

Industry Update: Ratings Handicapping System Workshops

In preparation for the transition to the National Ratings Handicapping System in Harness Racing across Western Australia, a series of informative workshops were held at key locations:

- **Gloucester Park:** 25 September 2024
- **Pinjarra:** 26 September 2024
- **Bunbury:** 3 October 2024

These workshops, held in the lead-up to the national ratings implementation on **1 January 2025**, aimed to inform owners, trainers, drivers, and other stakeholders about the upcoming changes and address any concerns or queries they may have had regarding the system.

Key Themes, Messages, and Outcomes:

1. **Strong Attendance and Engagement:**

Each workshop saw high participation from a broad spectrum of the harness racing community, including owners, trainers, drivers, and interested parties. The level of engagement reflected the industry's keen interest in understanding the upcoming changes and preparing for the transition.

2. **Presentation by RWA Head of Harness Racing & Special Projects:**

The workshops were led by RWA's Head of Harness Racing & Special Projects, Cameron Brown, who provided an overview of the current state of play, explained the reasons behind the shift to the national ratings system, and highlighted the core principles of the system. The presentation helped contextualize the change and reassured participants about its benefits.

3. **Programming Overview by Warren Wishart:**

RWA Programmer, Warren Wishart, walked participants through mock race programs for Metro, Provincial, and Community events under the new system. He fielded questions from the audience and provided clarity on programming-related concerns, ensuring that participants felt well-prepared for the practical implementation of the national rating system.

4. **Availability of Handicapping Guidelines:**

A detailed **Ratings Handicapping System guideline** document was made available to all attendees. The document serves as a comprehensive resource outlining the mechanics of the system and will be essential for stakeholders as they transition to the new framework.

The workshops concluded on a positive note, with participants expressing a greater understanding of the upcoming changes and confidence in the support provided by RWA.

For further information, including the detailed **Ratings Handicapping System guideline**, please refer to the document <https://bit.ly/4exDzMT>