

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF RACING			
Priority	☐ Urgent ☐ Time-Sensitive ☒ Routine		
Title	Greyhound Review Work Programme - Racing Integrity Board quarterly update		
Date	31 August 2026	Ref	N/A

Recommendations and Executive Summary

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) recommends the Minister for Racing:

- a) **Note** this quarterly update from the RIB on the Greyhound Review Work Programme for Quarter 4 (Q4) (1 May 2026 – 31 July 2026) of the 2025/26 racing season.
- b) **Note** following the Government's decision on 10 December 2024 to close greyhound racing by 1 August 2026, the RIB has prioritised monitoring across five focus areas with the greatest animal welfare relevance and closure-related risks.
- c) **Note** GRNZ achieved six of its nine Welfare Targets for the 2025/26 racing season. GRNZ recorded 671 adoptions against an annual target of 675, achieving 99.4% of the target. While the target was not formally met, the RIB considers the result to have been substantially achieved. The targets relating to the Category D and E injury rate and the rehoming waitlist were not achieved.
- d) **Note** greyhound adoptions are comparable with the same period last season and the waitlist has increased in Q4 of 2025/26.
- e) **Note** serious injury rates and race-related fatalities are comparable to previous reporting periods, with the Category F injury rate showing a reduction relative to the prior 12-month period, while the Category D & E injury rate remains consistent with prior periods and aligned with Australian jurisdictional benchmarks.
- f) **Note** GRNZ reported annual check-in requirements achieved the applicable Welfare Targets. RIB kennel inspections identified compliance with traceability controls as satisfactory.
- g) **Note** the population decreased from 2,320 at the start of the 2025/26 season to 1,586 at the end of Q4. Greyhounds leaving the population have been rehomed, exported, euthanased or have died.

- h) **Note** the RIB completed 177 kennel inspections in the 2025/26 season, with compliance generally assessed as satisfactory and all improvement notices corrected within the required timeframes.
- i) **Note** in the reporting period the RIB initiated one investigation into the details surrounding the private rehoming of a greyhound.
- j) **Agree** this will be the RIB's final quarterly report on greyhound racing and that no further monitoring or reporting by the RIB will be required unless the Minister directs otherwise. **Yes / No**
- k) **Agree** this briefing is shared with the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare). **Yes / No**
- l) **Agree** this briefing is shared with GRNZ and the Greyhound Racing Transitional Agency (GRTA). **Yes / No**
- m) **Agree** this briefing is published on the RIB's website. **Yes / No**

Minister's comments and signature

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Hon Minister for Racing

Greyhound Review Work Programme – Racing Integrity Board quarterly update

Background

Purpose

1. This briefing provides a quarterly update on the Greyhound Review Work Programme and GRNZ's Welfare Targets for the 2025/26 season. It focuses on Quarter 4 (Q4), covering May 2026 - July 2026.
2. In preparing this final report, the RIB relied on information provided by GRNZ and undertook validation of key metrics against RIB records, including injury and death and euthanasia data. This approach reflected the final nature of the report and the wind-down of GRNZ's operational capacity ahead of industry closure.

Background

3. On 13 February 2024, the RIB received direction from the Minister's Office to continue greyhound monitoring activities, with quarterly reporting, until further notice.
4. This is the fourteenth quarterly report, since the RIB submitted its report of 12 December 2022. A list of previous briefings is provided in Appendix 1.
5. On 10 December 2024, the Government announced plans to prohibit greyhound racing in New Zealand by 1 August 2026. The RIB is responsible for regulatory oversight of the sport during the transition to closure, including animal welfare monitoring, compliance assurance, and integrity functions.
6. On 1 August 2026, the Greyhound Racing Transition Agency (GRTA) assumed responsibility for those racing and rehoming greyhounds assigned to it under the industry closure arrangements, together with the ongoing management of greyhound industry closure matters.
7. Post-closure legislative arrangements enable the RIB to complete any outstanding investigations, charges and adjudicative processes relating to pre-closure conduct, ensuring regulatory matters can be seen through to conclusion. The RIB has progressively wound down greyhound-specific resourcing and redeployed remaining capacity to other racing operations.
8. The RIB can confirm that all samples collected and submitted to the New Zealand Racing Laboratory for prohibited substance analysis in relation to greyhound racing have been cleared, with no outstanding adverse analytical findings. Aside from the compliance and investigative matters previously reported, there are no outstanding matters arising from prohibited substance testing.

Reporting Approach

9. Consistent with the abbreviated approach signalled in the Quarter 3 briefing, this final report provides a summary of the end-of-season position across the key areas monitored by the RIB. The report records the final results and status of key welfare and transition-related indicators, including rehoming, licenced person

and greyhound registrations, population management, euthanasia and deaths, and injuries.

10. A dashboard for Q4, summarising the status of controls and measures for each of the 15 focus areas is presented in Appendix 2.

Key Focus Areas

Key Focus Area 1: Rehoming

Performance, metrics, and initiatives

11. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2025/26 season:
 - 433 greyhounds on the Great Mates rehoming programme waiting list against a target of 225
 - 671 greyhounds adopted during the season against an annual target of 675.
12. A total of 671 greyhounds were rehomed during the 2025/26 season. While this was slightly lower than the record 697 adoptions achieved in 2024/25, adoption performance remained broadly consistent with the outcomes achieved over the previous three seasons
13. Data from greyhounds adopted since the 2020/21 season is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of adoptions across the last six seasons.

Season	Number of adoptions
2025/26	671
2024/25	697
2023/24	673
2022/23	481
2021/22	577
2020/21	671

14. The Great Mates rehoming waitlist decreased to 433 at the end of Q4 2025/26 (Q3: 441).
15. Earlier forecasting by GRNZ suggested between 1,500 and 1,700 greyhounds would require rehoming at the time of industry closure. GRNZ's final modelling placed the greyhound population at closure to be 1,586.
16. Population data is presented in Table 2

Table 2: Population of greyhounds at 31 July 2026 by category.

Category	Number
Racing	690
Rehoming waitlist	480
Great Mates	234
Pet within industry	147
Retired for breeding	10
Unraced	25
Total	1,586

17. At the end of Q4 (2025/26), the average time from deregistration to adoption was 319 days. This is an increase from 306 days recorded in Q4 of the 2024/25 season and similar to 318 days recorded during Q3 of the 2025/26 season. This dataset excludes greyhounds privately rehomed, retained by an LP or rehomed through the Rehabilitate to Rehome (RTR) programme.
18. At 1 August 2026, GRNZ reported 670 greyhounds were awaiting adoption, an increase of 55 greyhounds on Q4 in the 2024/25 season. The 670 greyhounds comprise:
 - 137 at GM rehoming/Rehabilitate to Rehome kennels
 - 100 with other re/homing agencies/foster carers
 - 433 on the rehoming waiting list with LPs.
19. During Q4 (2025/26), 13 greyhounds were exported to the United States, bringing the total for the year to 72. The USA adoption programme commenced in April 2024 and a total of 290 greyhounds were exported across the programme for rehoming across 26 flights/dates.
20. Data from greyhounds exported for adoption is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of greyhounds exported to the United States for rehoming since the USA adoption programme commenced in April 2024.

Season	Number of adoptions
2025/26	72
2024/25	116
2023/24	102

21. Following industry closure in August 2026, 156 racing greyhounds were exported to Australia. The greyhounds were transported across two flights, comprising 80 and 76 dogs respectively.
22. Several greyhound rehoming staff have transitioned from GRNZ to the GRTA, helping to ensure continuity of rehoming activities and expertise.

23. At the time of industry closure, 59 LPs had signed contracts with the GRTA to provide care for greyhounds. Since then, one LP has transferred all greyhounds in their care to Great Mates and terminated their contract.

Key Focus Area 2: Licenced Person and Greyhound Registrations

Compliance oversight

24. Traceability compliance, monitored through RIB kennel inspections, was assessed as satisfactory.
25. During the 2025/26 season, RIB inspections recorded 3,477 greyhound microchip scans across 175 inspections. This figure represents the total number of scans, not the number of individual greyhounds scanned, as the same greyhound may have been scanned at more than one inspection. Seven traceability improvement notices were issued to trainers, with all matters resolved within the required timeframe.
26. Compliance with GRNZ's check-in requirements remained strong through to closure, with 99.9% of non-racing greyhounds checked in within prescribed timeframes and all racing greyhounds checked in within the last six months.

Performance, metrics, and initiatives

27. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2025/26 season:
- 100% of racing greyhounds checked-in within the last six months, achieving the target of 100%
 - 99.9% of non-racing greyhounds checked-in within the last 12 months, achieving the target of 99%
28. These results are an improvement on the rates reported at the end of the 2024/25 season, where 99.9% of racing greyhounds and 99.7% of non-racing greyhounds had completed check-ins.
29. Vaccination compliance at the end of Q4 (2025/26) across all population groups is comparable to recent seasons. Comparative data is presented below (Table 4).

Table 4: Percentage of greyhounds up to date with required vaccinations.

Population group	31-Jul-24	31-Jul-25	30-Jul-26
Pre-racing	97.5%	97.2%	96.0%
Racing	98.8%	99.3%	99.3%
Retired in industry ¹	91.1%	90.9%	93.7%

Key Focus Area 3: Population Management

Performance, metrics, and initiatives

¹ Retired in industry includes breeding males, breeding females, greyhounds kept as pets by LPs, greyhounds on the GM rehoming programme waiting list and greyhounds in the GM rehoming programme.

30. At the start of the 2025/26 season, the greyhound population consisted of 2,320² greyhounds and this had reduced to 1,586 by the end of the season.
31. Excluding greyhounds awaiting rehoming, either on the Great Mates rehoming programme waiting list or in Great Mates kennels, the greyhound population has continued to decline, with a consistent downward trend across the season.
32. As reported in previous briefings, the largest decline was in the pre-racing population, which reduced from 471 to 25 since the start of the 2025/26 season, a decrease of 95%.
33. The racing population³ also decreased over the 2025/26 season, from 1,039 to 690 greyhounds. This is consistent with the downward trend reported in the 27 February 2025 briefing.
34. A total of 23 puppies⁴, across four litters, were whelped during the 2025/26 season.

Key Focus Area 4: Euthanasia / Death

Performance, metrics, and initiatives

35. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2025/26 season:
 - GRNZ is not aware of any greyhounds being euthanased in breach of the Euthanasia Policy, achieving the target of < 2% of total euthanasias.
36. During Q4 (2025/26), three race-related fatalities occurred: two greyhounds were euthanased at the track and one died suddenly post-race.
37. Across the 2025/26 season there were 10 race-related fatalities (0.30 per 1,000 starters), compared with 16 race-related fatalities (0.47 per 1,000 starters) from the prior 12-month period.
38. 19 greyhounds were euthanased or died in Q4 (2025/26) which is comparable to recent quarters. Reasons for euthanasia or death reported by LPs for the 2025/26 season are presented in Appendix 3.

Key Focus Area 5: Injuries

Compliance oversight

39. In Q4 (2025/26), all greyhounds raced in compliance with GRNZ's Safe Return to Racing Policy, with no breaches recorded.

Performance, metrics, and initiatives

40. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2025/26 season:

² Differs from figure (2,322) reported in 2 September 2025 briefing due to notification of two greyhound euthanasias being received after the reporting period.

³ Racing population refers to the cohort of registered greyhounds that have had at least one official race start and remain eligible to race (i.e. excludes deregistered and deceased greyhounds).

⁴ Puppies not included in greyhound population metrics as not registered with GRNZ at the time this report was prepared.

- Category D⁵ & E⁶ injuries – 6.62 per 1,000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 6.14 per 1,000 starters
 - Category F⁷ injuries – 1.96 per 1,000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 2.08 per 1,000 starters
 - 373 races on straight tracks this season against an annual target of 300
 - 78% of total races conducted as preferred box draw (PBD) this season against an annual target of 70%.
41. RIB analysis demonstrated the 12-month rolling mean Category D & E injury rate at Q2 (2025/26) is statistically comparable to the prior 12-month period. The Category F injury rate over the same period is statistically lower. A graphical representation of these injury rates is provided in Appendix 4.
42. Comparative analysis indicates GRNZ injury rates remain aligned with Australian greyhound racing jurisdictions (Table 5).

Table 5: Comparative injury data.

Jurisdiction	Category D & E per 1,000 starts	Category F per 1,000 starts
GRNZ ⁸	6.62	1.96
GRV ⁹	6.57	2.58
GWIC ¹⁰	9.36	3.20
RWWA ¹¹	6.22	3.35
Tasracing ¹²	4.78	2.93
QRIC ¹³	5.94	3.86

43. In Q4 (2025/26) 8 greyhounds entered GRNZ's RTR Programme, which provides financial support for veterinary diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation following serious injury. As at 1 August 2026, 16 greyhounds were in the RTR programme; a reduction from the 22 reported in Q3 (2025/26).

⁵ Injuries with stand downs of 22 days or more.

⁶ Deceased or euthanased due to race-related injuries.

⁷ Catastrophic and injuries with a 43-90 day stand down. Injuries that apply under Category F: death or euthanasia on-track; any skull or spine fracture or paralysis (partial or complete); any long bone fracture (i.e. humerus, radius/ulna, femur or tibia); a hock fracture/dislocation where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; metacarpal/metatarsal fracture where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; any other joint injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; a skin injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; a soft tissue injury (including muscle injury) where the stand-down period is 90 days.

⁸ Data from 1 February 2025 to 31 July 2026.

⁹ Greyhound Racing Victoria. Data from 2024/25 Annual Report covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

¹⁰ Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (New South Wales). Data from 2024/25 Annual Report covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

¹¹ Racing and Wagering Western Australia. Data from 2024/25 Annual Report covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

¹² Tasracing (Tasmania). Data from 2024/25 Annual Report covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

¹³ Queensland Racing Integrity Commission. Data from Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement quarterly reports covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Other Focus Areas

Track Standards

44. No race meetings were abandoned due to track related issues during Q4.
45. Greyhound tracks were maintained to an acceptable standard throughout the quarter, despite the challenges associated with retaining experienced track staff through to the closure of racing operations. Track diagnostic information indicated surfaces consistently remained within prescribed parameters, and no track-related issues were identified.

Kennel standards

46. The RIB conducted 177 kennel inspections across the 2025/26 season. 91 inspections were conducted between August 2025 and January 2026. All LPs remaining in, or new to, the industry were then inspected a second time with 86 inspections between March and June 2026.
47. During the 2025/26 season, RIB inspections recorded 3,477 greyhound microchip scans across 175 inspections. This figure represents the total number of scans, not the number of individual greyhounds scanned, as the same greyhound may have been scanned at more than one inspection.
48. Non-compliance were reported in the following areas:
 - Treatment records
 - Emergency plans
 - Traceability
49. The majority of non-compliances identified were assessed by the RIB as administrative in nature and were resolved within the required timeframes.

Investigate and adjudicate on animal welfare related breaches

50. Investigations relating to four positive tests remain under investigation.
51. One Licensed Person has been charged following the identification of irregularities relating to the private rehoming of a greyhound.

Next Steps

52. No further reporting is planned. This report concludes the greyhound racing monitoring programme and the RIB's associated monitoring and reporting role, unless the Minister directs otherwise.

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Second contact	Nick Ydgren, Executive Manager, Racing Operations and Welfare Racing Integrity Board	021 964120

Appendix 1: List of RIB Ministerial briefings since final report.

Since the RIB submitted its final report on 12 December 2022, Ministerial briefings have been provided by the RIB on:

- 14 April 2023
- 14 September 2023
- 19 December 2023
- 11 April 2024
- 28 May 2024
- 10 September 2024
- 29 November 2024
- 27 February 2025
- 3 June 2025
- 2 September 2025
- 27 November 2025
- 27 February 2026
- 28 May 2026.

Appendix 2: Dashboard - status of controls and measures for the 15 Greyhound Review focus areas.

Performance Criteria		Controls			Measurements		
		Adequacy	Compliance	Notes	Performance	Validation	Assessment
Key focus areas	1. Rehoming	✓	✓	Compliance with controls adequate	✓	☐	GRNZ rehoming efforts continued. GRTA has now taken responsibility for rehoming.
	2. Licenced persons and greyhound registrations	✓	✓	Compliance with controls adequate	✓	☐	High compliance with check-in and vaccination requirements
	3. Population management	✓	N/A	-	N/A	☐	Continuation of population decline.
	4. Euthanasias and deaths	✓	✓	Compliance with controls adequate	✓	☐	No euthanasias in breach of policy
	5. Injuries	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	Reduction in most serious injury category (Cat. F) over 12-month period
Other focus areas	6. Standards, rules and policies	✓	N/A		N/A	N/A	No significant matters to report
	7. Track standards	✓	N/A	-	✓	N/A	No significant matters to report
	8. Inform and educate the industry	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	No significant matters to report
	9. GRNZ information systems	✓	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	No significant matters to report
	10. Governance	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	No significant matters to report
	11. Kennel standards	✓	✓	Standards in place	✓	☐	High level of compliance at RIB kennel inspections
	12. Investigate / adjudicate on animal welfare breaches	✓	✓	RIB responsibility	N/A	N/A	One investigation commenced into the private rehoming of a greyhound.
	13. Information management	✓	N/A	-	✓	☐	No significant matters to report
	14. GRNZ / RIB engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	Constructive and regular engagement with RIB
	15. Stakeholder engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	No significant matters to report

Legend



Adequacy = the RIB considers GRNZ's rules, policies and standards are substantively adequate and align or exceed industry norms.



Adequacy = the RIB considers GRNZ's rules, policies and standards are substantively inadequate or fail to meet industry norms.



Compliance = the RIB considers GRNZ is substantively complying with its own rules, policies and standards.



Compliance = the RIB considers GRNZ is substantively failing to comply with its own rules, policies and standards.



Performance = the RIB considers GRNZ's performance measurements align with Welfare Targets, industry norms or acceptable practice.



Performance = the RIB considers GRNZ's performance measurements consistently fail to meet with Welfare Targets, industry norms or acceptable practice.



Validation = where the RIB has undertaken validation of GRNZ's reported performance metrics.



Validation = where the RIB has not undertaken its own validation, but instead relied on GRNZ's performance metrics.

Note: The RIB will not be validating all of GRNZ's reported performance metrics every quarter, but will select samples for validation.

Appendix 3: Greyhound euthanasias and deaths reported by LPs between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2026.

Cause	Number
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to injury	10
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to illness	26
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury or medical condition	6
Euthanasia after race meeting due to injury sustained during racing	1
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming or a known risk to people	3
Medical euthanasia certified by a registered veterinarian due to age	7
Total euthanasias	53
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	10 ¹⁴
Deceased due to illness	24
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	3
Sudden death due to, or associated with, a race	2
Total deaths	39
TOTAL	92

¹⁴ Includes one greyhound which died under veterinary care after sustaining a serious racing injury in Q1 2025/26.

Appendix 4: Graphical representation of Category D & E and Category F injury rates.

