



Changing Your **Perspective**







Message from the Chair



I begin by recognising the notable achievements of the Honourable William J Carter QC, who was the inaugural Chair of the PLA and served from 2000 to 2005. Mr Carter served with great distinction and successfully steered the PLA during its formative years.

I also acknowledge the sterling service of former board member Dr Ian Wilkey. Dr Wilkey gave wise counsel to the Authority from its inception to May 2005. His many years of experience and medical knowledge were of great assistance to the PLA.

This year has seen the number of licensed operating brothels in Queensland increase from 13 in 2003-04 to 16 in 2004-05.

The year under review saw the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) release its report *Regulating Prostitution: An Evaluation of the Prostitution Act 1999 (Qld)* in December 2004.

The CMC considered that the aims of the Act have been achieved. The CMC found no evidence of police corruption or organised crime in the legal prostitution industry – for either licensed brothels or sole operators.

The CMC was of the view that Queensland's current regulatory model is one of the best in Australia and reported that the regulatory approach taken by the PLA has resulted in a crime free legal industry that provides one of the safest and healthiest environments for legal sex workers in Australia.

Importantly, the CMC considered that the impact of licensed brothels on the community had been minimal.

Through the work of the PLA, legal brothels in Queensland provide a safe and healthy environment for sex workers and their clients. Public health requirements are observed. The safety provision of legal brothels has been successful. However, street sex workers continue to be at significant risk of physical violence.

The CMC continues to inquire as to the possible legalisation of escort or outcall prostitution services in Queensland. This is a policy matter for decision by the Government after a final report by the CMC.

The Authority continues to implement the policy of the legislation.

I place on record the Authority's appreciation of the support given to it by the current Minister, the Honourable Judy Spence MP. We also recognise and value the assistance of the various departmental officers in the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Health and the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) who have so professionally supported and enhanced the work of the Authority.

I extend my thanks to my colleagues on the PLA Board who have a great wealth of knowledge and experience and who are invaluable in assisting me as Chair.

I also extend my appreciation for the dedication and committed professionalism of our staff, so ably led by the Registrar, Ms Margaret Isaac.

Manus Boyce
Chair

Registrar's Report



This year has seen a number of changes, not insignificantly the retirement of the Inaugural Chair, Mr Bill Carter QC, and Dr Ian Wilkey who was the PLA member appointed for his experience in community health. To you both, my grateful thanks for your professionalism, support, wise counsel and commitment to ensuring the

healthy growth of a budding licensed industry.

On behalf of the PLA staff may I welcome back those members who have recommitted to the Authority for a further three years and to the new members in particular, Manus Boyce and Dr Diane Rowling. We all look forward to working closely with you and look forward to supporting you in your respective roles.

It is with anticipation that we await the outcome of the recent CMC recommendations as reported in the *Regulating Prostitution: An Evaluation of the Prostitution Act 1999 (Qld)* report.

Without doubt another busy year is before us, particularly with the current CMC inquiry on

the feasibility of legalising outcalls and on the practicability of possible models for the regulation of escort services in Queensland.

Thankyou to those agencies, the Prostitution Enforcement Task Force (PETF), Queensland Health and DIR, who provide invaluable advice and support to the Authority. My thanks also to SQWISI (Self-Health for Queensland Workers in the Sex Industry), who have ensured our continued education of the Queensland sex industry. The Authority continues to be well placed to execute its statutory role in a way which should meet the expectations of the legislators and of the wider community.

I cannot finish the year without mentioning my work colleagues. Thankyou for your extraordinary efforts, your commitment to task and all those extra miles!

Margaret Isaac
Registrar