

New funding initiative to engage retired racehorses

Horse-based education and therapy projects stand to benefit from the latest initiative to support retired racehorses.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia is launching a funding program which promises to assist a range of learning and wellbeing projects where off-the-track horses are involved.

Head of Animal Wellbeing Anna Smet said the new Off the Track WA Community Fund was established to nurture innovation and wider opportunities for retired racehorses.

“We are delighted to be able to provide funding to organisations and people with projects in mind utilising retired racehorses,” Anna said.

“Horses commonly move from racing into equestrian pursuits where Off the Track WA sponsorships and education clinics are available to help.

“Now we’d like to bring a stronger focus to non-riding activities and new ideas for engaging the various talents and abilities of former racehorses.

“We welcome proposals from equine therapy projects or assisted learning programs which benefit students through engagement with horses in ways other than riding.

“The Off the Track WA Community Fund will provide funding to deliver projects which align with our commitment to support horses in their transition beyond racing.

“What we’re looking for are projects which aim to make a significant impact on education and wellbeing outcomes for participants or horses.”

Funding applications are open until 31 March 2023.

Groups or organisations with plans for more than one project can submit multiple applications to the Off the Track WA Community Fund, with a separate application for each project and a 12-month time frame to complete them.

Follow-up projects will also be considered, such as a learning program which runs term by term to benefit a school.

Further information is available by contacting the Animal Welfare team at animalwelfare@rwwa.com.au.

To apply, please complete the Off the Track WA Application form and send it to animalwelfare@rwwa.com.au.