

# Who? Me?

## What's safeguarding got to do with my horse?



**Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria  
AGM  
21 May 2023**

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# Acknowledgement

I acknowledge and pay respect to First Nations peoples of many countries and cultures, whose spiritual connection with animals and country are of more-than-human meaningfulness, which may hold different values to western cultures, and westernised knowledge of sentience, agency, anthropomorphism and the human and animal connection to each other and country.

This presentation is prepared on the traditional lands of the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung people, Werribee, Victoria. Australia.



# Introduction



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## Julie Fiedler

PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne

Research project titled 'Forecasting Horse Welfare Expectations: Insights from within.' (#futurehorse)

20 yrs. as Executive Officer for Horse SA (non-profit Horse Council).

Secretary, Animal Emergency Incident Management Network (Australia New Zealand).



# #Futurehorse project

Today's presentation incorporates ideas developed through the #futurehorse project.

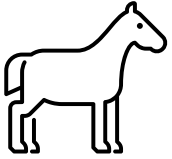


# Contents

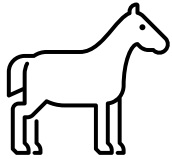
- Changing public attitudes to animal welfare
- The Five Freedoms and The Five Domains Model
- Welfare-related practices
- Introduction to animal safeguarding
- **What's safeguarding got to do with my horse?**



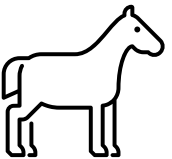
# Changing public attitudes towards animal welfare



Greater public **acceptance of sentience**- that animals can feel, engage with their surroundings and have good, bad or neutral experiences.



In addition to preventing suffering and cruelty (Five Freedoms), weighting is given to **providing (more than) minimum standards of care** (Five Domains).



Increased public interest in activities and organisations where the sentient horse is central to the business model (incl non-profits).

The public **trust** that the organisation/individual has the **intent** to **safeguard** horse welfare.

# The Five Freedoms and the Five Domains Model



# The Five Freedoms

	<b>Freedom</b>	<b>Provisions</b>
1	Freedom from hunger, thirst, malnutrition	By providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain health and vigor
2	Freedom from discomfort and exposure	By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3	Freedom from pain, injury, disease	By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4	Freedom from fear and distress	By ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering
5	Freedom to express normal behaviour	By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.





# Perspective



Five  
Freedoms

From my  
**perspective** - what  
must I do to  
provide for the  
horse's welfare?

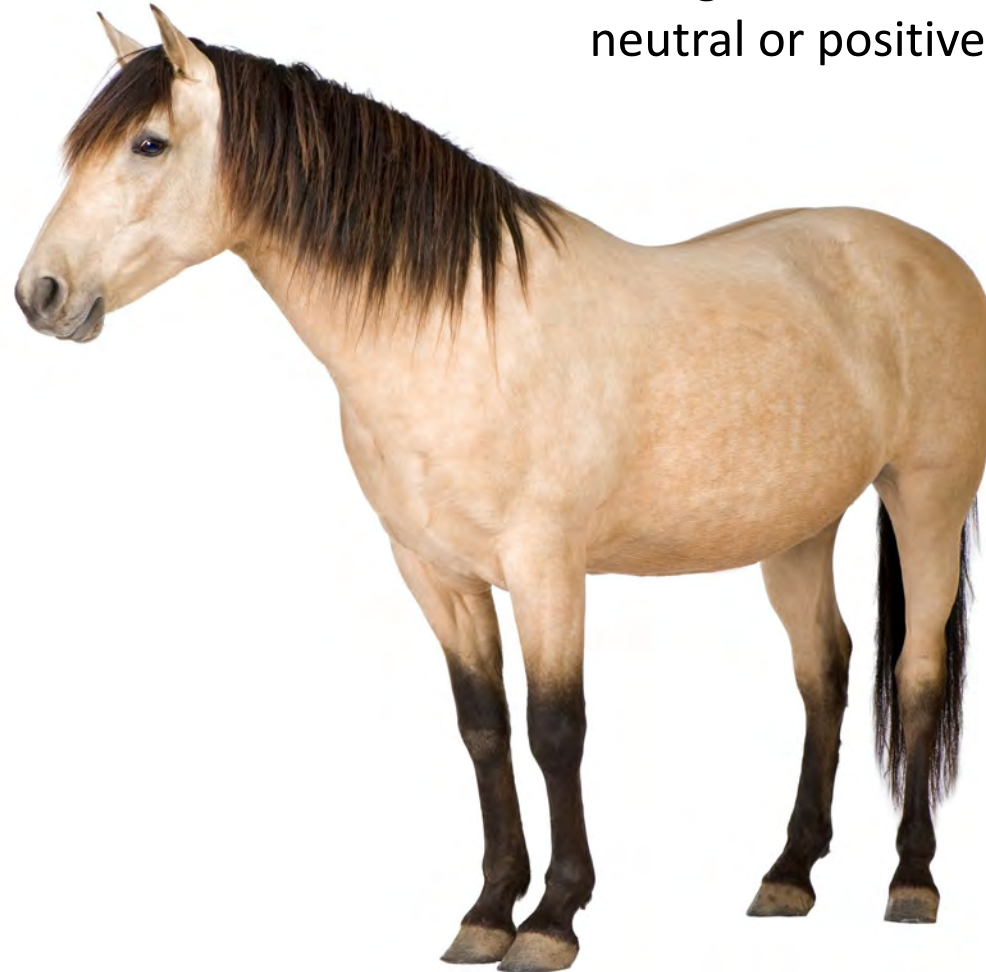


## Five Domains Model

From the **perspective of what matters  
for the horse.**

# Experiences

Recognises horses can have negative, neutral or positive experiences



(Incl expression of behaviours)

**Five  
Freedom**s



**Five  
Domains Model**



# Interactions



Five  
Freedoms

Not covered by  
Five Freedoms



## Five Domains Model

Interactions with people, other  
horses and animals and the  
environment.

# Agency



**Five  
Freedoms**



## **Five Domains Model**

Agency is about horses making conscious, voluntary behavioural choices.



# Summary: The Five Domains Model

## Its all about the horse!

- Has a focus on the animal's perception of their world
- Builds on the Five Freedoms by also recognising mental state (+ social wellbeing)
- Introduces animal agency (Domain 4- interactions)

**People** make inferences as to how the horse perceives their welfare state.

These inferences then inform practices – the 'doing' of horse welfare

The result contributes to a human interpretation of the horse's Quality of Life



# Welfare-related practices

So far...The **horse's perspective** of their welfare status

*Perspective/Experiences/Interactions/Agency*

Nutrition

Environment

Health

Behaviour

Mental health

Next...Practices (**People** 'doing' welfare)

**The Five Provisions + Practices with welfare-aligned aims**

Nutrition

Environment

Health

Behaviour

Mental health

**Safeguarding**



# Welfare-related practices

	Domain	Five Provisions	Animal Welfare Aims
1	<b>Nutrition</b>	By providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain health and vigor	Minimise thirst and hunger and enable eating to be a pleasurable experience
2	<b>Environment</b>	By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area	Minimise discomfort and exposure and <b>promote</b> thermal, physical, and other comforts.
3	<b>Health</b>	By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment	Minimise breathlessness, nausea, pain and other aversive experiences and <b>promote</b> the pleasures of robustness, vigour, strength and well-coordinated physical activity.
4	<b>Behaviour</b>	By providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.	Minimise threats and unpleasant restrictions on behaviour and <b>promote</b> engagement in rewarding activities.
5	<b>Mental Health</b>	By ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering	<b>Promote</b> various forms of comfort, pleasure, interest, confidence, and a sense of being in control.

[1]

1. Mellor, D.; Burns, M. Using the Five Domains Model to develop welfare assessment guidelines for Thoroughbred horses in New Zealand. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* **2020**, *68*, 1-7, doi:10.1080/00480169.2020.1715900.



# Welfare-related practices



Job role \_\_\_\_\_ Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Venue \_\_\_\_\_

	Welfare-related practice	How will this practice avoid negative experiences?	How will this practice promote positive experiences?	What do I need to do next to continue to improve this practice?
1	Feed according to home stable <b>time-table.</b>	Avoid time-off feed	Ensure feed resources are predictable/ (ad-lib hay)	Find out what my horse's ' <b>time-budget</b> ' is ..to inform feeding time-table.
2				

Are there any recommendations for updating horse-activity organisation policy? (If relevant)

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# Welfare-related practices



Job role \_\_\_\_\_ Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Venue \_\_\_\_\_

	Welfare-related practice	How will this practice avoid negative experiences?	How will this practice promote positive experiences?	What do I need to do next to continue to improve this practice?
1				
2				

