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The Secretary
Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1021
CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into the Prostitution Industry

I attach a short submission for consideration.

Yours sincerely



Hillas MacLean (Mr)

Submission to ACT Prostitution Inquiry
From
Hillas MacLean

When prostitution was made legal in 1992 through the Prostitution Act, it was claimed that (a) it would make illegal brothels obsolete and (b) it would free the girls/women involved from abuse by controllers. There is now sufficient information around for us to know that those aims have not been realised.

There are many questions that arise in relation to the legal brothels in the ACT, let alone the illegal ones, which I believe the Inquiry should investigate and report on such as

- 1 To what extent are the operations of the brothels, including the treatment of the prostitutes themselves, consistent with the ACT's Human Rights Act, especially under the headings in the Act
 - Freedom of movement
 - Liberty and security of person
 - Humane treatment when deprived of liberty
 - Freedom from forced work
- 2 The ACT public should know the extent to which the provision of illegal drugs to prostitutes is carried out and the extent to which management of the brothels is complicit or even actively involved in that.
- 3 The extent to which the ACT Government has carried out its responsibilities under the Act and exactly what records have been kept and how detailed and up to date they are, particularly in relation to the requirements under the terms of the ACT Workcover Sexual Services Industry code of practice.
- 4 From what is widely known it seems clear that the legalised industry as it stands is not preventing illegal brothels or protecting vulnerable girls/women. If the ACT Government is serious about achieving these aims it should actively investigate what has become known as the Swedish model of legalising prostitution. I strongly recommend that the operation of prostitution law in Sweden be seriously investigated and that this investigation should include a

visit to Sweden by a delegation at the appropriate level to examine the situation on the spot.

Canberra
9 March 2011