

about the pla

Our mission

To ensure that licensed brothels are regulated in the community interest.

Our values

Respect

Integrity

Health and safety

Impartiality

Our operating principles

The PLA acts in the public interest.

The PLA is committed to preventing corruption and organised crime in licensed brothels.

The PLA is committed to promoting and improving safety and health in the sex industry and in the wider community.

The PLA places emphasis on consultation to reach the objectives of the organisation.

The PLA provides a stimulating, satisfying and safe work environment free from discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexual preference or disability.

The PLA operates to ensure that all its activities are based on the best information and research available to it.

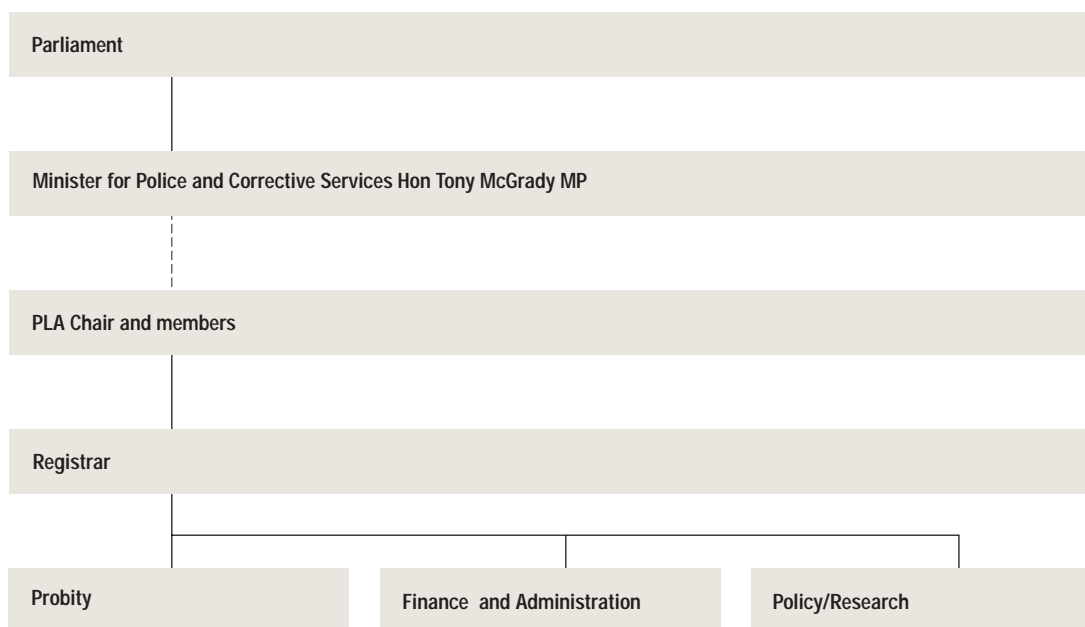
Our purpose

To regulate prostitution in Queensland by implementing the Prostitution Act.

Reporting structure and organisation

The PLA employs six officers under the *Public Service Act 1996* to support the work of the PLA. Staff of the PLA answer to the Registrar, who in turn reports to the PLA. The PLA reports to the Minister for Police and the Parliament.

Figure 1: PLA organisational structure



There are two non-departmental outputs administered by the PLA:

1. Brothel licensing and monitoring prostitution through licensed brothels.
2. Advice on and to the sex industry.

John McDonnell, John Callanan,
Ann Bennison, Lance Pollard,
Bill Carter and Ian Wilkey



The year in review

Month	Event
July	Interim Code of Practice for Licensed Brothels established.
August	First Queensland brothel commences operation.
September	Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) report on the risk review of the PLA. Protective Security Manual approved by the PLA. First brothel inspection conducted.
October	CJC risk review recommendations adopted by the PLA.
November	First Strategic Plan 2001–04 adopted by the PLA.
December	Amendments to the Prostitution Act are proclaimed. Appointment to the PLA of Cr Ann Bennisson, Councillor for Enoggera Ward.
January	Office of the Independent Assessor established. Registrar for Appeals to the Independent Assessor appointed.
February	PLA attendance at the Trafficking in Women conference in Melbourne. Appointment of the Independent Assessor.
March	Three licensed Gold Coast brothels commence operation. The PLA staff an information stall at the Four Seasons Condom Sexpo. Upgrade of standard operating environment. Computer roll-out to PCs. First appeal to the Independent Assessor lodged. Service Level Agreement between PLA and QPS for corporate services approved and signed.
April	A fourth Gold Coast brothel commences operation. Brothel licences granted for brothels in Mackay and Townsville. PLA Annual Report 2000–01 achieves a merit award. Appointment to the PLA of Mr John Callanan, Assistant Commissioner, Crime, Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC). Staff training module conducted: 'Dealing with Difficult People'.
May	Two Brisbane brothels commence operation. Brothel licence granted for a brothel in Maroochydore. PLA Privacy Plan approved by the PLA. Reappointment to the Chair, PLA of Mr Bill Carter QC for a term of two years. Staff training module conducted: 'Effective Communication'.
June	Brothel advertising policy approved by the PLA. PLA website redesigned. Finance and Administration Manual approved by the PLA. Staff training module conducted: 'Ethics in the PLA'.

