

Tasracing Integrity Unit
Annual Report
2025-2026

CONFIDENTIAL

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Overview

This report covers the first full financial reporting year since the establishment of the Tasracing Integrity Unit (*TIU*), following Tasracing's assumption of operational responsibility for integrity services for all three racing codes on 1 February 2025. The Unit has been established as a contemporary model for integrity management within the Tasmanian racing industry.

Following on from commitments outlined in its First Anniversary Report, the TIU continued its strong focus on strengthening regulatory and workforce capacity and capability, enhancing animal welfare outcomes, and building confidence in the integrity framework among industry participants, stakeholders, and the broader community.

A substantial volume of regulatory, investigative, and administrative activity continued to be delivered across all racing codes.



What We Do

The Tasracing Integrity Unit delivers independent racing regulation across Tasmania's three codes of racing through three integrated functional areas: **Operations, Stewards** and **Investigations and Animal Welfare.**

Stipendiary Stewards officiate at over 300 race meetings and 100 trial meetings annually. On race day, Stewards supervise meeting conduct, conduct race related inquiries, manage swabbing and veterinary assessments, and refer matters to TIU Investigators as required. Beyond race day, Stewards run non race related inquiries, appeals before the Tasmanian Racing Appeals Board, undertake human drug and alcohol testing, out-of-competition testing, and assist with investigations and animal welfare matters. Stewards are a primary source of intelligence and evidence for the broader TIU integrity program.

Operations administer race fields, including nominations, acceptances, scratchings, handicapping, and grading. Accurate field management and proper application of eligibility conditions are material inputs to race-day stewarding and wagering market integrity. Operations is also responsible for participant licensing and registration, and ownership registrations.

Investigations and Animal Welfare (*IAW*) encompass two streams. **Integrity Investigators** conduct formal investigations into Rules of Racing and legislative breaches, including prohibited substances, race-fixing, corrupt betting, and fraudulent conduct, preparing briefs of evidence and liaising with interstate and national integrity bodies. **Animal Welfare Officers** monitor and enforce compliance with animal welfare standards across all three codes through stable and kennel inspections, participant compliance visits, with matters referred to RSPCA Tasmania where conduct may also engage the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

Intelligence and Betting Analysis, incorporated into IAW, covers intelligence management, wagering surveillance, and the proposed Automated Integrity Intelligence Platform (AIIP). The AIIP, currently being pursued for acquisition, will deliver close to real-time wagering data access, automated alerts, and structured intelligence management across all codes. Intelligence holdings more broadly are assessed and inform the targeting of all proactive integrity activities.

Drug Testing, carried out by Stewards and IAW, operates primarily on a risk-based, intelligence-led basis across race meetings, trials, and unannounced stable and kennel visits, with all samples submitted to a NATA-accredited laboratory. Out-of-competition testing is an expanding strategic priority, addressing the detection gap for substances administered during the training phase.

Operational Performance and Activity Summary

The TIU delivered a substantial volume of regulatory, investigative, and administrative activity throughout the reporting period. This reflects both the breadth of the Unit's responsibilities and its commitment to integrity, animal welfare, and effective oversight.

Stewarding

The following results reflect the Stewarding function's activity across the reporting period:

STEWARDS	FY26
Race meetings officiated	302
Official trial days officiated	110
Inquiries held in which a penalty was applied	469
Careless riding / driving suspensions	26
Whip offences	71
Non-raceday inquiries (positive swabs, welfare, conduct matters etc.)	35
Samples taken / Analysis conducted (inc. OOC)	3826/4043
Positive samples	14 (0.3%)

Operations and Administrative Support

In addition to providing comprehensive administrative and logistical support to industry and stakeholders, the following results reflect the Operations function's activity across the reporting period:

OPERATIONS	FY26
Harness races handicapped	842
Harness foals registered	117
Greyhound races graded	1466
New greyhounds graded	300 +
Kennel transfers actioned	800 +
Licenses issued	1074
License Panel Interviews	42

Operational Performance and Activity Summary *(cont....)*

Investigations & Animal Welfare

The table below reflects the activity of the Investigations and Animal Welfare (*IAW*) function's two streams, Integrity Investigators and Animal Welfare Officers:

IAW	FY26
Stable & kennel inspections	401
Participant compliance visits	228
Statewide greyhound audits conducted	2 (>300 individual audits)
Lawful orders issued	40
Investigations recorded	226 (inc. 54 carried across from FY25)
Investigations finalised	200 (88%)
Out of competition testing operations	7

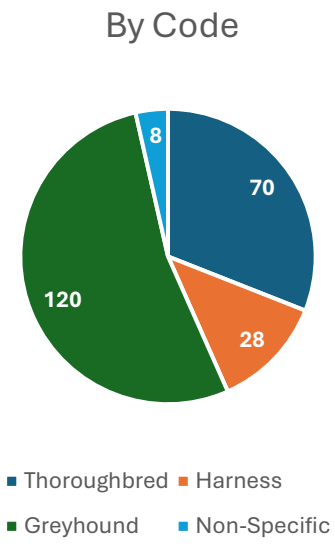


Investigations Overview

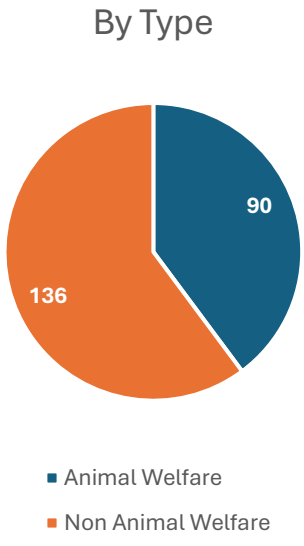
Investigations spanned all racing codes and a range of referral sources and regions. As of 30 June 2026, 26 investigations remained active and subject to ongoing assessment or investigation.

