Welcome to the
Prostitution Licensing Authority

Our Purpose
To regulate prostitution in Queensland by implementing the Act.

Reporting Structure and Organisation
The Act establishes the Office of the PLA, consisting of the Executive Director and the staff of the office. It is the role of the office to assist the PLA in the performance of its functions. The Executive Director is appointed by the Governor-in-Council. In addition to the Executive Director, there are seven full-time officers employed under the Public Service Act 1996. Staff of the office are managed by the Executive Director, who in turn reports to the PLA. The PLA reports to the Minister for Police and the Parliament.

We administer one non-departmental output:
i. Brothel licensing and monitoring prostitution through licensed brothels.

The PLA
The PLA was established by the Act and officially began operation on 1 July 2000 when the Act became law in Queensland. The Act prescribes the Authority’s membership, consisting of eight members, including:
- 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 Chairperson, or the Assistant Commissioner, Crime, of the CMC
- a health practitioner, with at least five years experience in the profession
- 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 person who represents local government
- two persons who, in the Minister’s opinion, are qualified to represent community interests.

Figure 1: PLA organisational structure
Role of the PLA

The primary role of the PLA is to decide applications for brothel licences and approved manager certificates. In addition, 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 and assisting the police service and other agencies to carry out their functions in relation to prostitution
- collecting fees under the Act
- informing relevant government departments and agencies about possible offences that are detected while carrying out its functions

- advising the Minister about ways of promoting and coordinating programs that –
  i. promote sexual health care; or
  ii. help prostitutes to leave prostitution; or
  iii. divert minors and other vulnerable persons from prostitution; or
  iv. raise awareness in prostitutes, judicial officers, police, community workers and the community about issues relating to prostitution;
- advising the Minister about the development of codes of practice for licensed brothels
- raising in prostitutes, judicial officers, police, community workers and the community, awareness of issues about prostitution.
Current Membership

The current members of the PLA have been appointed by the Governor-in-Council for a period of three years from 4 May 2008.

01 Mr Manus Boyce QC, Chair

Mr Boyce graduated from the University of Queensland with Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts degrees. Then followed seven years as a solicitor and 20 years at the Bar, including four years as Queen’s Counsel. He served on the Committee of the Bar Association and the Barristers’ Board for five years, and was the Bar Association representative on the Legal Aid Commission for a period of two years. From 1982 to 1988 he also lectured part-time in Professional Conduct at the Queensland Institute of Technology Law Faculty. In 1988 he was appointed a District Court Judge. He was a member of the Standing Committee of Convocation at the University of Queensland for 36 years and was Warden of Convocation from 1995 to 1998. In 1999 he was awarded a Medal for Distinguished Service to the University of Queensland. Mr Boyce was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

02 Dr Diane Rowling

Dr Rowling is a Public Health Physician with a special interest in sexual and reproductive health. She is currently the Senior Medical Officer with the Brisbane Sexual Health and AIDS Service and is a former Medical Director of Family Planning Queensland. She has held community health positions in the Northern Territory and regional Queensland with a focus on indigenous health issues. Dr Rowling is appointed as a health practitioner who has at least five years’ experience in her profession, as per legislative requirements. Dr Rowling was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

03 Assistant Commissioner John McDonnell

Assistant Commissioner McDonnell was attached to the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, QPS. He was the former inaugural head of the Ethical Standards Command, QPS and former Assistant Commissioner of the Northern Region, QPS. Among his many appointments within the QPS, Assistant Commissioner McDonnell served with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, the Fitzgerald Implementation Unit and was the Director of Operations, Criminal Justice Commission. He was awarded the Australian Police Medal in January 1994. Mr McDonnell was an officer of at least the rank of superintendent, and was nominated by the Police Commissioner as his representative. Mr McDonnell was reappointed to the PLA for three years until May 2008, but ceased to be a member of the PLA in July 2007 following his retirement from the QPS.

