

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Attorney-General

Minister for Racing



Tuesday, 21 February, 2017

HEALTH CHECK FOR RACING INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS

Improving the health and wellbeing of participants in the racing industry will be the focus of a new research project announced by the Andrews Labor Government today.

The \$32,600 project will examine the health of those involved in the racing industry and engage racing participants to adopt more healthy behaviours.

The Labor Government is contributing more than \$16,000 through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund. Racing Victoria is also providing \$13,300 and the Australian Trainers' Association is giving \$3000 towards the initiative.

From Friday 24 February to 1 March 2017, researchers will assess 800 people attending the biggest yearling sale in Victoria, the Inglis Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale, at Oaklands Junction.

Attendees will be encouraged to drop in to a health promotion marquee, known as the *Wellbeing Lounge*, for a personal health check-up including an assessment for type 2 diabetes risk. There will also be a UV skin damage viewer and a breath analyser for smokers.

Participants can also learn more about other health factors such as alcohol, diet and nutrition. All screening will be conducted by qualified health professionals.

Racing Victoria will partner with the Swinburne Centre for Social Impact under the project to collect the physical and psychological health and wellbeing information.

Staff from Swinburne University will collect basic demographic data on the symptoms of depression and anxiety, and sleep and hygiene patterns.

Racing Victoria will use the data from the project to better understand health issues in the racing industry and to tailor future health and wellbeing engagement programs to racing participants.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"The Andrews Labor Government is working to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of everyone involved in racing."

"This important study will help to give us a better understanding of the general physical and psychological health of those involved in the industry and identify ways to improve it."

Quote attributable to Racing Victoria's Trainer Wellbeing Liaison Officer Kirra Fitzgerald

"The health and wellbeing of our participants is of the utmost importance to Racing Victoria and we welcome the Victorian Government's support of this new and exciting initiative for the industry."