li> <li>• Circumstances of the offence</li> <li>• Whether the registered person profited from the conduct in terms of betting winnings</li> <li>• The degree of remorse</li> <li>• The need for personal and general deterrence</li> <li>• • The penalty guidelines and the basis for any departure from the guidelines (if applicable).</li> </ul>

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<b>Recommendation 49</b>	Once the potential conflict between IWC Chair and IHP Chair is addressed, the IWC should regularly review penalty outcomes to ensure they align to penalty guidelines and serve as an adequate deterrent to industry.
<b>Recommendation 50</b>	GRSA to develop a Rehoming and Euthanasia Obligations Factsheet which clearly outlines participants' obligations consistent with the GAR and Local Rules that is easily accessible and distributed to participants.
<b>Recommendation 51</b>	GRSA to urgently review Local Rule 130 to address a potential loophole for greyhounds retired to registered persons to be euthanised.
<b>Recommendation 58</b>	That the GRSA Constitution and Board Charter be amended to require at least one director to have a background in animal welfare and at least one director to have a background in integrity (noting the same person could hold both).
<b>GRSA Recommendation 5</b>	Revise the Local Rules and Animal Welfare Policy of GRSA to explicitly state that all greyhounds, including those intended for breeding, must be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board. This requirement applies to both new greyhound registrations and those approved for breeding purposes.
<b>GRSA Recommendation 9</b>	GRSA move from the <i>Know Tell Protect</i> initiative to a more independent and secure platform similar to Crime Stoppers, such as <i>Safe2Say</i> .
<b>GRSA Recommendation 18</b>	GRSA assess and implement accredited training programs to assist stewards and racetrack curation staff to better perform their functions.
<b>GRSA Recommendation 19</b>	Within its Integrity and Welfare Committee, GRSA should institute a recurring agenda item dedicated to Reviewing all significant racing injuries and on-track fatalities. This measure aims to detect any discernible patterns or factors that could be significant contributing factors to these injuries or fatalities.
<b>GRSA Recommendation 20</b>	GRSA formulate a binding code of conduct and practice for the greyhound racing sector incorporated into the Local Rules. This code should provide industry-wide guidance on best practices concerning greyhound care, health, and welfare throughout the complete lifecycle of greyhounds.
<b>RSPCA Recommendation 3</b>	Adopt a vetting process to ensure that members appointed to boards and regulatory bodies do not benefit from an affiliation with the greyhound racing industry.
<b>RSPCA Recommendation 7</b>	Increase the monitoring and application of penalties for the use of banned substances. The risk of disciplinary actions must provide more incentive to curb their use.
<b>RSPCA Recommendation 9</b>	Prohibit the routine use of surgical artificial insemination (AI). It is highly invasive, causes significant pain to female dogs and is already banned in some EU countries.
<b>RSPCA Recommendation 22</b>	GRSA's Board should include a member(s) with specific animal welfare expertise, given that this is an animal business.
<b>AJP Recommendation 7</b>	Actively pursue prosecution for any and all breaches of the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1985</i> (SA) perpetrated by members of the greyhound racing industry.

**ANCILLARY INFORMATION**

A number of the recommendations have been verified as completed at various stages of the twelve months, but will be reviewed again at a later time to ensure that the actions recommended are continuing.

The regular reporting of progress to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing includes a monthly written report and a subsequent monthly meeting. In addition, public reports are made quarterly and published online.

I have been assisted in my work by staff from the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing.

On 27 February 2025, the *Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector Act 2024* came into effect. This legislation, amongst other things, outlines my functions and independence. In addition, it provides powers to require information, to enter, inspect and require production of documents, share information, and to appoint authorised officers to assist with the exercise of my powers. I have not needed to exercise these powers to date.

**Sal Perna AM**  
**Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector**