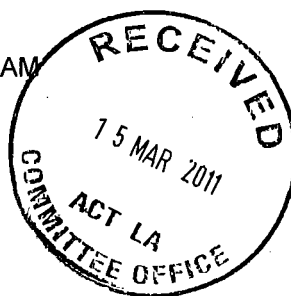


Lloyd, Brian

From: Committees
Sent: Tuesday, 15 March 2011 10:21 AM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: FW: Prostitution in the ACT
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red



 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	22
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	16.03.2011 <i>Be</i>

From: Fe & Dale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 March 2011 12:40 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Prostitution in the ACT

Good Morning,

I'd like to raise with you my concern over the growing problem of prostitution in our state, and also our nation. I find it appalling that such things are going on in our own backyards, and that there is actual consideration to allow these 'businesses' to open in our suburbs. I struggle to see how it is ok to legalise the purchase of sex, and to degrade women to nothing more than an item you can buy off the shelf. It embarrasses me to live in the state know as the 'sex capital of Australia'. I support the following points;

- In Canberra, since prostitution has been legalised, there appears to be an increase in the illegal sex industry despite the fact that this is the very thing the legislation was supposed to stop.
- Prostitution as it stands does not provide for the equality and safety of women in Canberra, thereby lacking the protection of human rights promised in other ACT legislation.
- Legalised brothels foster an environment where human trafficking can exist, as it increases demand for purchasing sex, which studies show feeds the illegal industry.
- There needs to be research done to discover what actual impact the industry has on the girls 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, as well as the impact on men and families.
- The need for exit support programs for prostitutes seeking to leave the industry as the average number of times a girl will try to leave the industry before actually getting out is seven, with many displaying signs not dissimilar to post-traumatic stress symptoms displayed by soldiers returning from battle.
- The government should seriously consider 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.

Kind Regards,
 Fiona Peterson

16/03/2011