



# Equine Welfare Stakeholder Update

30 July 2021





# EWSP progress



## Key focus areas for the next six months

### Governance & Standards

Formalise standards for licensed premises.

Liaise with CFA to provide fire plan advice to participants and incorporate into licensing policies and stable inspection process.

### Population Dynamics

Collaborate with TBV & TBA (in liaison with breeders) to define responsible, purposeful and ethical breeding.

Audit of all horses 12-18 months post-retirement.

### Racing

Educate and communicate the importance of responsible medication.

Expert insight and feedback to trainers following fatalities, consultation sessions have been held.

### Post Racing Outcomes

Develop a foster program to provide short-medium term solutions for TBs in need.

Develop OTT community and support network, which facilitates success measuring and make strategic sponsorship decisions

### Industry Culture

Equine welfare representatives to have active engagement with industry. E.g. training centre trainers' meetings, opportunities to engage with Owners etc.

Defined responsibilities for participant and stakeholder groups.

### Industry Reputation

Develop resources for stakeholders (eg Race clubs, TBV etc) to use and download digitally.

Identify and develop industry and non-industry ambassadors.



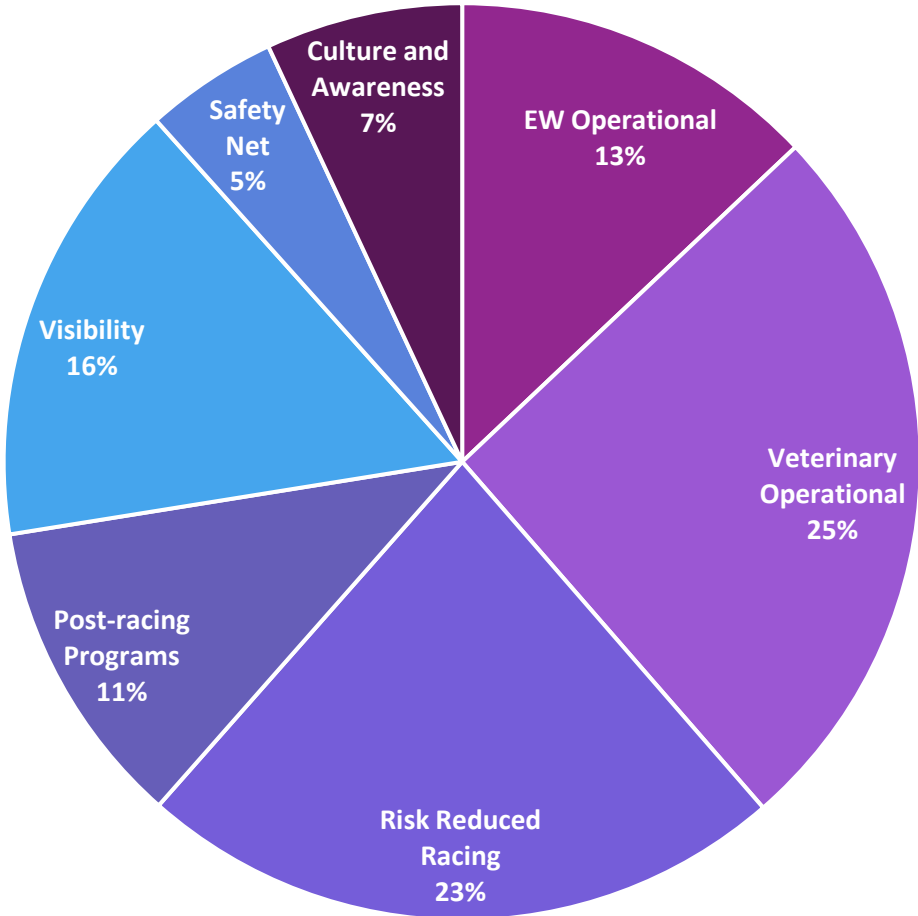
# Spend to date in Equine Welfare

Supported by Appendix A – Equine Welfare Spend



Since January 2020, the Victorian racing industry has directed \$10 million to delivering its equine welfare action plan. Of that investment, \$6.8 million or 68% has been contributed via a 2% prizemoney allocation, with the balance coming directly from RV funds.






