

Lloyd, Brian

From: Committees
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2011 11:52 AM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: FW: Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety



 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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From: Patricia McKay [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2011 6:49 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Submission to the standing committee on Justice and Community Safety

Re your inquiry into the ACT prostitution industry

What measures are being taken to ensure that the prostitutes working in the ACT are not being held against their will? I hear many reports that some of the workers are victims of human trafficking.

What research is being done to discover what actual impact the industry has on the male and female prostitutes - including rates of physical abuse, mental health problems, links to child abuse, drug addictions, criminal links, post-effects, health risks of clients, relationship impacts, socio-economic and geographical origins?

What services do you provide to help any prostitutes to get out of the industry and find alternative employment ?

Have you given serious consideration to the "Swedish model" of prostitution which has demonstrated great success in Sweden, especially when compared to neighbouring countries? It views women in prostitution primarily as victims, and seeks to prosecute the purchaser of sex - that is the one who creates demand - rather than the supplier.

What is being done to ensure that underage children are not being used/abused in this industry? What regulations/inspections are in place to protect them?

I have been most concerned to see the number of ads in the Canberra times for the service of prostitutes over recent years and even more concerned when they published a front page article advertising the fact that a student was prostituting herself to make money to work her way through university. What measures are in place to minimise prostitution in our community? My impression is that there is a regular PR campaign by EROS and others to encourage us in the ACT to accept prostitution more and more into our community as a healthy and acceptable industry. What is the government doing to discourage this?

What values are we encouraging in our ACT community? It is well known that the prostitution industry is closely aligned with drugs and crime. It is certainly not an environment in which we should be encouraging our young people to be involved in if we are planning to grow a healthy community here in the ACT. Over the last 20 years that I have lived in the ACT it has concerned me deeply how the prostitution industry is loudly pushing its way into our everyday life and how difficult it is today to protect our children from its influence.

Thank you for having this enquiry and it is my hope that through it we will have a healthier environment in the ACT for both the prostitutes and our community at large.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia McKay