

**Submission
No 83**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Organisation: Liverpool City Council
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Position: Director Planning and Growth
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19 August 2015

The Chair
Committee on the Regulation of Brothels,
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Henskens

Re: Inquiry into the Regulation of Brothels

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the inquiry. Liverpool City Council is concerned about the impact sex industry premises including brothels have on the wellbeing and safety of our community and wish to make the following submission:-

Illegal Brothels

Despite the fact that action can be taken under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act through the issuing of a brothel closure order, enforcement of such an order in the Courts is difficult due to the standard of evidence required. Councils have had to turn to private investigators to obtain such evidence. It is recommended that Councils should be able to rely on circumstantial evidence such as advertising of premises as a sex premises, layout and set up of the premises.

Action should also be able to be taken against the owner of the premises if the owner is shown to be aware of the illegal activities such as through notification by Council. This is an essential avenue as it is often difficult obtaining information about the operator of the premises and changes in the operator of the business occurs often.

It is also recommended that the issuing of orders 8 and 11 under Section 121B of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act specifically for sex premises should be permitted. This would enable Council to issue order 8 to any person conducting or carrying out the activity, and to then issue order 11 ordering persons to leave the premises or not to enter the premises.

Approved Sex Premises (including Brothels)

Council supports the introduction of a licensing system for sex premises to better regulate approved premises and ensure the conditions of consent are being complied with, thereby reducing the impact on the broader community and improving the wellbeing of those working in the industry. The introduction of a licensing system would empower councils and police to oversee the brothel industry and allow suspension or cancellation of licences.

Should you require any further information regarding this submission please contact Ms Nada Mardini, Manager Community Standards on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Toni Averay
Director Planning and Growth