Financial summary

Revenue

The major sources of our revenue each year are a government grant from an administered appropriation received by the QPS and fees. In 2001–02, the grant was \$871,000 representing 79.7% of our revenue (2000–01, 94.7%) and fees were \$177,361 representing 16.2% (2000–01, 3.1%).

Expenses

Expenses were \$883,152 compared to \$647,888 in 2000–01. In this, our second year, we had a general increase in expenses because we were operating at full staff capacity.

Assets

Our current and non-current assets increased from \$557,029 to \$767,065 during 2001–02. Current assets increased by \$80,634 due to cash on hand and an unexpended advance, whilst non-current assets increased by \$129,402 from purchases of property, plant and equipment.

Liabilities

At \$86,848, our liabilities as at 30 June 2002 were largely unchanged from last year. An increase in employee leave entitlements arising from annual leave available, but not taken, was offset by a decrease in accrued creditors.

Net equity

The year ended in an increase in net equity from \$470,163 at 30 June 2001 to \$680,217 on 30 June 2002.

Financial highlights

Year ended 30 June 2002	2002	2001
	\$	\$
For the year		
Government contributions	871,000	1,059,000
Fees	177,361	34,500
Operating expenses	883,152	647,888
At year end		
Total assets	767,065	557,029
Property, plant & equipment	236,078	112,655
Net assets	680,217	470,163

Summary of corporate performance

Below is a description of outcomes achieved from last year's projected activities.

Projected activity	Progress in 2001-02
1. Brothel licensing and monitoring	
Negotiate the terms of a memorandum of understanding with the QPS for probity checking procedures.	Under negotiation.
Negotiate the terms of a memorandum of understanding with the Liquor Licensing Division for access to information.	Deferred.
Implement the recommendations of the licensing database review.	Currently commencing trial phase.
Provide support to local government on the implementation of the Prostitution Act.	Implemented.
Consider the development of an inspectorate to audit licensed brothels.	Compliance and audit unit approved. Unit to be established during 2002-03.
Establish a monitoring strategy for the regulation of licensed brothels.	Established.
Develop a formal disciplinary process for licensees and approved managers.	Deferred.
Develop an efficient approval system for police entry to licensed brothels (refer to section 60 of the Prostitution Act).	Established.
2. Advertising prostitution	
In conjunction with sole operators, review the advertising policy to assess its effectiveness.	Consultation has commenced with SQWISI and with key Queensland print publications.
Liaise with PETF, QPS, to establish an audit of advertising for prostitution to assess compliance with the advertising policy.	Consultation has commenced.

3. Liaison and assistance

Develop a formal communication strategy for key stakeholders.	Consultation has commenced.
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4. Corporate support

Establish a staff induction program.	Established.
Establish a risk management strategy.	The Information Security Steering Committee (ISSC) was established and assigned responsibility for conducting an annual risk assessment of threats to the security of premises, staff, property and information at the PLA.
Develop a fraud control policy and an anti-corruption strategy for the PLA and Prostitution Advisory Council (PAC)	While a specific fraud control policy and anti-corruption strategy has not yet been developed, the PLA has implemented a number of significant activities to address risk and manage opportunities for fraud and other types of misconduct. Refer to pages 29 and 30 for a description of these.
Develop an information security management policy.	Established.
Establish an electronic records management system.	Under negotiation with QPS.
Review and update the PLA website.	PLA website reviewed, redesigned and approved.

Statistical highlights

- 13 brothel licences and 22 managers' certificates granted to date in relation to 10 brothels in Queensland
- 17 approvals by local authorities for development approval for a change of use of a premises to become a brothel
- 201 towns or areas in Queensland granted permission to refuse brothel development applications
- 2 appeals made to the newly established Independent Assessor, one of which was upheld with the other still undecided
- 53 individuals applied for a brothel licence or manager's certificate
- 231 days is the average time for processing a brothel licence application and 136 days is the average time for processing a manager's certificate application
- 4 police entries made to one licensed brothel
- 204 advertisements lodged with the PLA for approval, with 128 granted approval
- 1,255 inquiries responded to
- 54 complaints responded to
- 205 meetings held with key stakeholders



OPINIONS

"Genevieve"
aged 37 years

"I've been a sex worker for 13 years. I've had heaps of other jobs: at a meat works, at a supermarket, as a barmaid, a waitress, cleaning, I've been an Avon lady, I worked at a milk bar and at a shoe shop. I started sex work for the money, my friends tried to talk me out of it."