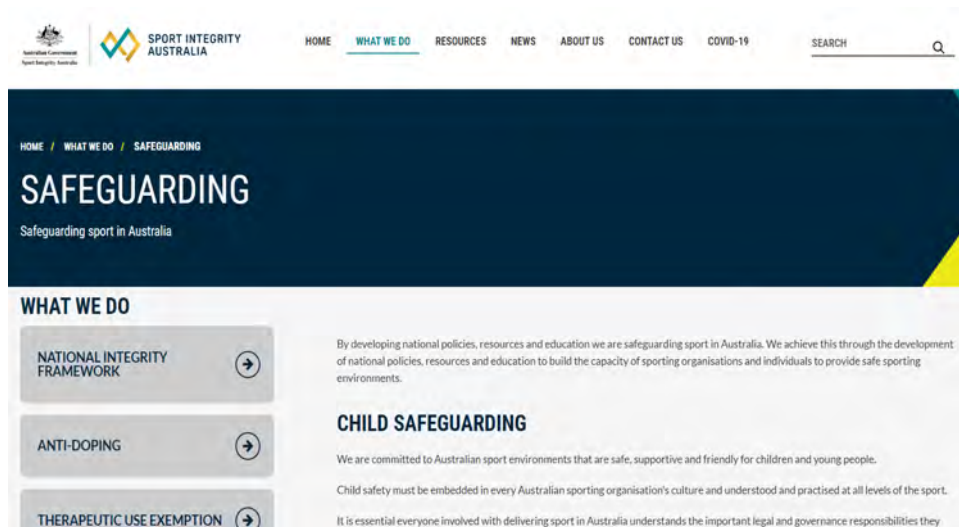
Are there any recommendations for updating horse-activity organisation policy? (If relevant)

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# Introduction to animal safeguarding

## People

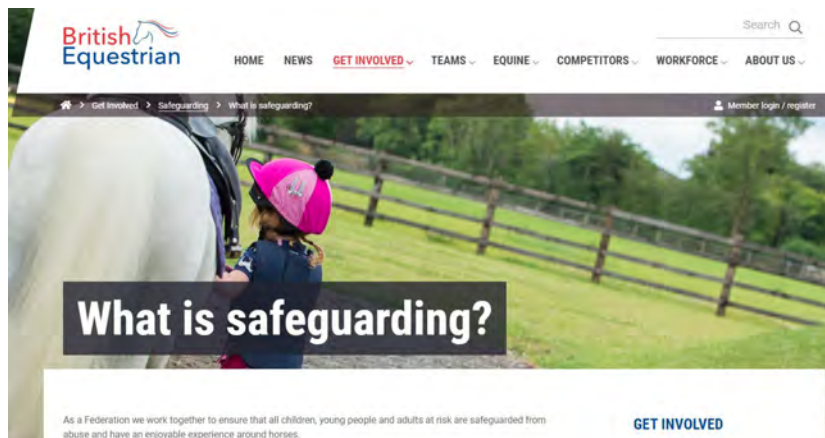


## Horses

THEME 1: SAFEGUARDING ANIMAL WELFARE

Policy topic	Why does a new Act need this?	What are the option/s proposed?	Read this proposal if you are interested in:
11 Animal sentence	Science tells us that animals are sentient. Many other jurisdictions recognise animal sentence in their legislation. Recognising animal sentence in Victoria's animal welfare Act would provide clarity that policy development and regulatory decisions should be based on preserving animal welfare (rather than just responding to animal cruelty).	<p><b>Adopt an approach to recognising animal sentence.</b></p> <p>Possible options include one or a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 1</b> Refer to sentence in the Objects of the Act.</li> <li>• <b>Option 2</b> Refer to sentence in the Principles of the Act.</li> <li>• <b>Option 3</b> Refer to sentence in the Definition of animals covered by the Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal sentence</li> </ul>
12 Minimum standards of care	The focus of the current POCTA Act on responding to cruelty once it has occurred limits the options for early intervention and response. Animal welfare legislation in other Australian as well as international jurisdictions now place equal weight on safeguarding animal welfare.	<p><b>Introduce a requirement for people to provide a minimum standard of care for animals.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duty of care</li> <li>• Basic animal needs</li> <li>• Early intervention</li> <li>• Safeguarding animal welfare</li> <li>• Preventing cruelty</li> </ul>

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>



Safeguarding is an active, collaborative model of care. Decision-makers about welfare and everyone the horse interacts with have a level of responsibility for their welfare.