04 Assistant Commissioner Peter Barron

Assistant Commissioner Peter Barron was sworn in as a police officer in 1972. His early service was in north-west Queensland. He commenced in the Criminal Investigation Branch in 1978 and rose through the ranks from Constable to Detective Chief Superintendent. During this time he served in a diversity of roles, including officer in charge of the State’s Homicide Squad and Fraud Squad. Also, during this time he served as a Detective Superintendent at

Four members of the PLA are women, representing 50% of the membership.
the Criminal Justice Commission for three years. In early 2003 he was promoted to Chief Superintendent, State Crime Operations Command. In the latter part of 2004 he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner and transferred to the Far Northern Police Region. On 4 December 2006 he took up the position of Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan North Region in Brisbane. The Assistant Commissioner holds tertiary qualifications including a Master of Public Policy and Administration and a Bachelor of Business. He has successfully completed the Police Executive Leadership Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management. He completed studies at the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Assistant Commissioner Barron was this year appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011 to replace Assistant Commissioner McDonnell.

05 Ms Ann Bennison

Ms Bennison has a Bachelor of Arts degree and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ms Bennison was a Councillor on the Brisbane City Council from 1994 to 2008. From 2000 to 2008, she was the Deputy Chair of Council. Ms Bennison also served as Chair of the Customer and Local Services Committee and the Environment Management Committee of Council. Between 2000 and 2008, she was an executive member of the Local Government Association of Queensland, and Senior Vice President from 2004 to 2008. Ms Bennison has previously worked in finance and industrial relations. She has been appointed to the PLA as a person who represents local government, in accordance with legislative requirements. Ms Bennison was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

06 Mr John Callanan

Mr Callanan holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degrees from the University of Queensland. He is currently the Assistant Commissioner, Crime, of the CMC, where since 1998 he has engaged in high level law enforcement and legal activity. Mr Callanan was admitted as a barrister in 1977 and had extensive prosecution experience in serious crime until 1988. From then until 2004 he was Counsel Assisting in the Fitzgerald Inquiry and then senior prosecutor with the Fitzgerald Inquiry Prosecutions Taskforce and the Office of the Special Prosecutor. From 1994 to 1998 he was engaged in private practice prosecuting and defending in criminal matters. Mr Callanan was appointed to the PLA by virtue of being the Assistant Commissioner, Crime, at the CMC, pursuant to legislative requirements. He was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

07 Ms Annette Murphy

Ms Murphy is a registered nurse. She is a past recipient of the Queensland Child Protection Award – Professional Category – in recognition of her contribution to child protection in Queensland – 1998. Ms Murphy was also awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 2002 to examine the role of registered nurses in child protection in the USA, UK, Sweden and Denmark. She is the former coordinator of the Mater Child Protection Unit and from August 2005 to June 2007 she was the Acting Manager, Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Team Support and Development Unit, Department of Child Safety. She is currently Clinical Nurse Consultant at the Mater
Child Protection Unit. She has been appointed to the PLA as a community representative, as required by legislation. Ms Murphy was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

08 Mr Lance Pollard

Mr Pollard is a solicitor in private practice and is currently a partner with Bennett & 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. Mr Pollard 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. Mr Pollard was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

09 Ms Wendy Edmond

Ms Edmond was a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, representing the electorate of Mount Coot-tha from 1989 to 2004. She served as Minister for Health for almost six years and was previously Minister for Employment and Training. As a backbencher, Ms Edmond served on the inaugural Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee and as Chairperson for the budget estimates committee examining the Departments of Health, Education and Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. Prior to her election to the Queensland Parliament, Ms Edmond worked as a health professional in nuclear medicine and radiation therapy in New York, Montreal, Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. She has been appointed to the PLA as a community representative, as required by legislation. Ms Edmond was this year re-appointed to the PLA for a period of three years until 3 May 2011.

Meetings and Special Meetings

The PLA held 11 ordinary meetings in 2007-08. No special meetings were held.

Table 1: Attendance at meetings of the PLA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number attended (n = 11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Boyce (Chair)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. McDonnell</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Barron</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Callanan</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Bennison</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Murphy</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Pollard</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Rowling</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Edmond</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
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Remuneration

The chair and members of the PLA were collectively paid $44,962 during 2007-08, as determined by the Governor-in-Council.

2 Ceased to be a member of the PLA in July 2007.
3 Appointed to the PLA in May 2008.