

# MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday 13 September 2023



## Independent Review Into Victorian Racing Industry Victim Support And Complaint Processes – Final Report

Today the Racing Integrity Commissioner handed down his report for the independent review into Victorian racing industry victim support and complaint processes (Review). The full report is available here: <https://racingintegrity.vic.gov.au/review/>

The report marks the culmination of 15 months' work by a dedicated team following a joint referral by Racing Victoria Limited, Harness Racing Victoria and Greyhound Racing Victoria to the Commissioner in March 2022.

The Review terms of reference created an historic opportunity for victims of sexual and physical abuse, assault and harassment to come forward and safely share their stories. Their accounts underscore the trauma that many have been subjected to while working in the Victorian racing industry – both historically, and in the present day.

The Review did not investigate any individual allegations or seek to establish liability for harm caused. All victims who came forward were offered support, access to counselling and specialist services, and referral to police or other agencies, as appropriate.

Victim survivors' lived experience and perceptions informed the Review's examination of the industry's support and complaint processes. Despite progress in recent years, the Review found shortcomings in the codes' current prevention and response frameworks.

The Commissioner's recommendations focus on improvements that can be made by all three controlling bodies. They address the need for visible and unequivocal industry leadership and accountability, greater awareness about unacceptable conduct and reporting pathways, an independent reporting and oversight mechanism, and targeted wellbeing support for the Victorian racing industry's most vulnerable and at-risk workers.

The recommendations are future-focused and will drive meaningful change to ensure that all Victorian racing workplaces are safe and respectful.

### Quotes attributable to Racing Integrity Commissioner Sean Carroll

*"The stories shared offer a lens through which our industry can critically reflect and examine our beliefs and biases. They provide impetus for action."*

*"The controlling bodies' referral and support for the public release of the report provides a clear commitment to champion the necessary reforms."*

*"Regardless of our role or position, we all share a responsibility to call out harmful behaviour and not be passive bystanders."*

*"It has been a privilege to be entrusted by all who have come forward. To those courageous victim survivors – I see you, I hear you, and I am sorry for what you have endured."*

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#### For media enquiries contact:

Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner

E:[enquiries@racingintegrity.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@racingintegrity.vic.gov.au) P: +61 3 8684 7776

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