



Our Business



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Brothel Licensing

The number of operational brothels in Queensland decreased this financial year to 23. Between 2000-01 to 2007-08, there were 214 brothel licence applications lodged with the PLA, 176 decided, and 76 withdrawn. Over the same period, there were 603 managers' certificate applications lodged with the PLA, 542 decided, and 56 withdrawn (refer to table 3). To date there have been 174 brothel licences⁶ and 543 managers' certificates approved, with 37 individual applications currently under active investigation (refer to table 4).

Licences and certificates issued from 12 August 2007 are valid for a three year period, instead of a one year period. There is an annual return requirement associated with these licences and certificates (refer to table 5). In 2007-08, there were six annual returns for brothel licences and six annual returns for approved managers' certificates.

⁶ Brothels may be owned by more than one individual. The number of brothel licences therefore exceeds the number of licensed brothels.

■ Table 3: Applications lodged, decided and withdrawn to 30 June 2008

| Date | Brothel licences | | | Managers' certificates | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| | Lodged | Decided | Withdrawn | Lodged | Decided | Withdrawn |
| 2000-01 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 11 | - | 9 |
| 2001-02 | 19 | 10 | 3 | 36 | 18 | 8 |
| 2002-03 | 25 | 21 | 9 | 44 | 37 | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 22 | 14 | 2 | 63 | 62 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 31 | 29 | 5 | 80 | 81 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 32 | 33 | - | 118 | 104 | 5 |
| 2006-07 | 46 | 34 | 3 | 135 | 115 | 14 |
| 2007-08 | 28 | 32 | 4 | 116 | 125 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 214 | 176 | 76 | 603 | 542 | 56 |

■ Table 4: Status of all applications received to 30 June 2008

| Status | Brothel licences | Managers' certificates |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Approved | 174 | 543 |
| Withdrawn prior to consideration | 30 | 56 |
| Under investigation | 16 | 21 |
| Refused | - | 1 |
| TOTAL | 220 | 621 |

Note: Numbers represent individual people rather than brothel sites.

■ Table 5: Annual Returns received to 30 June 2008

| Brothel licences | Managers' certificates |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 6 | 6 |

■ Table 6: Licensed brothels

| Address | Name of Brothel | Date Opened | Telephone Contact |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Brisbane City Council | | | |
| 476 Boundary Road, Archerfield | YiMi476 | 24.08.05 | 3277 7318 |
| 180 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills | AABS180 | 30.02.06 | 3852 2057 |
| 175 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills | Purely Blue | 17.08.01 | 3854 0366 |
| 120 Robinson Road, Geebung | Sleepless Knights | 02.05.02 | 3865 6066 |
| 61 Spine Street, Sumner Park | The Oasis at Sumner Park | 13.11.04 | 3715 5166 |
| 12 Nile Street, Woolloongabba | Cleo's on Nile | 22.10.05 | 3393 1678 |
| 88 Logan Road, Woolloongabba | 88 on Logan | 13.06.03 | 3891 1198 |
| 945 Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly | The Viper Room | 17.05.02 | 3392 7070 |
| Redcliffe Shire Council | | | |
| 22 Brewer Street, Clontarf | Intimate Encounters | 20.08.03 | 3283 6111 |
| Gold Coast City Council | | | |
| 12 Greg Chappell Drive, Burleigh Heads | Black Orchid | 09.03.02 | 5522 1400 |
| 44 Upton Street, Bundall | Silks on Upton | 12.03.02 | 5538 2088 |
| 37 Upton Street, Bundall | Utopia in Paradise | 01.07.06 | 5539 0224 |
| 29 Expansion Street, Molendinar | Paradise Penthouse | 02.09.05 | 5564 5599 |
| 30 Jade Drive, Nerang | Pentagon Grand | 12.04.02 | 5597 0777 |
| Logan City Council | | | |
| 26 Magnesium Drive, Crestmead | Club Two Six | 19.11.05 | 3803 1000 |
| Maroochydore Shire Council | | | |
| 14 Avian Street, Kunda Park | Scarlet Harem | 13.12.02 | 5476 5044 |
| 13 Cessna Street, Marcoola | Intrigue of Marcoola | 14.02.03 | 5450 7577 |
| Mackay City Council | | | |
| 39 Enterprise Street, Paget | Club 7 on Enterprise | 08.07.02 | 4952 6767 |
| Townsville City Council | | | |
| 13 Carmel Street, Garbutt | Bluebirds on Carmel | 01.10.03 | 4779 9555 |
| 17 Hugh Ryan Drive, Garbutt | Australian Maid | 01.07.02 | 4725 5888 |
| Cairns City Council | | | |
| 11 Cava Close, Bungalow | Northern Belle | 29.12.06 | 4033 5955 |
| 7 Owen Close, Portsmith | Forbidden Apple | 21.05.07 | 4041 3552 |
| Mt Isa | | | |
| 14 Traders Way Mt Isa | My Room | 02.01.08 | 4743 3498 |



