

Answers to questions taken on notice – Australian Christian Lobby

1. Question from Mr Alister Henskens MP, Transcript of Evidence, p 5:

CHAIR: Can I go back to your opening statement and some of the matters that you raised there. You gave some statistics with regard to the incidence of rape, physical assault and post-traumatic stress disorder amongst sex workers. What is your source for those statements?

Ms FRANCIS: Are you asking particularly about the rape? I talked about 60 to 75 per cent of women?

CHAIR: Yes.

Ms FRANCIS: That is from Melissa Farley, she is a well known researcher in this area.

CHAIR: Is that a publication that is referred to in your paper?

Ms FRANCIS: Melissa is referred to in our submission, yes. Those statistics might not be in there but I can certainly provide them for you.

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- <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Prostitution%20Quick%20Facts%2012-21-12.pdf>
Summary of research and clinical findings regarding violence in all types of prostitution - 95% of those in prostitution experienced sexual harassment that would be legally actionable in another job setting. - 65% to 95% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children. - 70% to 95% were physically assaulted in prostitution - 60% to 75% were raped in prostitution - 75% of those in prostitution have been homeless at some point in their lives. - 85% to 95% of those in prostitution want to escape it, but have no other options for survival. - 68% of 854 people in strip club, massage, and street prostitution in 9 countries met criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder or PTSD. - 80% to 90% of those in prostitution experience verbal abuse and social contempt which adversely affect them. (Melissa Farley, 2004, Prostitution is sexual violence. Psychiatric Times.
<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/sexualoffenses/content/article/10168/48311>)
- Stockholm University's Department of Political Science cites figures of between 55 and 90% of prostituted women having been subjected to sexual abuse as children. A study of Adelaide young people aged 12 to 23 living on the streets indicated that 80% of young women and 27% of young men, involved in sex work, had a history of child abuse. 75% of sex workers in Sydney's Kings Cross reported some form of child sexual abuse. (*Child Wise, 2004, p. 18* <http://www3.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/issue/i8.html#nature> Sex workers and sexual assault in Australia Prevalence, risk and safety Dr Antonia Quadara Australian Institute of Family Studies.) A research project with 30 young people working in the sex industry in Melbourne discovered that 16 of them had been in the state care system, while 13 had left home because of physical or sexual abuse or neglect (*Child Wise, 2004, p. 51*). Nearly all of the participants in this particular study had experienced sexual assault or other violence "at least once" since they started working. (*Mimi H. Silbert & Ayala M. Pines, 1983, Early Sexual Exploitation as an Influence in Prostitution, Social Work.*
<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Silbert%20Pines%20Early%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20in%20Prostitution.pdf>)
- The US State Department in the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report states that Australia is a destination country for girls and women subjected to sex trafficking, predominantly from South East Asia. This exploitation, and the involvement of organised crime, is found in NSW despite its decriminalised system. There are numerous reports of young Asian women coming to Australia on tourist or student visas and being lured or coerced to work in both legal and illegal brothels.

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226844.htm>) In 2014, the AFP investigated 87 alleged trafficking cases. This was an increase from 46 in 2013.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-26/sex-slavery-victims-lives-endangered-by-laws/6688224>)