



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Racing Industry**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government's nation-leading racing integrity reforms are showing value to the industry just over 12 months since becoming operational. The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—QRIC—tabled its first annual report last month and it shows this new stand-alone integrity body is delivering strong outcomes for industry participants. Clearly the vast majority of those involved in our racing industry are doing the right thing, but those that are not are being caught and dealt with. QRIC's partnership with the Queensland Police Service through the Racing Crime Squad has seen 40 charges being laid against a total of 22 offenders. It is pleasing to see that 99.6 per cent of the 19,000-plus swabs analysed by QRIC's Racing Science Centre returned negative results.

Queenslanders are also getting behind QRIC's efforts to improve animal welfare, with many opening their homes to former racing dogs. In 2016-17, 318 retired greyhounds were rehomed through the Greyhound Adoption Program. This is up from 230 greyhounds adopted in 2015-16 and well up from 57 greyhounds adopted in 2014-15, an absolutely fantastic result. These achievements just over one year on show that QRIC is working as intended and working to strengthen public confidence in the Queensland racing industry.

I can also report to the House that there has been a major financial turnaround in Racing Queensland. According to Racing Queensland's 2016-17 annual report the organisation recorded a loss of \$2.2 million last financial year. However, this is well down from the \$21.8 million loss in 2015-16, representing a turnaround improvement of \$19.6 million. This much improved performance is a result of RQ's stronger commitment and commercial focus and a new leadership team determined to drive growth in our racing industry.