



## Message from the Chair

This year has seen the number of licensed operating brothels in Queensland increase from 21 in 2005-06 to 24 in 2006-07.

In 2004 the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) released its report *Regulating Prostitution: An Evaluation of the Prostitution Act 1999 (Qld)*.

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.

It is important to remember that prostitution is a public health issue. It has been said that in no other occupation is there so high a risk to the worker or to the customer.

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

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 (QH) 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 Isaacs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manus Boyce QC'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Manus Boyce QC  
Chair