A further \$15 million is scheduled to be spent on the equine welfare action plan over the next 18 months as we expand upon the initiatives progressed since the start of 2020 and the roll out of new programs



EW Operational	Equine Welfare Taskforce, Legal, Consulting, Equine Welfare Advisory Council (EWAC), Program development.	\$1.2M
Vet Operational	60% of all Vet costs, excl. swabbing 60 vets across Victoria in pre, post racing and emergency care.	\$2.5M
Risk Reduced Racing	Equine Limb Injury Prevention Program (ELIPP), Biosecurity, standing CT scanner.	\$2.3M
Post Racing Programs	RESET, OTT sponsorship, Acknowledged Retrainers, Business Grants, OTT Community Education.	\$1.1M
Visibility	OTT Community platform, data collection and audits.	\$1.7M
Safety Net	Welfare investigations and inspection, Emergency Aid, OHEP	\$0.5M
Industry Reputation	#HerefortheHorses, Communication and Community Awareness	\$0.7M
TOTAL		\$10M

# Post Racing Framework RoadMap



Principles	Description	Initiative	Implementation Timeframe								Status	FY22
			Existing?	Launched	June-21	July-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		
VISIBILITY 	Of OTT thoroughbreds to the best of our ability.	Stable Return Audit	Yes	July-20							Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ‘Transferred’ Horse Audit</li><li>• National Horse Register</li><li>• RA Traceability App</li></ul>
		Complementary Horse Audits (Livestock Sales, Retrained Horses, AJRA Retired Jumps Horses)	Yes								Ongoing	
		Post-Racing Platform (PRP) <i>OTT Community</i>		April-21	Retrainer updates	RESET updates	Follow	OTT Events	OTT Events	OTT Events	Delivering	
		Retired Horse Audit		July -21	Planning						Planning	
		New National Traceability Rules		May-21							Complete	
TRANSITION 	Best opportunity for a successful first transition for OTT thoroughbreds post-racing.	Acknowledged Retrainers	Yes								Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build upon Retrainer Program- upskilling and increasing the capacity of current and expanding the pool with new.</li><li>• Refine and expand RESET including “Rehab’ horses.</li></ul>
		RESET Program		June-20							Ongoing	
		Retrainer Capacity Expansion Grant		Oct-20							Complete	
DEMAND 	For OTT thoroughbreds in equestrian disciplines and non-competitive environments	OTT Competition Sponsorship	Yes								Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore new partnerships eg, Equestrian Pathways Australia.</li><li>• Horse Hub</li></ul>
		Equine Business Grant Scheme		Mar-21							Complete	
		RDAV pilot		Oct-20							Ongoing	
LONGEVITY 	For OTT thoroughbreds in their new homes	OTT Clinics									Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OTTC Support Program</li><li>• Equitana Nov 21</li><li>• OTT Regional Reps</li></ul>
		OTT Community		Apr-21							Ongoing	
SAFETY NET 	For at risk OTT thoroughbreds and humane end of life	Emergency Aid Policy		Apr-21							Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster Program</li><li>• Acknowledged Retirement Farms</li></ul>
		Foster Program			Planning						Planning	
		Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program (OHEP)		May-21							Ongoing	
		Full Circle		Apr-21							Ongoing	

# OTT Community

- ✓ Connect the Racing and Post Racing communities through features such as Full Circle and Follow.
- ✓ Create awareness of Post Racing programs for all stakeholders.
- ✓ Provide an online space to easily request retraining & rehoming support.
- ✓ Digital RESET and Retraining Reporting.
- ✓ Capture current OTT owner details, disciplines and interests.
- ✓ Updates to horse status incorrect in SNS (55 claimed OTT horses were listed as Spelling, Transferred or Exported).
- ✓ Educational content on owning, competing and caring for an OTT.
- ✓ Data points to tailor future post racing programs.



