



Message from the Chair

This year has witnessed a plateauing of the licensed sex industry in Queensland. With the closure of two brothels and the opening of another, the number of licensed operating brothels has experienced a slight decrease from 24 in 2006-07 to 23 in 2007-08. Although, it is anticipated that another licensed brothel will open in Brisbane during 2008-09.

Queensland can be rightly proud of its safe and effective licensed brothel industry. The Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) administers a regime that has high guarantees of health and safety for sex workers and their clients. Licensed brothels are subject to regular scheduled and unannounced compliance audits by the PLA's compliance staff, and brothel licence conditions are continuously monitored and updated by the PLA.

In conjunction with the Queensland Police Service (QPS), the PLA conducts exhaustive and extensive probity checks of brothel licence applicants to ensure that they are a suitable person to operate a brothel. In 2004, the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) found that there was no evidence of police corruption or organised crime in the legal prostitution industry. The PLA is vigilant to ensure that this remains the case in Queensland's licensed brothels.

The Authority continues to implement the policy, spirit and intent of the *Prostitution Act 1999* and is determined to ensure the maintenance of an effective and efficient brothel licensing regime.

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 QPS, Queensland Health (QH) and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (DEIR) 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.

The achievements of the Authority are a result of the significant administrative and leadership abilities of the A/Executive Director, Ms Margaret Isaac, who has led the agency so ably for the last eight years. My appreciation also goes to the PLA staff for their ongoing dedication and committed professionalism.

Manus Boyce QC
Chair