

☐ Minister
☐ Chief of Staff

☐ Adviser L2044/0197

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☐ RELEASE
☐ Reply
☐ Advise
☒ Noted
☐ File

6 March
☐ Large meeting
☐ For information
☐ Refer to
☐ Action



7 note from today's Canberra Times that your Committee is conducting an enquiry into the Prostitution Act.

I was not aware that such an enquiry was in train. Was there any public notification of this?

In view of the reported submissions from the sex industry, I should like to register my opposition to the proposals for brothels in town centres and group centres, and the operation of sex workers in residential areas.

The suggestion that the sex industry is "discreet" is absurd. There is abundant evidence from the operation of

brothels in retail and commercial areas of Sydney and Melbourne that there are substantial negative impacts, such as traffic volumes, noise nuisance and lowered property values.

It would be outrageous if people going to the doctor or the supermarket had to pass by brothels on the way.

Presumably the idea that mini-brothels could be set up on residential premises would be defeated by planning laws. So far as I know, commercial activities are not permitted on residential leases - not that ACTPLA seems disposed to take action against breaches.

I urge your Committee to recommend against any changes to the scheme of the present Act.

Yours faithfully,
Stephen Brown.