## Success Measures

2200+ registered members

760+ claimed horses with updated location

390+ horses with a full circle (emergency contact)

30 Acknowledged Retrainers profiles

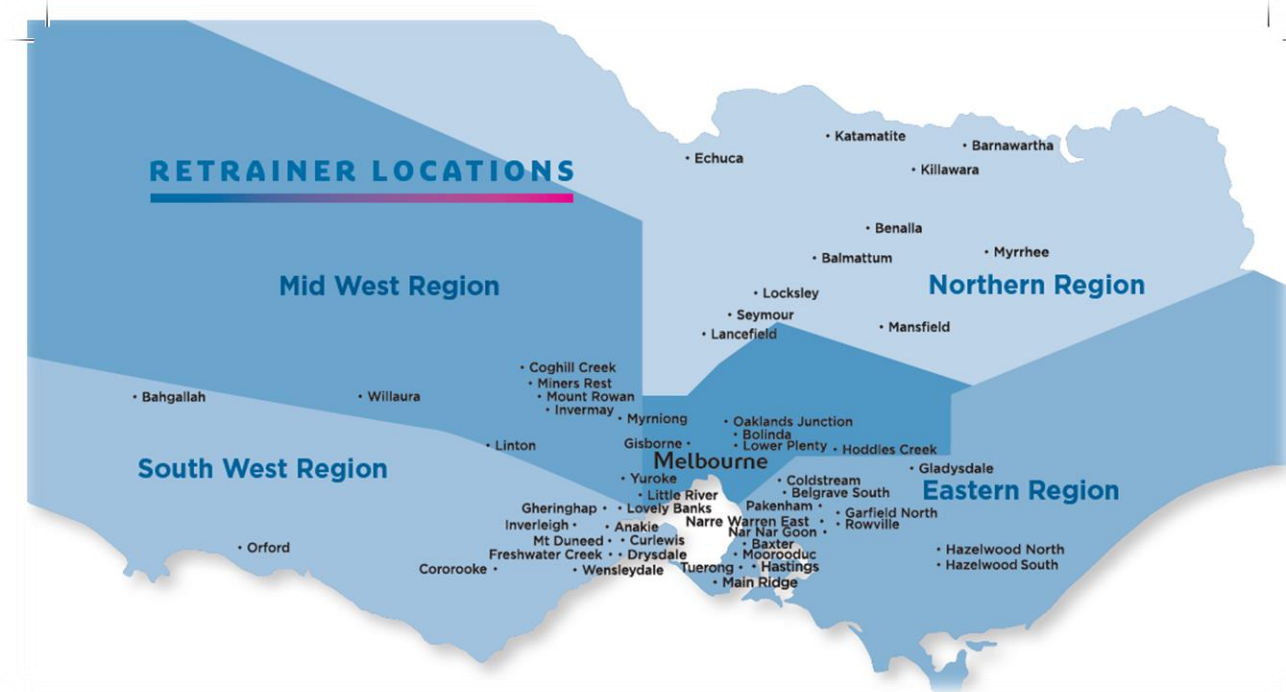
55 horses had their status updated as a result of being claimed as an OTT (from Spelling, Transferred or Exported)

