

THE AUSTRALIAN THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY



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Executive Summary

The purpose of this Fellowship was to research access points to achieve the goal of greater internationalisation of employment opportunities for thoroughbred industry support staff and for the Australian Thoroughbred Industry to become more aware of and integrate with the international thoroughbred industry. The Fellow found without exception interest in the Australian Thoroughbred Industry. This led to additional meetings and an expansion of the initial itinerary.

The Fellowship involved a study tour of England and Ireland where meetings were arranged with European Thoroughbred Industry leaders in order to capture solutions for world's 'best practice' in the education streams catering to thoroughbred industry personnel. The European model of training offers accredited courses that are not available through Australian Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education institutions. The areas where we have skills deficiencies, such as skilled trackwork riders are better addressed in the European racing sector. The Fellowship enabled a thorough analysis of the structure implemented by the British Horse Racing Authority and the British Horse Racing Education Standards Trust. This coalition provides a unique introductory course for new entrants to the thoroughbred industry, a model that would offer considerable benefit to the Australian Thoroughbred Industry.

Each year sees more horses bred and raced across many countries around the world. On occasion, it has been found that due to varying statutory requirements, including visa and licensing regulations, handlers have been restricted from traveling with these horses. Such restrictions negate effective and caring horse handling and management. The last decade has profiled thoroughbred racing as an elite sport and all involved are deemed to be professionals. To maintain this level of professionalism, education and training will need to continue as a key role in ensuring that horses are cared for by people who understand their needs and have the skills to meet them.

In 2008 Australia completed three years of consultation, revision and reaccreditation of the National Racing Industry Training Package that has produced the current training package (Australian National Racing Industry Training Package RGR08). In 2010 our European colleagues are conducting a review of their National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and as a result of consultation with the Fellow will use the Australian National Racing Industry Training Package RGR08 (RGR08) as a point of reference.

After meeting with key representatives from the European Thoroughbred Industry, it became evident that by establishing an international mapping matrix of respective training programs we can produce mutually recognised qualifications for licensing purposes between countries and establish an international training program agreement to address future needs.