Development Approval

In Queensland the location of brothels is a matter for local government, subject to the provisions of the Act. Under the Act, the assessment manager for a development application must grant approval for development of a brothel in an industrial area if the premises are:

- greater than 200 metres distance (measured according to the shortest lawful route) from a residential area or an area intended to be residential
- greater than 200 metres distance (measured according to the shortest lawful route) and greater than 100 metres (measured in a straight line) from any residential building, place of worship, hospital, school, kindergarten, or any other place regularly frequented by children for recreational or cultural purposes
- to have no more than five working rooms
- able to comply with the Integrated Development Assessment System Code for development applications for a brothel (the Code includes requirements about car parking, lighting, signage and the like).

By the end of the 2007-08 there were 51 applications made to local governments in Queensland for development approval for a brothel. The majority of applications have been for premises in the Brisbane and Gold Coast region (refer to table 7). In excess of half of all applications were approved.

There are 6 premises in Queensland which have been granted development approval for a brothel by councils for which the PLA may be considering a brothel licence application, for which a brothel licence application has not yet been lodged, or for a premises at which a licensed brothel has ceased operation (table 8 lists these locations).

■ **Table 7:** Development approval applications for brothel premises

| Local authority | Approved | Refused | Withdrawn/ lapsed | Pending | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Brisbane | 11 | 3 | 2 | - | 16 |
| Gold Coast | 5 | 2 | 3 | - | 10 |
| Townsville | 3 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Cairns | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 6 |
| Logan | 2 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Maroochy | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Redlands | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Toowoomba | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Redcliffe | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Rockhampton | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Mackay | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Gladstone | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Noosa | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Douglas | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Mount Isa | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| TOTAL | 32 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 51 |

■ **Table 8:** Council approved brothel premises for which the PLA may be considering a brothel licence application or for which a brothel licence application has not yet been lodged or for a premises at which a licensed brothel has ceased operation

| Local authority | Address | Local authority | Address |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Brisbane | 1/9 Alton Street, Coopers Plains | Townsville | 28 Leyland Street, Garbutt |
| Brisbane | 1094 Kingsford Smith Drive, Eagle Farm | Cairns | 5 Southgate Close, Woree |
| *Rockhampton | 17 Bush Crescent, Parkhurst | Gladstone | 48 Callemondah Drive, Gladstone |

* A licence was granted to operate a licensed brothel at the premise. The licence was not issued and the applicant withdrew their application to operate a licensed brothel.



The Independent Assessor

The Office of the Independent Assessor was established in December 2001 to hear and decide appeals about local government decisions on development applications for brothels. Mr Stephen Keim has been the Independent Assessor since the inception of the statutory role.

One appeal was made to the Independent Assessor in 2007-08, in respect of a development application at 1/32 Meadow Avenue, Coopers Plains. The appeal was subsequently upheld. The PLA is currently considering a brothel licence application in respect of these premises.

The Tribunals Review Independent Panel of Experts has been considering the inclusion of the Independent Assessor in the new Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) to be created. In June 2008, the Panel recommended that the Independent Assessor be included in QCAT. Cabinet has agreed to this recommendation. The new tribunal is slated to commence operation on 1 December 2009. In the interim, a team from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General is responsible for implementation of the arrangements. They have already requested a range of information, which the A/Executive Director of the PLA has supplied in her capacity as Registrar to the Independent Assessor. It is expected that the implementation team will continue to request information during the implementation period.



Mr Stephen Keim SC

Mr Stephen Keim has been a legal practitioner for just on 30 years. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1978 and called to the Bar in 1985. He was appointed a Senior Counsel for the State of Queensland in 2004. Mr Keim has carried out a number of

public offices having been President of the Legal Aid Commission, a member of the Anti-Discrimination Commission, and he remains a member of the Land Court. He is currently a member of the Council of the Queensland University of Technology.

Exempt Towns

Under the Act, for land in a town with a population of less than 25,000, the local government for the area may make an application to the Minister for Police requiring that all development applications for brothels within the area be refused. The agreement of the Minister is required. There are currently 204 towns in Queensland that have received approval from the Minister for Police to refuse development approval for a brothel (see appendix 1 for a full list of all towns who may refuse an application for development approval for a brothel).