

# Current views on greyhound racing

A national survey in Australia commissioned by GREY2K USA Worldwide and the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds

January 2023

## Background to the survey

A national survey in Australia on attitudes towards dog racing was commissioned by GREY2K USA Worldwide and the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds in October 2022. Analysis, publication production and creation of support materials followed.

- Formed in 2001, [GREY2K USA Worldwide](#) is the largest greyhound protection organisation in the world. As a non-profit entity, the group works to pass laws to protect greyhounds and promote adoption, with the ultimate goal of ending the cruelty of dog racing across the globe. It also sponsors dogs to safety from closing tracks worldwide.
- Formed in 2015, the [Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds](#) is a dedicated group of volunteers based in Australia who are committed to ending greyhound suffering. While greyhound racing persists, CPG has five key demands: implement whole of life tracking, fund rescues and sanctuaries, increase penalties, reduce breeding and make tracks safer.

## Purpose of the survey

The purpose of this survey was to gauge community attitudes and understand the level of support or opposition for the dog racing industry in Australia.

The dog racing industry is under scrutiny because of growing public concern over the treatment of greyhounds.

## Views on greyhound racing

## Survey providers

US-based pollster [Thirty-Ninth Street Strategies](#) is a full service market research firm which has conducted quantitative and qualitative research across the globe. It engaged Oz Info to conduct telephone interviews and Dynata to contact respondents online.

- [Oz Info](#) is an Australian-owned and operated fieldwork and market research agency established in 1989.
- [Dynata](#) is the world's largest first-party data platform for insights, activation and measurement. With a reach that encompasses nearly 70 million consumers and business professionals globally, and an extensive library of individual profile attributes collected through surveys, Dynata is the cornerstone for precise, trustworthy quality data.

## Survey methodology

A sample of 804 Australians aged 18 and over were selected at random, with interviews apportioned demographically and geographically, based on population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A combination of online and telephone surveys was utilised. This methodology provides a high level of confidence that the results are representative of the population at large.

The characteristics of the sample were:

- **gender** – male 49%, female 51%
- **age** – 18-29 years 16%, 30-39 years 16%, 40-49 years 17%, 50-64 years 24%, 65 years and above 27%
- **state of residence** – ACT 2%, NSW 32%, NT 1%, QLD 19%, SA 7%, Tas 2%, Vic 27%, WA 10%
- **urban residence** – 70%, **rural residence** – 30%
- **online responses** – 57%, **phone responses** – 43%.

After respondents were provided with statements and asked questions, they selected responses from a number of options to indicate their level of agreement/support.

Oz Info undertook a phone survey and Dynata undertook additional online interviews of respondents across all states and territories.

## Views on greyhound racing

## Summary of results

In this section, the survey question is shown in italics with the total responses also presented as a chart. This is followed by a summary of findings in dot point format.

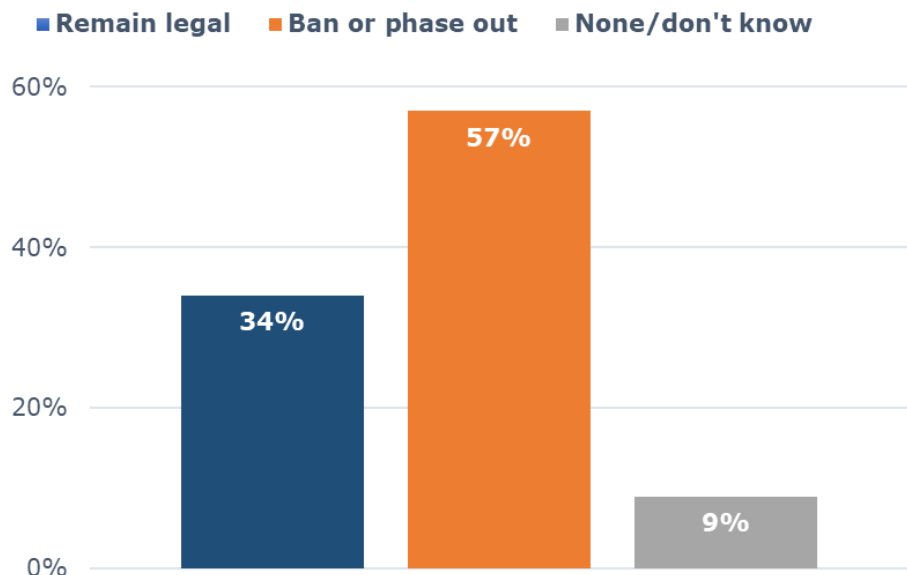
1. *Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion on greyhound racing?*
- Greyhound racing should remain legal in Australia*
  - Greyhound racing should be phased out or banned*

