



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Friday, 29 November 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

MATERNITY ASSISTANCE FOR DRIVERS AND JOCKEYS INTRODUCED

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWAA) is pleased to announce a new Maternity Assistance Program to provide financial support to female drivers and jockeys during their pregnancy.

“RWAA has acknowledged the need for industry to support female participation and ensure the appropriate measures are in place to make becoming a driver or jockey a relevant career choice for women,” said RWAA General Manager, Charlotte Mills.

Currently, drivers and jockeys are not eligible to access the Federal Government’s Parental Leave provisions unless they have a secondary source of income, due to the Australian Rules of Racing’s requirement to cease driving or riding from the end of the first trimester of pregnancy, meaning they do not meet the work test requirements.

However, from the 1 January 2020, changes will be made to legislation, which will accommodate situations where a pregnant person cannot continue in their normal occupation due to safety risks incompatible with pregnancy. This means in 2020, drivers and jockeys will become eligible for the Federal Government’s Parental Leave provisions, from the time the child is born.

RWAA’s Maternity Assistance Program will bridge the gap by providing financial support to drivers and jockeys from the time they are required to cease driving or riding until they are eligible for the Federal Government’s scheme.

Minister for Racing and Gaming, the Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, commends RWAA for leading the way in encouraging female participation in racing.

“It is great to see the Western Australian racing industry continue to embrace and progress women in racing by ensuring the appropriate support is in place to facilitate viable career opportunities,” said the Minister.

ENDS

Media Contact:

Lauren Prater

RWAA, Public Relations Manager

P: 08 9445 5168 /M: 0488 904 723

E: lauren.prater@rwwa.com.au