# What's safeguarding got to do with my horse?

## The Safeguarding Safety Net

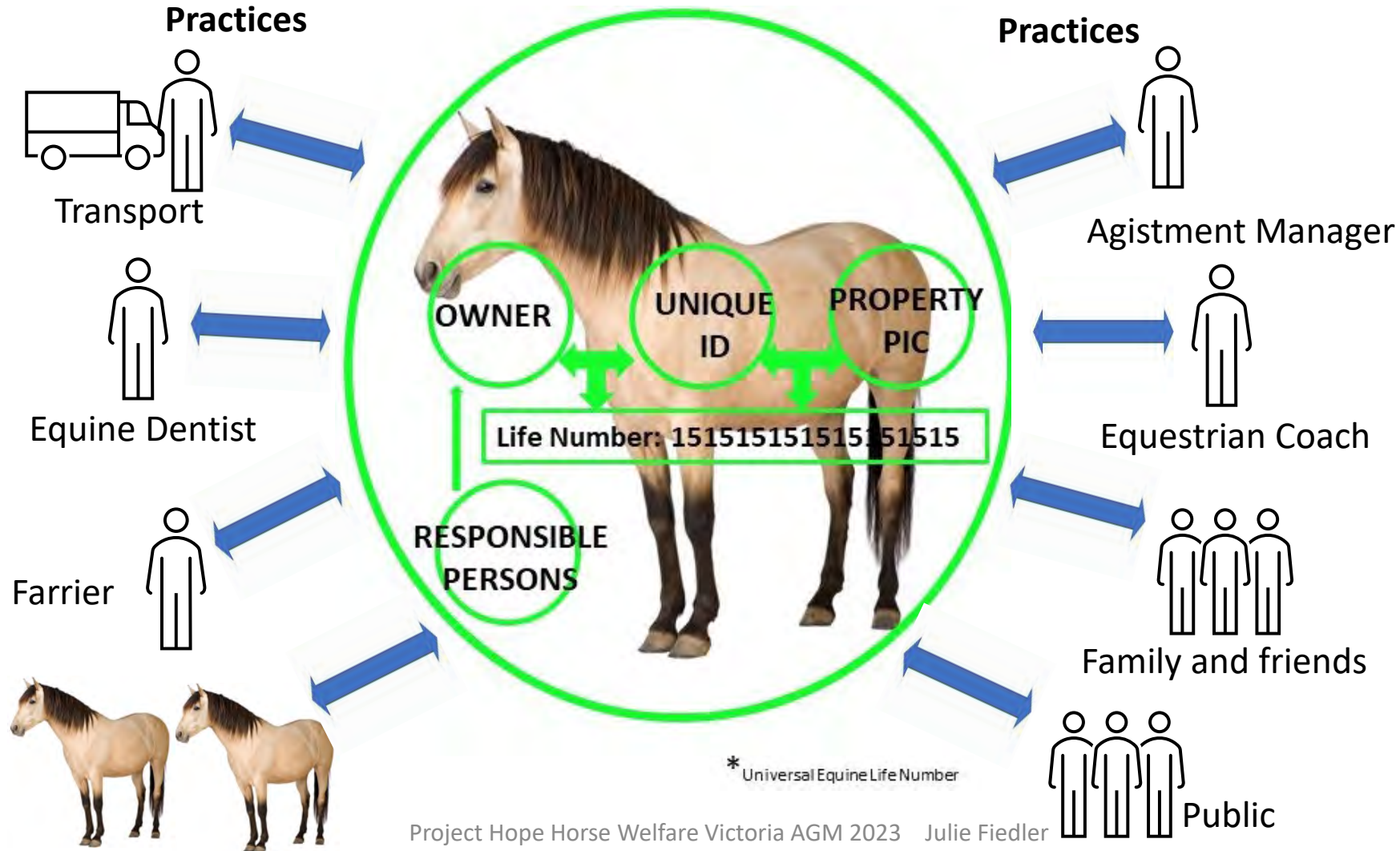
### Policy

Biosecurity

Animal Welfare

Land Transport

Planning



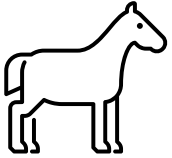
TB + SB Racing/  
EA+ AHIC - EADRA

Org/Club rule  
books, welfare code

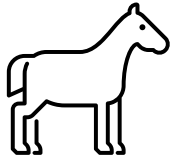
State Voluntary  
Codes

Biosecurity Levy  
Collection  
(Horse Levy)

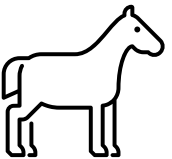
# Who? Me? What's my role in horse welfare?



My horse is **sentient**- he can feel, engage with his surroundings and have good, bad or neutral experiences.



I can prevent suffering and cruelty, but I also have the responsibility to **provide (more than) minimum standards of care.**



The wider community has an interest in not only how I manage and relate to my horse, but every other horse that I interact with.

The public **trust** that I have **intent** to **safeguard** horse welfare.

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# Thank you



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#futurehorse

