

The operation of the PLA

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Prostitution Licensing Authority

Membership

The Prostitution Act prescribes the membership of the PLA, which must include:

- The chair – an independent, respected member of the community nominated by the Premier
- The commissioner of police, or a police officer of at least the rank of superintendent nominated by the commissioner
- The crime commissioner, an assistant crime commissioner or general counsel nominated by the crime commissioner
- A doctor who has at least five years' experience in community health
- A lawyer who has been admitted for at least five years and has knowledge of or experience in administrative law, company law or criminal law
- A senior representative of the LGAQ.

In good hands... the members of the PLA

The current members of the PLA were all appointed on 4 May 2001 for a four-year term, except for the Chair, who was appointed for two years.



Mr Bill Carter QC,
Chair

Mr Carter graduated as a lawyer from the University of Queensland in 1959, was appointed to the District Court of Queensland in 1980 and to the Supreme Court in 1983. Since leaving the Supreme Court, Mr Carter has served in several high profile public positions, including serving as the Chair of the Commissions of Inquiry into Police and Drugs (1996–1997), Operation Trident (1992–1993) and Townsville Psychiatric Unit (Ward 10b) (1990–1991).



Commissioner
Bob Atkinson

Mr Atkinson was sworn in as a member of the QPS on 30 October 1968 and was appointed as Commissioner of Police on 1 November 2000. He has served through the State from Goondiwindi to Cairns performing a wide range of operational and managerial roles. Mr Atkinson has a Certificate in Criminal Justice Education, a Graduate Certificate in Police Management and is currently completing a Bachelor of Administrative Leadership.



Assistant Commissioner
John McDonnell

Mr McDonnell is the current and inaugural head of the Ethical Standards Command in the QPS, and has served with the Service since he joined in the early 1960s. Among his many appointments within the QPS, Mr McDonnell has served with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, the Fitzgerald Implementation Unit and was the Director of Operations, CJC. He was awarded the Australian Police Medal in January 1994. Mr McDonnell, who assists Mr Atkinson, is an officer of at least the rank of superintendent, and has been nominated by the Commissioner as his representative.

Role

The PLA decides whether to grant brothel licences and managers' certificates. In addition, the Prostitution Act establishes that the PLA is responsible for:

- monitoring the provision of prostitution through licensed brothels
- conducting disciplinary inquiries in relation to licensees and approved managers
- disciplining licensees and managers
- receiving complaints about prostitution
- liaising with the police service with a view to assisting the police service
- collecting fees under the Prostitution Act
- informing relevant government departments and agencies about possible offences that are detected while carrying out its functions
- informing the PAC about issues and trends relevant to its functions
- approving advertising for prostitution
- maintaining a licence and certificate register.



Mr Tim Carmody SC

Mr Carmody was appointed the Queensland Crime Commissioner in 1997. Prior to that, Mr Carmody served as prosecution and defence counsel in a number of major criminal matters and had significant experience as an appellate lawyer in the criminal jurisdiction. Mr Carmody worked as Counsel Assisting on several key inquiries, including the Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry into Suspected Police Corruption and Related Matters. Mr Carmody's appointment is required by legislation.



Mr Lance Pollard

Mr Pollard is a solicitor in private practice and is currently a partner with Bennett and Philp. He has had extensive experience in the areas of commercial litigation, corporate and personal insolvency, debt recovery, administrative law, trade practices law and company law. He is appointed to the PLA as a lawyer who has been admitted for at least five years, and who has knowledge and experience in administrative law, company law or criminal law as per legislation.



Dr Ian Wilkey

Dr Wilkey was the Medical Superintendent of Royal Brisbane Hospital and has previously held Medical Officer positions within the Queensland and Papua New Guinea health systems, including as a Director of the Laboratory of Microbiology and Pathology and the Director-General of Health and Medical Services. Dr Wilkey is appointed as a medical practitioner who has at least five years' experience in community health as per legislation.



Ms Deborah Miles

Ms Miles has been the Social Policy Advisor for the LGAQ since 1995 and has contributed significantly to local government in relation to current and emerging social policy issues during that time. Ms Miles graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work in 1993 and has also worked as a Community Development Officer at Redland Shire Council. Ms Miles was appointed as a senior representative of the LGAQ as required by the legislation. Ms Miles resigned from the LGAQ and the PLA in May 2001.



Meetings

The PLA meets once a month, and at other times as necessary. Between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001, the PLA met 11 times.

