

CTS No: 19006/25

13 October 2025

Ms Christine Goodwin
Secretary
Queensland Greyhound Breeders Owner and Trainers Association
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Dear Ms Goodwin

I refer to your email of Friday 22 August 2025 to the Honourable Timothy (Tim) Mander, Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, regarding the Queensland Greyhound Breeders Owner and Trainers Association (QGBOTA) proposal to increase the number of licensed 'Handlers' at greyhound race meetings. As the matter you have raised falls within Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's (QRIC) responsibilities, your email was referred for my consideration and direct reply.

QRIC acknowledges that the proposal has been circulated to relevant industry stakeholders, including the Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Racing Queensland, Queensland Greyhound Racing Club, Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club, and Chubb Street Trial Track.

The QGBOTA proposal asserts that The Q has demanding and complex infrastructure that requires more than one handler for any race meeting or trial session, and there is a need to increase the number of available licensed catchers (or 'Handlers').

An important clarification is the distinction between licensed and unlicensed individuals handling greyhounds at race meetings. This is an important distinction in respect of the different risk mitigation procedures and instruments, such as Licensing Standards, which form the overall framework designed to safeguard integrity and animal welfare standards.

Firstly, persons may be licensed under the title of "Attendants", in accordance with the Standard for Licensing – Greyhounds. Licensing of Attendants is important because the responsibilities that are carried out by the Attendant are required to be held to the highest standard to safeguard integrity standards. Obtaining an Attendant licence from QRIC is primarily contingent upon passing the probity test, which assesses if an applicant is 'fit and proper' to hold such a licence within Queensland, and is for persons participating in the training and handling of racing greyhounds.

Secondly, race meetings also involve club-employed staff in various positions as 'Officials', including kennel attendants, lure drivers and starters. These staff carry limited responsibilities in comparison to Licensed Persons and are therefore distinguished and monitored differently. While kennel staff are sometimes referred to as "kennel attendants", they are not licensed Attendants under the Standard. Given the involvement of club-employed kennel staff in race meetings, these individuals still fall under the authority of the QRIC / Stewards as per the rules of racing. Therefore, QRIC must still implement safeguarding measures.

To ensure club-employed kennel staff have the required knowledge, skills, and understanding of the rules and their responsibilities QRIC Stewards utilise an accreditation process. Please be advised the Accreditation process is currently under review to ensure its continued

effectiveness. The provision and funding of these staff members remain the responsibility of individual clubs and Racing Queensland. Where clubs choose to offer such support services, they are expected to provide on-the-job training and development to their employees.

QRIC supports education and the professional development of all participants in the industry, however it is not within QRIC's remit to mandate clubs to expand or redefine the duties of their employees.

I encourage you to lodge any future concerns on QRIC's anonymous Report Something portal: <http://www.qric.qld.gov.au/report-something/>.

We ask that if you have any questions relating to Licencing and Registration, you may wish to contact the team directly via email at licensing@qric.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Clark', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine Clark
Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner