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 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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The Committee for ACT Prostitution Inquiry

As a teacher of thirty plus years, I am among those who enjoy the great rewards of helping our young people achieve their hopes and dreams. It is also a privileged place to stand with families as gifts and talents are nurtured. Prostitution is NEVER AN OPTION at any time, ever suggested by families, schools or our young themselves, to aspire to.

Could the Inquiry please:

- Provide research-based reporting on the steps that lead our young onto the path of prostitution and could this include recommendations for early interventions and identification of at-risk youth, in our ACT.
- Provide research-based reporting on risks and hazards in prostitution and could these findings include your recommendations for our ACT.
- Address the alarming negligence of not having exit strategies and re-training programs that would offer OTHER OPTIONS to our young. (RETRIEVE THOSE HOPES AND DREAMS! DEVELOP THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS!). I would very much like to be part of this work as this is an area of my own expertise and I see this as very achievable for many.
- Establish a phone Help-line (Alert Line) for concerned citizens in Canberra. Walking with a neighbour for exercise, it was a shock to come across an Asian lady, standing in the dark by herself, in an area tucked off Theodore St towards the Melrose Dr end of Curtin. An increasing number of stories are being heard within our community and there is growing concern of the extent of human trafficking into the ACT (the most shocking story being children seen in a Fyshwick brothel). Could the Inquiry consider this Help-line to be a special branch of something like Crime Stoppers. This community reporting could also be useful to the Inquiry's research using such valuable information collected (and with anonymity guarded). Could you encourage Canberra to participate in this reporting.
- Recommend heavy penalties to those exploiting underage young people, as in the case of Janine Cameron. What has been that brothel's penalty?
- Recommend for inspection of brothels to be made without prior knowledge to owners.
- Establish a working body that is to be held accountable for the Inquiry's recommendations. Could this have total public transparency and monitoring.
- Put into place ongoing follow-up Inquiries into the ACT prostitution industry, to report and evaluate on the success/shortcomings of your recommendations. Could this also be open to public scrutiny.
- Recommend for tighter regulations regarding health checks including both physical and psychological wellbeing. This should also emphasise ongoing access to supportive services such as free counselling.
- Ask the tough questions like:
 - “Can the prostitution industry ever be regulated?”
 - “Is it possible to regulate an industry associated with crime, drugs, human trafficking, abuse and exploitation?”
 - “Can the government control an inherently corrupt industry?”
 - “What is different about the prostitution industry that weakens our stand against the commodifying of another human being?”
 - “What is the psychology of our culture that accepts purchasing sex?”
 - “What is the cultural thinking that accepts women being known but not the men?”

As a mother and grandmother, I am among those in our community who feel a deep sense of grief and shame, that our beautiful Canberra let a "little sister" down so tragically (and continues to do so with others).

Having four children of my own, I am also part of that "mother heart" of our ACT that feels for Janine's mother and family. We know she is irreplaceable. Let this Inquiry not treat her death lightly but be a landmark for real change.

Thank you to each one of you involved.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Carden". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the surname "Carden".

Christine Carden
BSc., DipEd