


**Submission to the ACT Parliament Standing Committee on Justice and Community
Safety**

ACT Government Inquiry into Prostitution "Industry"



By

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	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
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This submission addresses a number of sex industry related issues. It is requested that these considerations be addressed in the committee's enquiry. The issues include the following related issues:

- A request for a scientific assessment of the sex industry supported by trend analysis,
- The consequential drain on the ACT housing budget,
- The diminishment of free press in the ACT due to vested interests,
- Advertising, and
- The request for a judicial enquiry.

A scientific objective assessment of the sex industry supported by trend analysis

All actions have consequences, and most actions can be measured by their consequences.

It is requested that this inquiry take appropriate scientific measures to measure the consequences of the current ACT sex related law.

Considering the duration that more liberalised laws have been in effect many related social trends should be measurable.

May we please have an assessment of the social trends the have coincided with the liberalisation and more open operation of the sex industry. Some issues include:

- Has the number of sexually transmitted disease decreased?
- Has the number of sexual assaults decreased specifically in the younger generations more directly affected by the laws that advocated the new social norm, so a more appropriate question is: Has the number of sexual assaults decreased for university students?
- Has the number of date rapes decreased?
- Has the death rate of prostitutes decreased?
- Has drug addiction in the sex industry decreased?
- Has suicide rates decreased?
- Has the sex slave trade of young girls and illegal migrant girls died out?

- Has pornography contributed to these trends? and
- Do the parents and MLA's of the ACT want the career of a prostitute to be advertised and promoted by the school career counsellors (If not then restrictions will need to be legislated) ,
- Is the sex industry adequately monitored to measure these consequences eg has the ratio of the number of police allocated to sex industry employees her capital decreased or increased since the greater liberalisation?

The consequential drain on the ACT housing budget

It is contended that the budget of the ACT government pays significantly for the presence of an active sex industry. I trust that the review conducts a valid cost benefit analysis that includes all the unexpected consequences of expanding the sex industry. While unintended consequences can occur on a broad spectrum I specifically wish to address the unintended increase in the ACT housing budget.

The basis of the following comments is my own social research. It identified the following norms.

The majority of women in a recognised relationship indicated that they would feel most unsettled if their male partner was found to have sought a liaison with a prostitute. The most significant consequence was a betrayal of trust. It was most intense in some responses with the propensity to threaten the future commitment and viability of the relationship. Descriptive words included: feeling cheated and demeaned.

The sex industry purports to strengthen relationships. This is not the assessment of many women in recognised relationships.

May I suggest that the committee members test the response of their close family and friends if their male partner were to seek out a prostitute...?

My research is that a weakened relationship undermines the relationship's longevity.

The social consequences of the sex industry on society's health and housing budget can be measured

It is a given that if a relationship of two (currently lodged in a single dwelling) breaks down there is an increased likelihood of the following occurring:

- the need for one dwelling is replaced with the need for two dwellings,
- separation (especially divorce) is a significant cause of financial hardship,
- a high proportion of the very needy are single mothers.

The causes a consequential drain on the ACT housing budget which should be measured. It is requested that connection between relationship breakdown and the increased demand for ACT public housing be measured. The financial impost should be included in your report.

The diminishment of free press in the ACT due to vested interests

'All the way from W.A.

Keisha Haynes

Exotic, petite, sexy.

March 27 – April 3

Ph.....'

Is this what every housewife and daughter in Canberra wants to compared with.

This advertisement is from the Canberra Times. It is the norm for a morning advertisement? Even the TV does not allow this material to be advertised in an area regularly accessed by children as they view the deaths, and garage sales columns. I have problems explaining this to my overseas visitors. Yuk, what have we become?

Just like the accepted smoking advertisements of old this advertisement has an unintended consequence.

While I am sure that others will address the social consequences of young girls that compare themselves with this competition with the resulting harmful behaviours (yes I am the concerned father of three young adult daughters), I wish to address a more insidious issue.

Just like the tobacco companies The Canberra Times is the grubby recipient of profit from industries that foster activities including sex slavery and bondage. The relentless advertising in The Canberra Times provides ongoing money. As a consequence The Canberra Times is not an objective reporter of the real consequences of the sex industry. It has a vested interest to protect the sex industry from any major harm. The Canberra Times does not address the matter in any detail eg the unintended housing consequence. One example is the editorial of Monday 14 March which only provides a token analysis of any pros and cons.

Advertising

Why is the sex industry allowed to advertise with its billboards in industrial areas frequented by families?

The image that my daughters have of their male peers is affected by the impressions given this advertising. It is not healthy and not to the enhancement of societies sons. Why do we so blatantly advertise that males are sick? This is not the solution and must change.

Please restrict the advertising:

- Stop the billboards.
- Stop the ads in the Canberra Times.

They are all eyesores and do not benefit the community good.

Sadly the advertising used to offend me. What concerns me is that it no longer offends me unless someone like my daughter brings it to my attention. I need a courageous government to address the advertising just like they addressed the tobacco advertising.

Smoking is a health hazard. Casual sex is also a health hazard for committed relationships so if the government is unable to promote the benefits of long term commitments in relationships (for the betterment of their budget) it should at least restrict the promotion of casual sex and restrict advertising for this type of industry.

The request for a judicial enquiry

To fully address the consequences of the sex industry it is requested that a full independent judicial inquiry be undertaken. The aim of the inquiry is to reduce the political 'argy bargy' and ensure an objective assessment. This protects the politicians and distances all from the well funded influence of the sex industry lobby groups. Unfortunately because of the sordid experience of other Australian jurisdictions the inquiry should also investigate any attempts by the sex industry to corrupt of our police services. (Sorry I originally come from Qld and have seen it all before).

Please address the following issues in your report and produce draft legislation to implement the following:

- Conduct ongoing scientific assessment of the sex industry supported by social trend analysis,
- Measure the subsequent drain on the ACT housing budget,
- Address the diminishment of free press in the ACT due to vested interests,
- Restrict Sex Advertising, and
- Raise an independent judicial enquiry.

I look forward to reading the Inquiry's report, especially its recommendations and the mechanisms to publically monitor its implementations.

Thank-you for your public service,

Peter McKay

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31 March 2011