

# Pilot program saves retired racehorses

FOR the usual retiree, life after work consists of leisure and relaxation, but for NSW racehorses, retirement could soon involve starting a new career.

Retraining retired NSW racehorses for other careers will be compulsory in the next few years if Racing NSW chief executive Peter V'landys gets his way.

The state's racing head is calling for the rehabilitation of all non-breeding NSW thoroughbreds, in a bid to end the slaughter of retired horses.

"They deserve a second chance in life," V'landys said at the official opening of a new training

facility for retired racehorses at Canterbury Park racecourse yesterday.

"Unfortunately some do go to the knackeries and we want to avoid that."

V'landys hopes a pilot training program, run by the NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust (NSW TRT), will pave the way for the future of all retired racehorses.

The program retrains thoroughbreds for new career paths including the police force, show riding and leisure riding.

"Rather than lose life, they should have a second chance," V'landys said.

**Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga NSW  
8 September 2012**