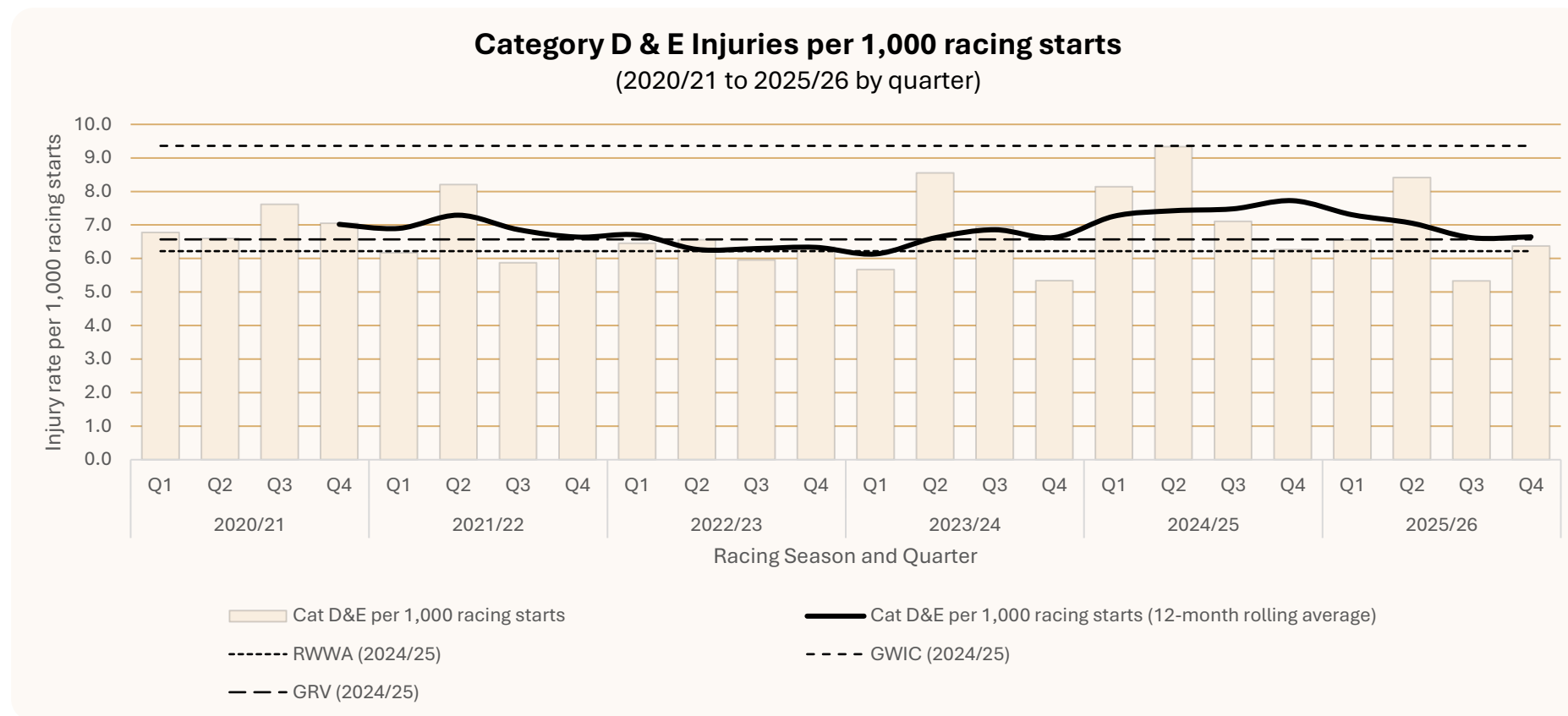


Figure A: Category D & E injury incidence in the 2020/21 to 2025/26 racing seasons with reference to RWWA¹⁵, GRV¹⁶, and GWIC¹⁷ Category D & E injury rates.

¹⁵ Racing and Wagering Western Australia Category D & E injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 6.22 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

¹⁶ Greyhound Racing Victoria Category D & E injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 6.57 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

¹⁷ Greyhounds Welfare & Integrity Commission (New South Wales) Category D & E injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 9.36 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