2 reinstated from deceased to retired status



# Acknowledged Retrainer Network

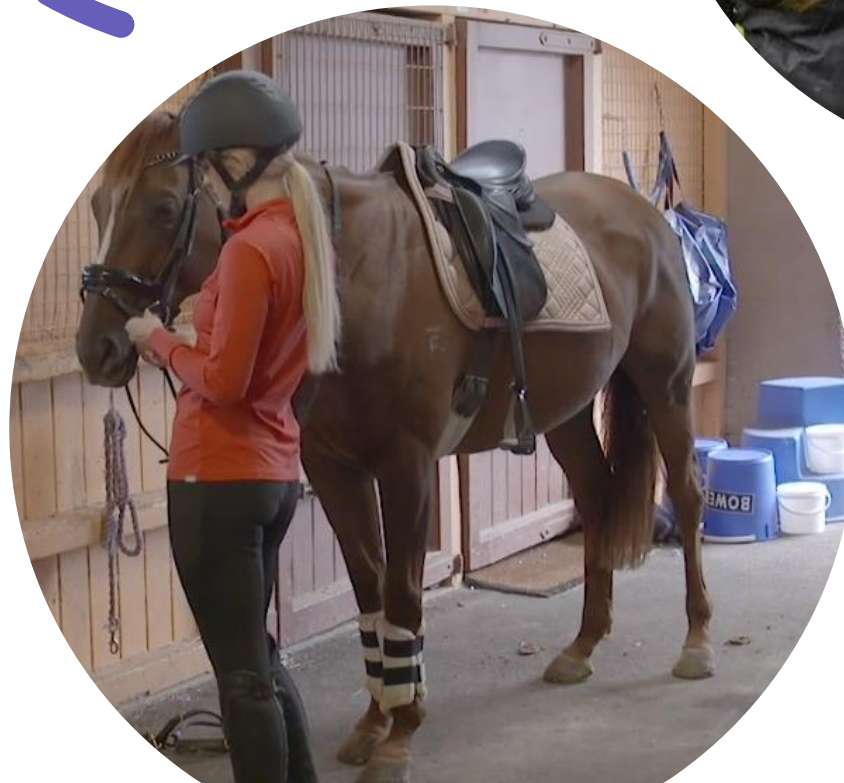
- Transitioning and retraining over 500 OTTs per year.
- Retrainer Business Profiles on the OTT Community provide users with a list of services, specialty disciplines and contact information which are maintained by the Retrainers themselves.
- \$200,000 Retrainer Capacity Expansion Grant opened in February 2021.
- Retrainer guidelines are in their final review and will formalise the existing high standard of expectations, whilst building on the offering of benefits to those recognised as part of the RV Acknowledged network.





# RESET Program

- 34 horses have entered the RESET Program.
- 15 horses have been rehomed.
- Graduates have been re-homed to eventing, pony club, equine therapy, RDA Victoria and veterinary hospital teaching homes.
- 11 Acknowledged Retrainers are part of the program.
- RESET Nomination form is now available on the OTT Community platform.







## OTT Events & community engagement

- \$300,000+ in event sponsorships of over 150 Equestrian events, across a range of disciplines for OTTs.
- \$100,000 offered in Business Grants which supports businesses using OTTs in new pathways.
- New partnerships with Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria, Show Horse Council of Victoria and Marcus Oldham College.
- ~300 visitors per day to the marquee during Inglis Yearling Sales speaking with attendees about retirement options, welfare reporting and progress of the EWSP.
- Focus on digital offerings to engage with the community to offset COVID impacted events.







# Equine Welfare Inspection Statistics

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- **148** Equine Welfare related reports have been reported to or identified by Racing Victoria.
- **85** welfare inspections have been conducted by RV's Equine Welfare Team.
- **15** of those inspections have been conducted in conjunction with the RSPCA.
- **1,495** horses have been assessed during these inspections.
- **48** of these horses were identified as being horses of concern.

