



MEDIA RELEASE

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Submissions Sought for Inquiry into Brothels in NSW

Submissions are now being sought from organisations and members of the public for a Parliamentary inquiry into the regulation of brothels in NSW.

Member for Ku-ring-gai Alister Henskens SC MP, an experienced Barrister, will chair the seven member committee to be known as the Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels.

“The aims of the inquiry include closing loopholes which are seeing illegal businesses such as massage parlours flout the current laws which should prevent them from engaging in prostitution near schools and in other inappropriate areas,” Mr Henskens said today.

The inquiry will look into and report on;

- (1) Appropriate Local and State Government regulatory and compliance functions for brothels.
- (2) The demarcation in Local and State Government roles and responsibilities.
- (3) Possible reform options addressing the social, health and planning challenges associated with legal and illegal brothels.

Mr Henskens says the inquiry will consider issues including;

- a. **The options for reform including a scheme of registration or licensing of authorised brothels and massage parlours.**
- b. **Penalties and powers needed to shut down illegal brothels.**
- c. **The protection of sex workers, including issues surrounding organised crime and sex trafficking.**
- d. **The location of sex service premises including their proximity to homes, schools and playgrounds.**

“Councils have struggled in the courts to have illegal operations shut down and this needs to be addressed also in this inquiry,” Mr Henskens said.

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is 19 August 2015.

Public hearings will be held beginning in early September, with the Committee due to table its report by 12 November 2015.

For media comment, please contact Alister Henskens on (02) 9487 8588. Further information about the inquiry, including information on how to lodge a submission, can be obtained by visiting the Committee’s webpage at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/regulationofbrothelscommittee or by contacting Elspeth Dyer, Committee Manager, on (02) 9230 2214.