

17 July 2025

Inquiry Report – Ms. Vanessa Medhurst and Mr. Steven Mackey

On 17 July 2025, the Tasracing Integrity Unit (TIU) Stewards conducted an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the provision of urine samples by licensed persons Ms. Vanessa Medhurst and Mr. Steven Mackey on 25 March 2025, which, upon analysis, returned findings of banned substances.

Evidence presented during the inquiry confirmed that both Ms. Medhurst and Mr. Mackey had disclosed on their 2024/25 licence renewal applications that they were receiving prescribed medications for significant medical conditions. However, these disclosures were not actioned by the then Regulator. It was further established that while both individuals had made these disclosures in good faith, they had failed to submit the required application for a Banned Substances Exemption in accordance with Australian Rule (AR) 142.

Both participants provided supporting documentation from their treating medical practitioners confirming the necessity of their prescribed medications.

Ms. Medhurst pleaded guilty to, and Mr. Mackey was found guilty of, a charge under AR 142(e)(i) for failing to apply for a Banned Substances Exemption. Each was issued a three-month suspension of their licence. However, in consideration of the extenuating circumstances, including their transparent disclosures on their license applications and supporting medical evidence, the suspensions were wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

The TIU reminds all licensed participants of their obligations under the Rules of Racing in relation to banned substances. Participants who are prescribed medication must ensure their medical practitioner is aware of their obligations under the Rules. If a prescribed medication contains a banned substance, the participant is required to submit a formal Application for Exemption in accordance with AR 142.

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