



Simon Corbell MLA

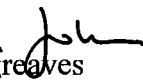
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Mr John Hargreaves MLA
Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Mr Hargreaves 

Thank you for your letter received on 20 January 2012 regarding the recent fire at an unregistered brothel, 'The Gentleman's Club', on Grimwade Street in Mitchell. In particular you requested further information in regards to this brothel and it being unregistered.

The *Prostitution Act 1992* (the Act) requires the operator of a brothel to register their business with Office of Regulatory Services (ORS). This is similar to other industries. It is an offence not to provide a registration notice. The Act also requires the operator of a brothel to provide an annual notice to ORS each year, effectively a renewal of registration.

'The Gentleman's Club' was not registered as a brothel under the Act with ORS. In addition 'The Gentleman's Club' is not a registered business name in the ACT.

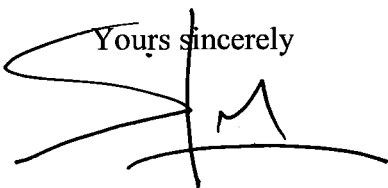
A brothel has previously been registered as operating at the address from which 'The Gentleman's Club' operated. That business was last registered from the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010. No annual notices for renewal have been received by ORS since that period. No documents have been received by ORS, which indicate that the former business has been transferred.

The ORS undertakes a renewal process in relation to licensed brothels each year. In the process of renewal it is ORS practice to contact those brothels, which have not renewed, to ascertain their status. I have asked that ORS review its registration practices under the Act to see if there are any improvements that can be made.

You have asked about the background to the fire. On 1 January 2012 there was a suspected arson at the 'The Gentleman's Club'. It is understood that the business was closed at the time of the fire. ACT Policing are investigating the cause of the fire, as well as the complaint that this brothel was operating without being registered. These investigations are ongoing.

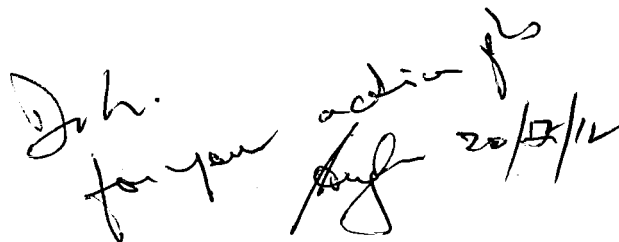
I trust this information will assist the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety with its inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney-General

20.2.12



ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY