

Lloyd, Brian

From: Committees
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2011 9:07 AM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: FW: Concern about the prostitution legislation

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 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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From: Sarah Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2011 5:08 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Concern about the prostitution legislation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email because I am very concerned about the prostitution industry in Canberra. I am deeply saddened by the statistics relating to this issue and I am particularly disturbed by the increase in the illegal sex industry since prostitution has been legalised. The industry is a degradation of women's right for equality, safety and respect. Legalised brothels increase the demand for human trafficking which also feed the illegal industry.

I think there is a need for research to study the actual impact of the industry on girls involved 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.

There is a great 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. Legalised or not, this is a serious issue.

I believe 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. If the clients will not fully consider the demoralising impact of their actions then may the government protect those trapped in the industry.

I would like to see the government reconsider the legislation and for all women to have options other than prostitution. There should be no reason why anyone should have to undertake this employment. Bring freedom, hope and safety back to this city!

I ask that each decision be made with wisdom and in the interest of everyone's well being with no room for selfishness. Thank you for considering my views.

Yours truly,

Sarah Wilson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]