Table 1: Attendance at meetings of the PLA

Name	Number of meetings attended (N=11)
W. Carter (Chair)	11
R. Atkinson	1
T. Carmody	10
J. McDonnell	10
D. Miles	9
L. Pollard	11
I. Wilkey	11

Remuneration

The chair and members of the PLA were paid, as determined by the Governor-in-Council, a total of \$50,653 during the financial year 2000–2001.

The Prostitution Advisory Council

The Prostitution Act established the PAC, which reports to a ministerial committee comprising the Ministers administering the following Acts:

- The Prostitution Act
- *Family Services Act 1987*
- *Health Act 1937*
- *Liquor Act 1992*.

An Annual Report about the operations of the PAC will be submitted to the ministerial committee as required by section 122 of the Prostitution Act.

Membership

The PAC comprises 12 individuals from various backgrounds. The Prostitution Act requires that the membership of the Council include both men and women, some of whom fulfil the following characteristics:

- A person who represents sex workers in Queensland
- A person who has experience as a sexual health care doctor or social worker with sex workers
- A person who has knowledge of relevant issues for marginalised or disadvantaged young people
- A person who is representative of religious or community interests.

Role

The PAC has a wide range of obligations, and is principally responsible for providing advice on prostitution. The PAC:

- Advises the ministerial committee on issues related to the regulation of prostitution in Queensland
- Monitors the operation of the Prostitution Act

- Liaises with the PLA, the QPS and other agencies to assist them in carrying out their function
- Refers matters it considers appropriate for investigation to an agency of government or any other entity for investigation
- Promotes and coordinates programs that:
 - > Promote sexual health care
 - > Help prostitutes to leave prostitution
 - > Divert minors and other vulnerable persons from prostitution, especially opportunistic prostitution
 - > Raises awareness in sex workers, judicial officers, police, community workers and the community about issues relating to prostitution.
- Promotes the dissemination of information about:
 - > The dangers inherent in prostitution
 - > Security measures to improve the personal safety of sex workers.
- Coordinates the development of codes of practice for licensed brothels.

Meetings

During the financial year 2000–2001, the PAC met nine times.

Remuneration

The Chair and members of the PAC were paid a total of \$26,534 during the financial year 2000–2001, as determined by the Governor-in-Council. Payment of fees to PAC members was funded from the PLA budget.

Strategic Plan

The PLA Strategic Plan 2001–2004 was developed and approved in the latter part of the financial year, and the Plan will become effective later in 2001.

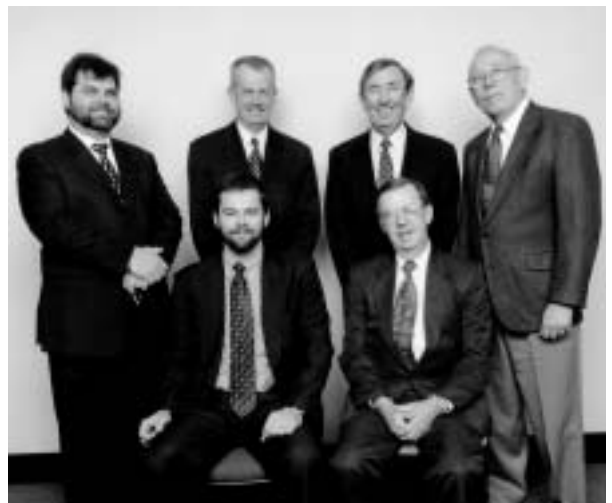
The Strategic Plan establishes five key goals to guide the activities of the PLA over the coming four-year period. These goals are:

1. To ensure an efficient and effective brothel licensing system to regulate prostitution in Queensland.
2. To inform the public about the legal framework for prostitution.
3. To ensure licensed brothels are operating to best practice standards.
4. To develop strategic liaisons with key agencies.
5. To provide a safe, fair, productive and satisfying workplace.

The Strategic Plan demonstrates how the PLA will contribute to the Government's aim to create safer and more supportive communities, where all Queenslanders are respected and where workplace health and safety for all workers is a high priority. As required by the Financial Management Standard 1997, the Strategic Plan will be reviewed after 12 months.

PLA Code of Conduct

High ethical standards are critical to the success of the PLA. With this in mind, the PLA has approved a Code of Conduct, which became effective on 8 February 2001. All staff of the PLA were consulted in the development of the Code of Conduct, as were the Corruption Prevention Division of the CJC and the QPS. A copy of the Code of Conduct has been provided to all staff members and all members of the PLA and PAC. All PLA staff have attended a briefing on the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available for inspection by members of the public from the office of the PLA.



Rear left to right: Tim Carmody, Bob Atkinson, John McDonnell, Ian Wilkey
Front left to right: Lance Pollard, Bill Carter