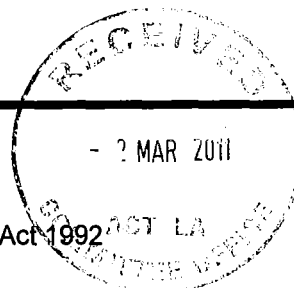


Lloyd, Brian

From: Committees
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2011 4:29 PM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: FW: Submission Inquiry into the operation of the Prostitution Act 1992



-----Original Message-----

From: markshep@tpg.com.au [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2011 2:52 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission Inquiry into the operation of the Prostitution Act 1992

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
	SUBMISSION NUMBER 15.
	DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION 16.03.2011 Bl

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 such as the Human Rights ACT.

The legalising of prostitution was based on the premise that legalising of prostitution would eliminate the criminal element, and reduce the illegal sex industry. However, since 1992 when prostitution was legalised, there appears to be an increase in the illegal sex industry. This is contrary to the original aims and claims of those claiming that the ACT would eliminate the illegal sex industry.

Legalised brothels can and have fostered an environment where human trafficking can exist, as it increases demand for purchasing sex, which studies show feeds the illegal industry.

Currently there is a vacuum of information on what the actual impact the industry has on the girls including rates of physical abuse, mental health problems (many displaying signs not dissimilar to post-traumatic stress symptoms), 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. This Vacuum has supported the proponents of the legalisation and allowed gross violations of human rights and the degradation of countless women. There needs to be credible independent research to discover all of the above mentioned points with the ability to assess the efficacy of legalisation and compare it to the Swedish model.

The Government should fund 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.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Sheppard

[REDACTED]
ACT
[REDACTED]