## Total responses

Greyhound racing should remain legal in Australia - **34%**

Greyhound racing should be phased out or banned - **57%**

None of the above/don't know - **9%**



## Summary of findings

- The majority of Australians want greyhound racing to end. This was true for all Australian states and territories, except South Australia (where 47% want it to end). However, even in SA, there were more people wanting greyhound racing to end, than wanting it to remain legal (only 45% wanted it to remain legal).
- Support for ending greyhound racing was stronger among urban vs. rural residents (59% vs. 48%). However, there were more rural residents that wanted to end greyhound racing than keep it legal (only 41% wanted it to remain legal).

## Views on greyhound racing

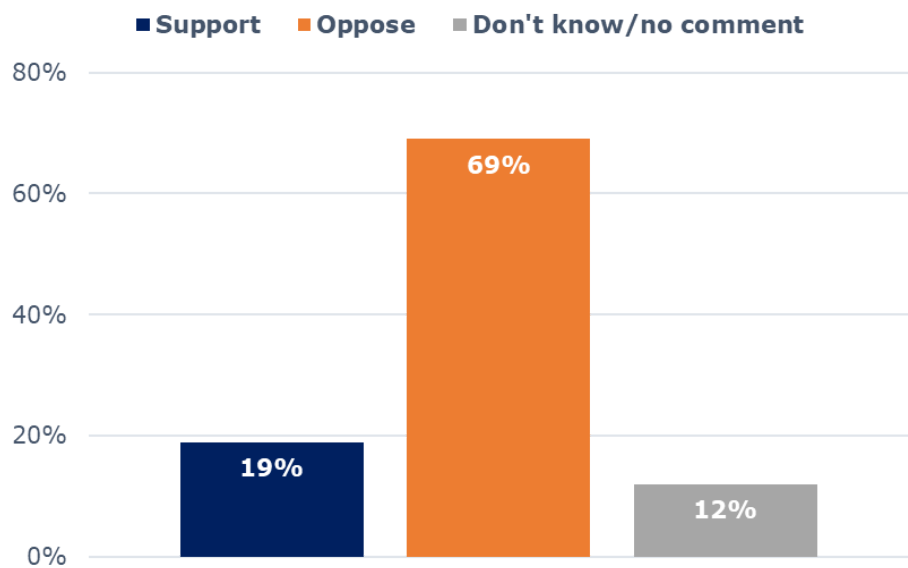
2. Do you support or oppose governments subsidising the greyhound racing industry with taxpayer dollars

## Total responses

Support - **19%**

Oppose - **69%**

Don't know/  
no comment - **12%**



## Summary of findings

- A large majority (69%) of Australians are against governments subsidising the greyhound racing industry.
- Opposition to government subsidies is greater than the level of support across all age groups, states and territories, and urban and rural residents.

