

# Our Business

## Brothel licensing

At year end, there were 26 licensed brothels in Queensland.

**Table 4: Licensed brothels in Queensland at 30 June 2014**

| Address                             | Name of Brothel            | Date Opened | Telephone Contact |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Brisbane City Council</b>        |                            |             |                   |
| 88 Logan Rd, Woolloongabba          | 88 on Logan                | 13.06.03    | 3891 1198         |
| 1/32 Meadow Ave, Coopers Plains     | Asian Star on Meadow       | 12.06.09    | 3216 7222         |
| 12 Nile St, Woolloongabba           | Cleo's on Nile             | 22.10.05    | 3393 1678         |
| 83 Randolph St, Rocklea             | Happy Place 8              | 15.05.09    | 3875 2088         |
| 120 Robinson Rd, Geebung            | Miso Honey                 | 02.05.02    | 3865 6066         |
| 180 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills      | Montecito                  | 30.02.06    | 3852 2057         |
| 61 Spine St, Sumner Park            | Sensations on Spine        | 28.07.11    | 3279 2928         |
| 175 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills      | The Blue Lounge            | 25.04.14    | 3854 0032         |
| 945 Fairfield Rd, Yeerongpilly      | The Viper Room             | 17.05.02    | 3392 7070         |
| 476 Boundary Rd, Archerfield        | Yimi 476                   | 24.08.05    | 3277 7318         |
| <b>Cairns Regional Council</b>      |                            |             |                   |
| 11 Cava Cl, Bungalow                | Northern Belle             | 29.12.06    | 4033 5955         |
| 7 Owen Cl, Portsmith                | Oriental Doll              | 06.06.13    | 4041 6805         |
| <b>Gold Coast City Council</b>      |                            |             |                   |
| 1/29 Expansion St, Molendinar       | Luvasian                   | 02.09.05    | 5564 5599         |
| 30 Jade Dr, Nerang                  | Pentagon Grand             | 12.04.02    | 5597 0777         |
| 13/38 Eastern Service Rd, Stapylton | Pryana Rose                | 26.09.13    | 3382 0945         |
| 12 Greg Chappell Dr, Burleigh Heads | Secret Liaisons Gold Coast | 09.03.02    | 5522 1400         |
| 44 Upton St, Bundall                | Silks on Upton             | 12.03.02    | 5538 2088         |
| 37 Upton St, Bundall                | Utopia in Paradise         | 01.07.06    | 5539 0224         |
| <b>Logan City Council</b>           |                            |             |                   |
| 26 Magnesium Dr, Crestmead          | Club 26                    | 19.11.05    | 3803 1000         |
| <b>Mackay Regional Council</b>      |                            |             |                   |
| 39 Enterprise St, Paget             | Club 7 on Enterprise       | 08.07.02    | 4952 6767         |
| <b>Moreton Bay Regional Council</b> |                            |             |                   |
| 22 Brewer St, Clontarf              | Intimate Encounters        | 20.08.03    | 3283 6111         |

|   |  |   |                        |
|---|--|---|------------------------|
| <b>Mount Isa City Council</b><br>14 Traders Way, Mt Isa                             | My Room                                | 02.01.08 to<br>13.09.09<br>05.11.09             | 4743 3498              |
| <b>Sunshine Coast Regional Council</b><br>14 Avian St, Kunda Park                   | Scarlet Harem                          | 13.12.02  | 5476 5044              |
| <b>Toowoomba Regional Council</b><br>1/14 Civil Court, Harlaxton                    | Deviations                             | 12.09.09  | 4613 1133              |
| <b>Townsville City Council</b><br>17 Hugh Ryan Dr, Garbutt<br>15 Carmel St, Garbutt | Australian Maid<br>Bluebirds on Carmel | 01.07.02<br>01.10.03 to<br>30.09.10<br>08.12.11 | 4725 5888<br>4779 9555 |

Note: A number of these brothels have previously traded under different names.

