



Lloyd, Brian

From: Peter Hyland [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 March 2011 9:57 PM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: Submission To Inquiry Into The Operation Of The Prostitution Act 1992

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	20.
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Dear Brian

We refer to the phone conversation of last week between yourself and Peter Hyland regarding late submissions to the Inquiry Into The Operation Of The Prostitution Act 1992. We'd be most grateful if the committee would see fit to accept this submission beyond the closing date of 26 February 2011.

As the owners/operators of Chrisindy's - Canberra's only adult massage studio - we'd like to state our position in regard to the committee's terms of reference.

(1) The form and operation of the Act;

Put simply, we consider the Act in its current form to be appropriate.

(2) the regulation, enforcement and monitoring of commercially operated brothels;

There is certainly room for improvement. We appreciate the Office of Regulatory Services wears many hats and has finite resources and in our dealings with them over many years they've been nothing other than helpful and professional. How changes would be managed is for senior management within ORS to determine, one would think. Visits from inspectors, following up on advertisements in The Canberra Times classifieds, generally keeping a finger of the industry's pulse would go a long way in our view. Having said this, we have no idea what goes on behind the scenes at ORS, maybe this is happening already?

(3) identifying regulatory options, including the desirability of requiring commercially operated brothels to maintain records of workers and relevant proof of age, to ensure that all sex workers are over the age of 18 years;

We consider that the onus of establishing proof of age should reside with the brothels management. No proof, no start. If a brothel was to engage an underage worker they should be prepared to be face the penalties as currently laid down in the Act. Workers are concerned about records being maintained with perceived ramifications in their later lives. Many workers move on to professional or white collar careers and wish their privacy regarding their past to be respected. A link to the adult industry, whether legal or not can carry a stigma in the eyes of many in the general population.

(4) the adequacy of, and compliance with, occupational health and safety requirements for sex workers;

As far as we are aware OH&S inspectors can visit any establishment at any time. Current practice is satisfactory.

(5) any links with criminal activity;

We can only speak for our own business. We do not have criminal records nor any link with criminals in any way, shape or form.

(6) the extent to which unlicensed operators exist within the ACT; and

This would be an interesting exercise and one worth following up on. A careful scrutiny of the Adult Services section of The Canberra Times classifieds would be a good start. If we could make a personal observation here, it seems that the licensed operators tend to suffer because of the actions of the unlicensed. Any changes to legislation will have an impact on the licensed businesses whilst the illegals continue on doing what they always do, namely fly below the radar.

(7) any other relevant matter.

The following comments, whilst not falling within the committee's terms of reference, illustrate our philosophy regarding the operation of our business.

We wish to draw the committee's attention to the fact that establishments in the ACT don't necessarily conform to the popularly held community view that brothels and massage studios are seedy, tacky, drug infested businesses pandering to the lowest common denominator of society.

At Chrisindy's we operate within the law and are open to visits by police and regulatory authorities. Our service providers are intelligent, clean and sober young women, predominately with a tertiary education. These young women are not beholden to us, they approach us, we are happy to have them onboard and then they leave to continue on with their lives. Our clients include men, women and couples from all social backgrounds. We provide a service in a clean, safe environment with the utmost discretion.

We are happy to discuss any matters relating to the committee's work.

Yours sincerely

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Director

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