## Views on greyhound racing

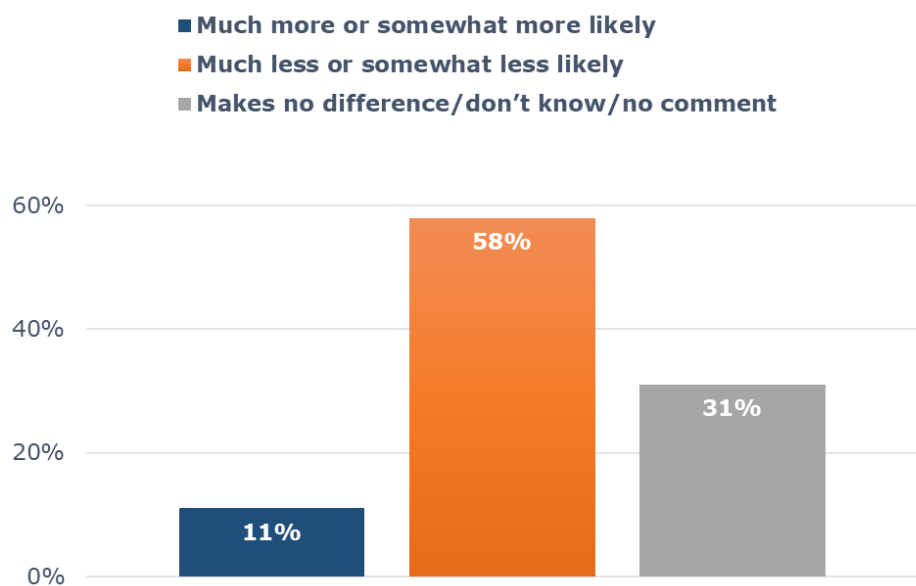
3. If a political party supported taxpayer subsidies for the greyhound racing industry, would that make you more or less likely to support that party's candidate in an election?

## Total responses

Much more or somewhat more likely – **11%**

Much less or somewhat less likely – **58%**

Makes no difference/don't know/no comment – **31%**



## Summary of findings

- The majority of Australians (58%) would be less likely to vote for a political candidate in an election who supports taxpayer subsidies to the greyhound racing industry.
- This holds true for all states and territories, and for both urban and rural residents.

Views on greyhound racing

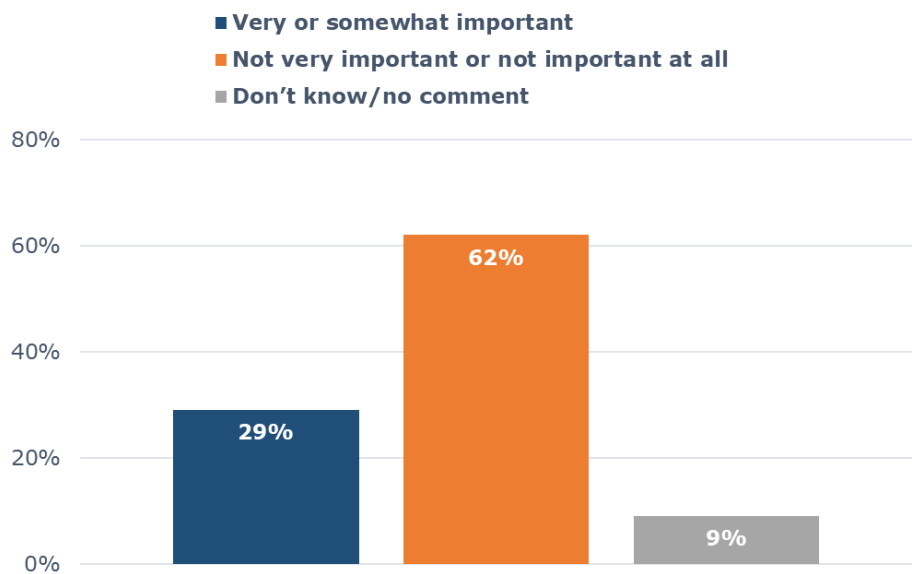
4. How important do you think greyhound racing is to the economy of Australia?

