

Inquiry into the delivery of vocational education and training in regional, rural, and remote Queensland

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Submitted by: Racing Queensland
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Submitter Recommendations:

22 January 2023

Committee Secretary
Education, Employment and Training Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: Racing Queensland Submission - Inquiry into the Delivery of VET in Regional, Rural and Remote Queensland

I write on behalf of Racing Queensland (RQ), in relation to current and future skill shortages in the Queensland racing industry and request a review of current occupations on the national Skill Occupation List (SOL) and visa requirements to facilitate international workers entering Queensland to work in the racing industry.

Thoroughbred racing in Queensland is responsible for generating more than \$1.4 billion in value added economic contribution and supporting 10,459 jobs in the state annually.

Notwithstanding, the racing industry in Queensland is experiencing acute labour shortages for stable hands, track riders and jockeys, especially in regional areas.

Actuals for the 2021-22 racing calendar in Queensland, show that a total of 398 horses were scratched from thoroughbred horse racing events due to an absence of jockeys being available to ride them.

This includes 25 TAB races and 373 non-TAB races and represents an increase of 79 horses from the previous racing season. Noting, most of the horse scratchings occurred in Northwest Queensland (52%) and Central West Queensland (15.5%).

Racing Queensland continues to focus on, and invest in, recruitment, training, and retention strategies to foster a wider and sustained pool of domestic workers for racing industry roles.

However, despite our concerted efforts, demand continues to outweigh supply.

To fill the immediate void, we request the following amendments to the migration scheme:

1. Add the occupations of Stable Employee and Track Rider to the Medium and Long-Term Sponsorship List (MTLSSL) by the National Skills Commission, to enable a 4-year visa and Permanent Residency (PR) pathway.

2. Remove employer sponsorship limits to enable candidates to work for more than one employer, noting that track riders ride for multiple trainers.
3. Request fast tracking of Subclass 407 Training visa applications for jockeys, noting the current processing times can vary from between ten (10) to 24 months.
4. Reinstate the Subclass 408 Temporary Activity visas for jockeys under the sport stream.
5. Extend the six-month limitation period of Subclass 417 and Subclass 462 Working Holiday Visas to enable longer-term sponsored employment.
6. Amend the definition of “specified work” in the Migration Instruments of LIN 22/012 and LIN 22/013 to include “working in the racing industry”, thereby enabling a pathway to future visas under the Working Holiday visa scheme.
7. Extend occupations to include stable hands and track riders under the Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored (Regional) visa.

There is a critical need to attract in-demand workers through a variety of amendments to the migration scheme to help sustain the Queensland racing industry and its economic contribution to the state.

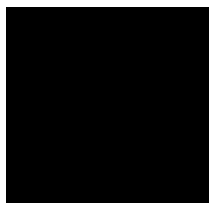
The proposed amendments would enable skilled and unskilled workers from overseas to service the racing industry in Queensland in the short, medium, and long-term.

Training local Queenslanders to work in priority skilled roles in racing remains our number one approach in the long-term, and we welcome your assistance in investing in the:

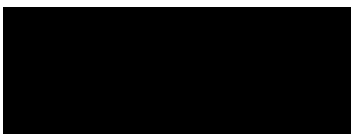
- Long-term viability of the sport of racing in Queensland; and
- Development of a sustainable talent pipeline to support the industry.

Further, I thank you for taking the time to consider Racing Queensland’s submission and welcome your feedback in response to this communication.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Parnell
Chief Executive Officer



cc: Michelle McConachy
Executive General Manager, People and Business Services