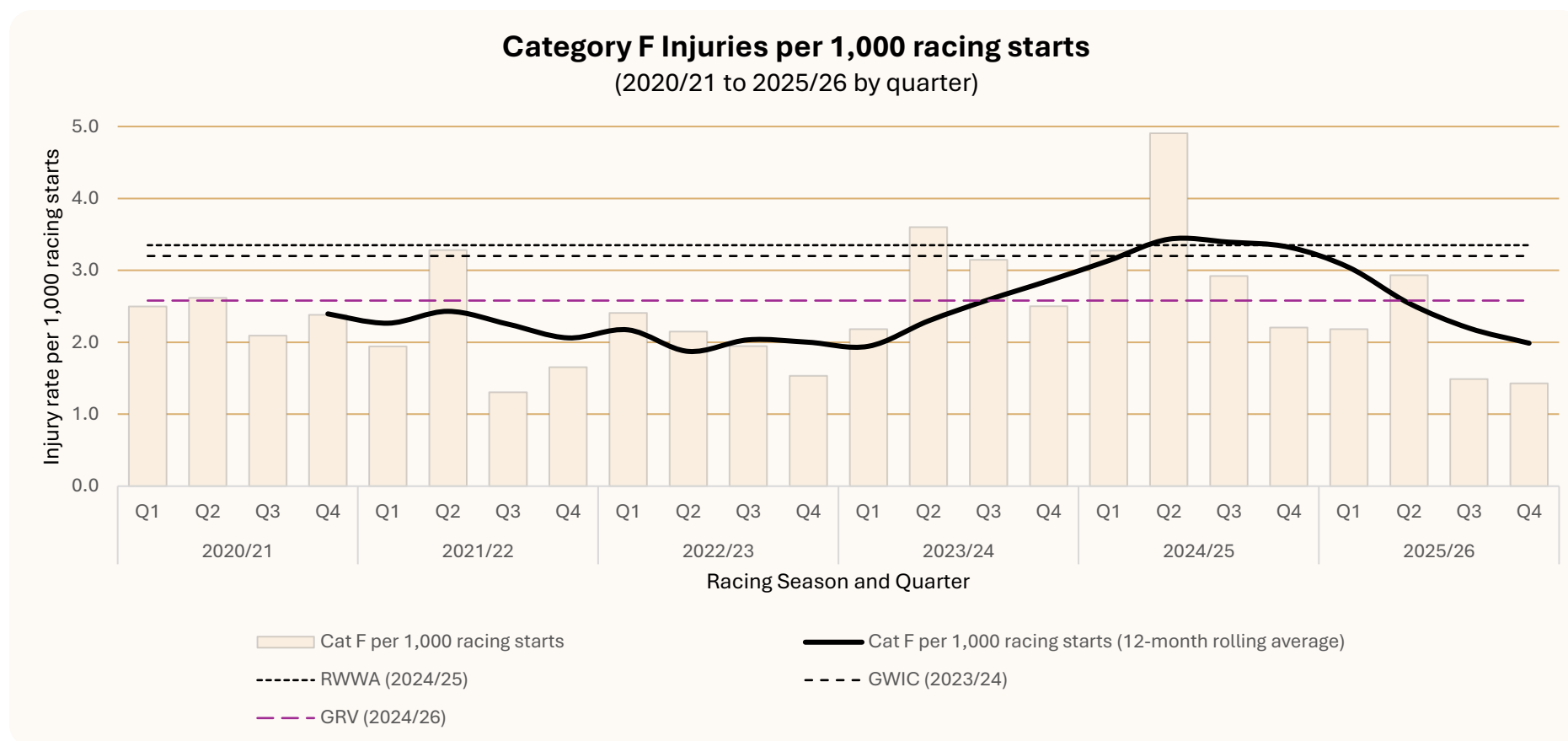


Figure B: Category F injury incidence in the 2020/21 to 2025/26 racing seasons with reference to RWWA¹⁸, GRV¹⁹, and GWIC²⁰ Category F injury rates

¹⁸ Racing and Wagering Western Australia Category F injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 3.35 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

¹⁹ Greyhound Racing Victoria Category F injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 2.58 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

²⁰ Greyhounds Welfare & Integrity Commission (New South Wales) Category F injury rate for the 2024/25 racing season was reported as 3.20 per 1,000 race starts in the 2024/25 Annual Report.