



Racing Integrity
Commissioner

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday 15 December 2022

Independent review into Victorian racing industry victim support and complaint processes – Interim Report

The Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sean Carroll, has today released the [Interim Report and Progress Update](#) for the Independent Review into Victorian Racing Industry Victim Support and Complaint Processes (Review).

The Commissioner would like to acknowledge the contribution of the many former and current Victorian racing industry participants and administrators who have taken part in the Review thus far.

The Review will continue into the first half of 2023. All contributions are welcome up until the end of March next year. To take part via an in-person interview, online survey and/or written submission, you must be aged 18 years or older and:

- someone who works, or has previously worked, in thoroughbred, harness or greyhound racing in Victoria
- someone who volunteers, or has previously volunteered, in thoroughbred, harness or greyhound racing in Victoria
- an organisation or expert with relevant experience or expertise.

A final report of the Review will be published in June 2023. It will include detailed findings drawn from the de-identified accounts of people who have contributed to the Review, analysis of the information and data obtained about the experience of victim survivors, the processes and systems that are needed to better respond to their complaints, and recommendations about what the Victorian racing industry needs to improve.

Quotes attributable to Racing Integrity Commissioner Sean Carroll:

“It is a privilege to be entrusted by those who have come forward as part of the Review to date. Their courage and dignity in candidly sharing their experience allows us to better understand what happened to them, how they have been let down, and make sure we do everything we can to support them.

“A trauma-informed approach is at the heart of safeguarding the wellbeing of everyone who takes part in the Review. The integrity and independence of the process and participant privacy and confidentiality are paramount.

“I strongly encourage anyone who has experienced, is experiencing, or has observed, physical and sexual assault and abuse and sexual harassment in the Victorian racing industry to come forward and take part.

“The Review is an historic opportunity to ensure that what happens away from the track is as important to the integrity of racing as what occurs on the track.”

Accessing Support

The following services provide specialist counselling and others forms of support.

If your situation is urgent

If you or anyone you know is in immediate danger, or a crime is currently occurring, please call police on Triple Zero (000) or contact [your local police station](#).

Report a criminal offence

For non-urgent matters, you can report a crime by contacting the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, contact [Crime Stoppers](#) on 1800 333 000.

Support line for current and former Victorian racing industry participants

Victorian Racing Industry Support Line

An independent and confidential telephone service established by the Racing Integrity Commissioner to support all current and former Victorian racing industry participants. The support line provides referral to confidential, trauma-informed counselling services for people who have experienced a serious incident in a workplace in the Victorian racing industry. The service can also provide supported referrals to other specialist services.

Ph: 1300 896 049

Sexual assault, harassment and violence support services

1800 Respect

A confidential counselling, information and support service that operates 24-hours a day, 7 days a week for people who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment

Ph: 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

Website: <https://www.1800respect.org.au/>

Sexual Assault Crisis Line

Crisis Line: 1800 806 292 (free call)

Email: ahcasa@thewomens.org.au

Website: www.sacl.com.au

CASA

Website: www.casa.org.au for a list of Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault

Mental health support services

Lifeline

24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention

Ph: 13 11 14

Website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

beyondblue

Mental health support

Ph: 1300 224 636

Website: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Headspace

Supports young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age

Ph: 1800 650890

Website: <https://headspace.org.au/>

Kids Helpline

Counselling service for those aged between 5 and 25 years of age

Ph: 1800 55 1800

Website: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

Suicide Call Back Service

Ph: 1300 659 467

Website: <https://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au/>

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