By Racing Code

- Thoroughbred: 70 investigations (31%)
- Greyhound: 120 investigations (53%)
- Harness: 28 investigations (12%)
- Non-specific matters: 8 investigations (4%)



By Type

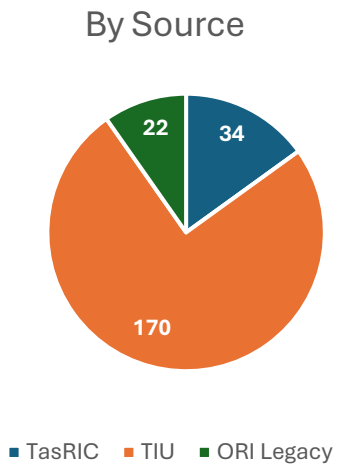


- Animal Welfare matters: 90 investigations (40%)
- Non animal welfare matters: 136 investigations (60%)

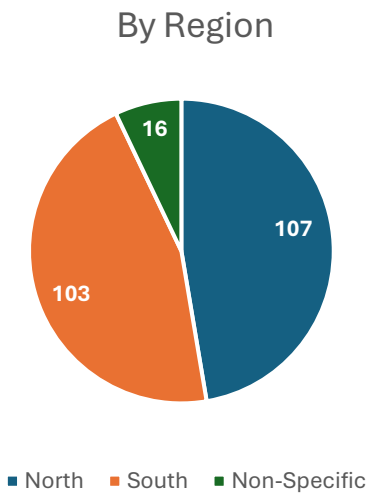
Investigations Overview *(cont....)*

By Source

- Generated by the TIU: 170 investigations (75%)
- Referrals from the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner: 34 investigations (15%)
- Legacy matters transferred from Office of Racing Integrity: 22 investigations (10%)



By Region



- North and North-West: 107 investigations (47%)
- South: 103 investigations (46%)
- Non-specific: 16 investigations (7%)



Investigation Outcomes

Of the 200 investigations finalised during the reporting period:

- 56 investigations (28%) resulted in regulatory or disciplinary action
- 144 investigations (72%) were unsubstantiated or resulted in no further action

Major Cases

- 3 persons warned off after being arrested and charged with serious criminal offences
- 1 participant disqualified for 5 years for multiple serious breaches of the Rules of Racing
- 1 participant disqualified for 2 years (varied to an 18-month disqualification at appeal) for providing false information and withholding criminal convictions on license applications
- 1 participant disqualified for 18 months after being arrested and convicted of a serious criminal offence
- 1 participant disqualified for 12 months for improper conduct and preventing officials from performing their duties
- 1 participant disqualified for 2 years on an animal welfare matter (varied at appeal to a 12-month suspension)
- 2 participants each disqualified for 12 months on animal welfare matters

These outcomes reflect the Unit's continued commitment to proportionate, evidence-based decision-making. Matters are pursued rigorously where the evidence supports it, while those that fall short of the required evidentiary threshold are appropriately closed without further enforcement action.

Regulatory Approach and Interpretation of Results

The investigation statistics point to a regulatory framework grounded in thoroughness, fairness, and independence.

The recording of 226 investigations reflects a strong standard of reporting, monitoring, and proactive identification of potential integrity and animal welfare concerns. A completion rate of 88 per cent for the reporting period points to effective case management, achieved despite the complexity of certain matters and prevailing workforce pressures.

The share of investigations concluding in no further action underscores the significance of maintaining an impartial investigative function. An allegation on its own does not trigger enforcement; regulatory action follows only where the evidence satisfies the required standard. This approach upholds both integrity outcomes and procedural fairness.

Integrity, Accountability and Transparency

Across the financial year, the Tasracing Integrity Unit maintained a firm and consistent commitment to integrity, accountability, and transparency. Decisions made throughout the reporting period reflected a readiness to hold the line on standards. This approach is fundamental to sustaining public and industry confidence in the integrity framework and underpins the long-term sustainability of the Tasmanian racing industry.

Looking Ahead

Key priorities in the year ahead will include:

- Strengthening workforce capacity, capability and operational resilience
- Continuing to enhance governance frameworks and internal controls
- Maintaining a strong focus on animal welfare, education, and compliance
- Building stakeholder confidence through consistent, transparent, and accountable decision-making

The TIU remains committed to continuous improvement and the delivery of independent, high-quality integrity services to the Tasmanian racing industry.

Heidi Lester
Chief Racing Integrity Officer
Tasracing Integrity Unit
4 August 2026