



19 November 2010

Mr P Baxter  
Senior Commissioner  
Independent Competition & Regulatory Commission  
GPO Box 296  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Senior Commissioner

**Re: ICRC - Investigation into the ACT racing industry**

I represent the Australian Jockeys Association of which there are 840 members.

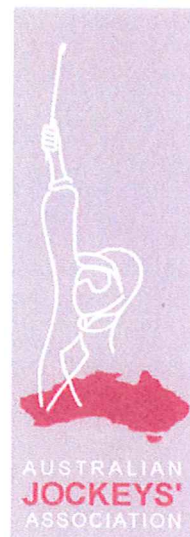
I wish to make a submission on the investigation into the ACT racing industry particularly in relation to thoroughbred racing. The Canberra Racing Club is the most significant racing and training venue in the southern region of NSW/ACT. The Canberra Racing Club currently conducts 26 race meetings per annum and accommodates the training of approximately 250 horses per day 6 days per week at Thoroughbred Park. As a consequence the Canberra Racing Club is a facilitator for the jockey profession in the southern region.

There are currently nine jockeys/apprentice jockeys located in the ACT and they include successful jockeys Brendan Ward, Kevin Sweeney and Richard Bensley and apprentice jockeys Taylor Lovelock-Wiggins, Michael Robertson, Kayla Nisbet, Jason Collins, Billy Owen and Giavani Castillo. For an average Canberra race meeting the local jockey numbers are supplemented by approximately fifteen jockeys from NSW who regularly ride in the region.

The training centre at Thoroughbred Park provides the foundation for the employment of jockeys and is a major centre for the training of apprentice jockeys. Furthermore, on a monthly basis ACT and regional apprentice jockeys attend Thoroughbred Park for training under the supervision of Racing NSW training officers.

The profession of a jockey is a very specialized occupation that requires skills and physical attributes which are not prevalent in the wider community. Jockeys must be proficient horsemen/horsewomen, they must be capable of riding racehorses at high speed at the same time they must be capable of making split second decisions from both a tactical and safety aspect. Due of the weight factor in the handicapping of race horses physically jockeys are small in stature and light in weight and must be extremely fit.

As with many other specialised physical careers typically a jockey's career span is short compared to that of the wider community. It is also an occupation that rates as one the highest risks professions and injuries are not uncommon.



Jockeys are not highly paid in relation to the risks they take and receive \$157.50 per race ride plus 5% of any prize money won by the horse they ride and some riders are compensated for riding track work on non race days.

The foundation for a jockey's career is the number of race meetings available to ride at and the prize money paid at those race meetings. It is critical in your investigation that you consider the profession on jockeys, the number of jockeys employed in the ACT as result of the ACT racing industry and the affect that prize money has on their earning capacity.

It is the view of the Australian Jockeys Association that the Australian racing industry including the ACT racing industry should be adequately funded for the wagering and economic activity it creates through the staging of race meetings.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission as it is important that jockeys are considered in any investigation or study of the racing industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Innes', written in a cursive style.

**Paul Innes**  
Chief Executive