Total responses

Very or somewhat important – **29%**

Not very important or not important at all – **62%**

Don't know/no comment – **9%**

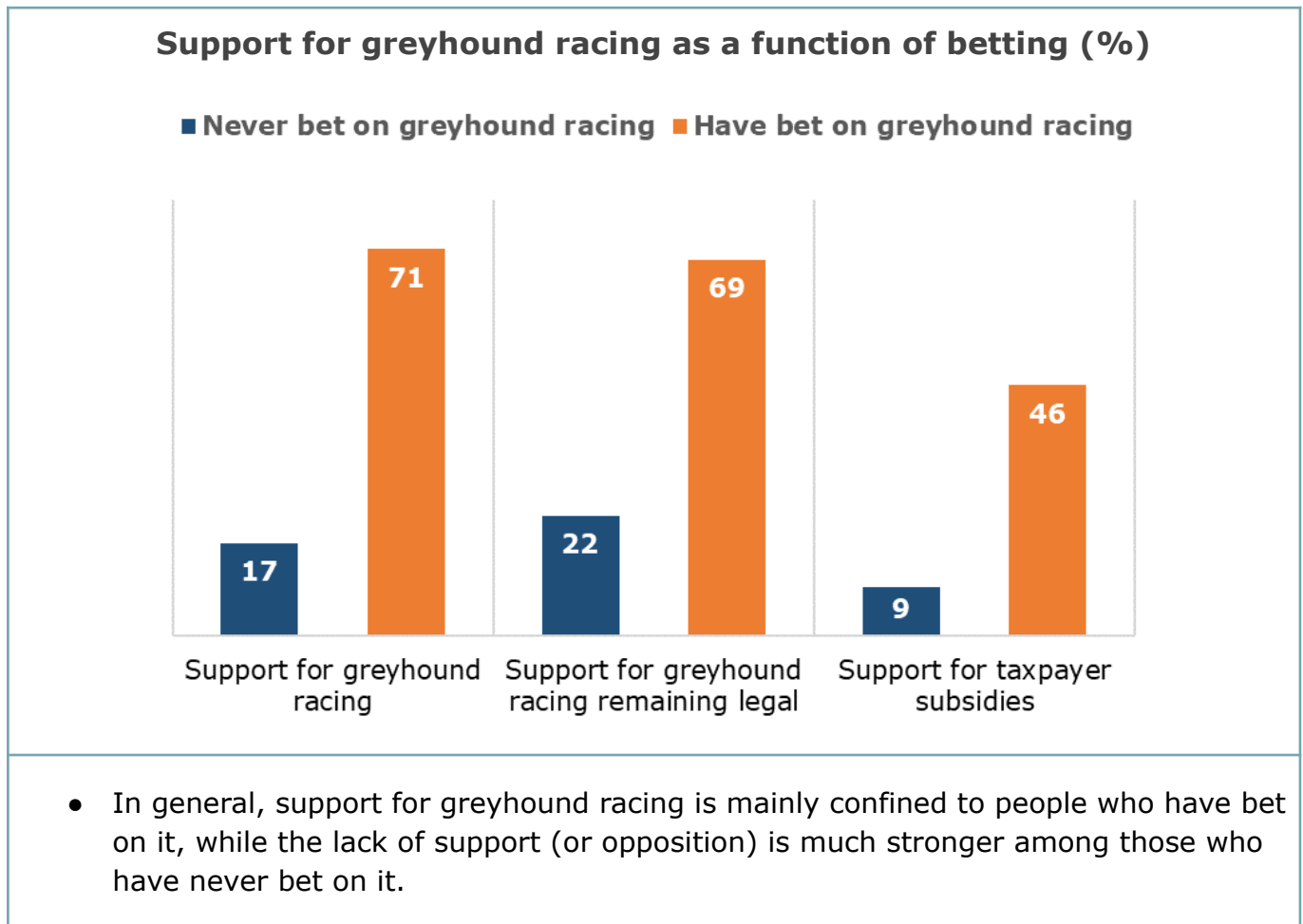


Summary of findings

- A clear majority (62%) of Australians believe greyhound racing is not important to the Australian economy, and this is true for urban and rural residents as well as residents from all states and territories.

## Views on greyhound racing

## The effect of betting on support for greyhound racing



## Conclusion from survey findings

In general, Australians believe:

- Greyhound racing should end.
- Governments should not subsidise the industry with taxpayer money.
- Greyhound racing is not important to the Australian economy.

Collectively, the results show that greyhound racing has lost its 'licence to operate' as an industry because it does not have the support of the Australian public. This is true across a range of demographics, particularly non-gamblers.