Reporting period for from July 2020 – July 2021

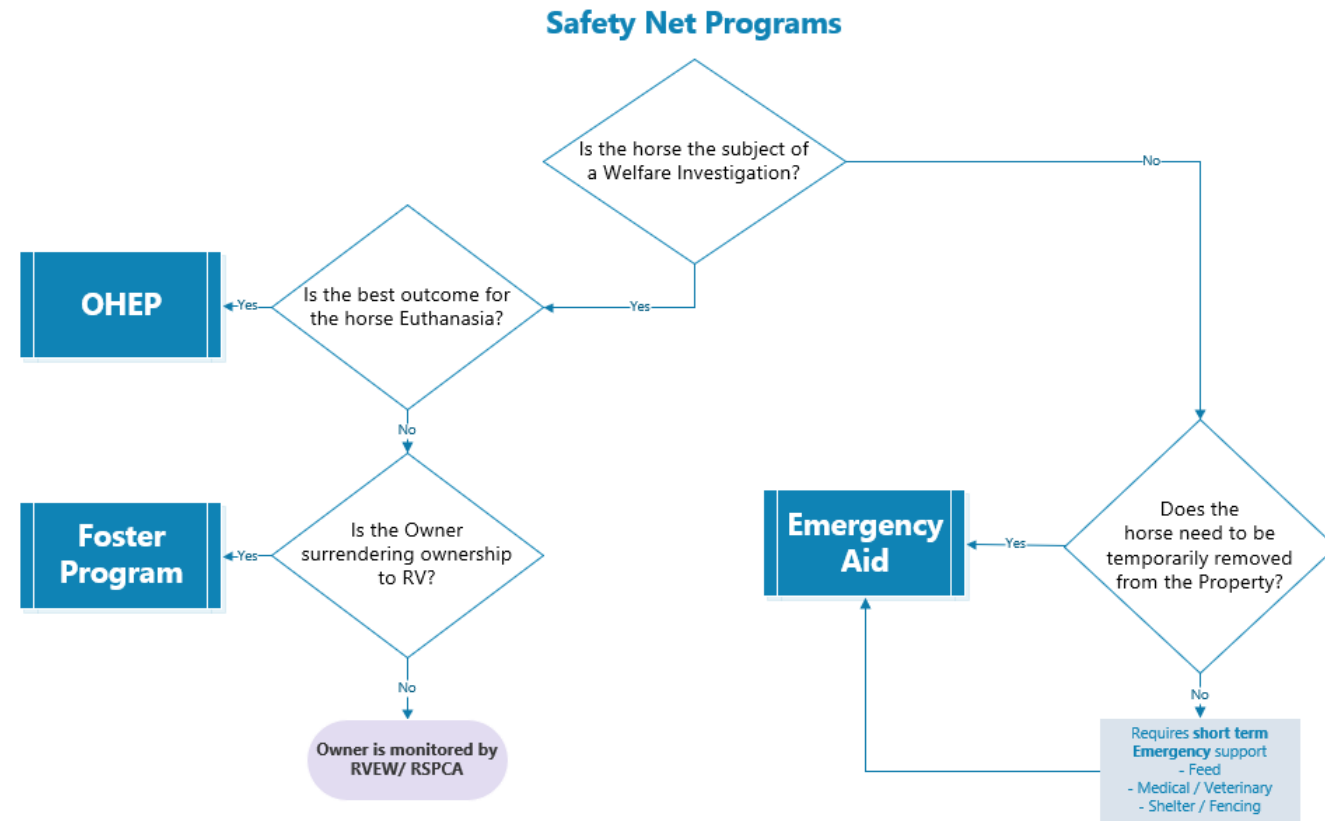




# Safety Net Programs

We have formalised our support programs for horses who need it most into three Safety Net programs:

- **Emergency Aid** is intended to provide short term financial assistance where, through no fault of their own the owners need support with feed, shelter, transport or veterinary care (such as natural disaster).
- **Foster Program** is in final draft, the program will predominately be supported through the Acknowledged Retrainer network to support the horse transitioning to a new home once ready.
- **Onsite Humane Euthanasia Program (OHEP)** provides end of life support for thoroughbreds where the decision to euthanise is the best welfare outcome and has already been made by the owner. The aim of the program is to enable owners to euthanise their horse onsite and if desired, removed (rather than have the horse transported to a knackery or abattoir for euthanasia) in circumstances where the cost of this procedure would otherwise be inhibitive.





Please support us with our Post Racing programs by encouraging anyone with an OTT to join and claim their OTT by visiting [ottcommunity.com.au](http://ottcommunity.com.au)

## **Claim your thoroughbred on the Off The Track Community**





# Contact us

[equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au](mailto:equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au)

- Welfare concerns
- Safety net programs (OHEP, Emergency Aid)
- General enquiries

[offthetrack@racingvictoria.net.au](mailto:offthetrack@racingvictoria.net.au)

- Post racing programs
- Retrainer network
- OTT Events

If you have any concerns regarding the welfare of thoroughbred racehorses in Victoria or potential breaches of the Rules of Racing, contact the Equine Welfare team at:

**03 9258 4258**

You can also submit a concern at [equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au](mailto:equinewelfare@racingvictoria.net.au) or online at [racingvictoria.com.au/equine-welfare](http://racingvictoria.com.au/equine-welfare)

Information can be supplied on a strictly confidential basis.

Racing Victoria has jurisdiction over licensed persons, registered persons, licensed premises and registered thoroughbreds. If your concern does not relate to one of these, contact RSPCA.