In order to legally operate a brothel in Queensland, the owner must apply for and be granted a brothel licence by the PLA. Only a person that has applied for and been granted an approved manager's certificate by the PLA may lawfully manage a licensed brothel. Applications are considered on their merits and in order to grant a licence or certificate to an applicant the PLA must be satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person.

In 2013-14, there were 44 brothel licence applications, comprising nine new applications, 20 annual returns and 15 renewals<sup>1</sup> (table 5). Of the new licence applications, eight were granted, one was refused, and the remaining applications will be considered by the PLA in 2014-15. The refused application was on the ground of financial viability. The applicant subsequently reapplied, was able to meet the financial viability criterion, and granted a licence. Of the licence renewal applications, 13 were granted, and the remaining two will be considered by the PLA in 2014-15.

There were a total of 115 approved manager's certificate applications in 2013-14, comprising 48 new applications, 38 annual returns and 29 renewals (table 5). Of the new certificate applications, 43 were granted, two were refused, and the remaining three will be considered by the PLA in 2014-15. The two applications that were refused were on the basis of reputation, having regard to character, honesty, and integrity. Of the certificate renewal applications, 28 were granted and the remainder will be considered by the PLA in 2014-15.

**Table 5: Applications received 2013-14**

|                             | <b>Brothel licences</b> | <b>Approved manager's certificates</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>New applications</b>     | 9                       | 48                                     |
| <b>Annual returns</b>       | 20                      | 38                                     |
| <b>Renewal applications</b> | 15                      | 29                                     |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>44</b>               | <b>115</b>                             |

<sup>1</sup> Brothels may be owned by more than one individual. Each of those individuals must hold a licence. The number of brothel licences therefore exceeds the number of licensed brothels.

## Development approval

In Queensland, the licensing and location of brothels are two separate matters administered by two different levels of government. The PLA is a State Government agency and it is responsible for the licensing of individuals to operate a brothel. On the other hand, local councils are responsible for deciding development approval applications in respect of brothels. Under Schedule 1 of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, a brothel must:

- have no more than five working rooms
- be greater than 200 metres distance (measured according to the shortest lawful route) from a primarily residential area or an area approved for residential development or intended to be residential in character
- be 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 activities.

In order to receive development approval, a brothel must also comply with the IDAS Code for licensed brothels.

From the beginning of the licensed brothel framework, there have been 57 applications made to local governments in Queensland for development approval for a brothel (table 6). The majority of development applications for brothels have been for premises in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas. In excess of half of all applications have been approved. Regarding the pending application, it was lodged with Brisbane City Council in June 2014 and is for a site at Rocklea.

Where a brothel development application is subject to code assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act, the applicant may apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) under s. 64A of the Prostitution Act for review of a range of decisions, including a decision to refuse, or refuse part of, the application. If it is determined a brothel development application requires impact assessment under the Sustainable Planning Act, under s. 64B of the Prostitution Act, the applicant may apply to QCAT for a review of that decision.

There are nine premises in Queensland for which local government authorities have granted development approval for a brothel, but which do not currently have an operational brothel and for which the PLA did not receive a brothel licence application in 2013-14 (table 7).

During 2013-14, the PLA granted brothel licences to individuals in respect of three premises that already had development approval for a brothel and that were the site of a defunct brothel:

- 175 Abbotsford Rd, Bowen Hills
- 13/38 Eastern Service Rd, Stapylton
- 13 Cessna St, Marcoola.

Because a site has approval for a brothel it does not necessarily mean it will be put to that use and other non-sex industry businesses might instead operate from that site. For example, 28 Leyland St, Garbutt (Townsville), received development approval in November 2000 but there has never been a brothel at the site. Likewise, 10/68 Redland Bay Rd, Capalaba, received development approval in November 2006 but there has never been a brothel at the site. The brothel at 48 Callemondah Dr, Gladstone, ceased operation in May 2008 and the site has not operated as a brothel since.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the Sustainable Planning 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 responsible for the administration of that Act requiring that all development applications for brothels within the area be prohibited. The agreement of the Minister is required. More than 200 towns in Queensland have received approval to prohibit brothel development applications.

**Table 6: Development approval applications for brothel premises since the commencement of the licensed brothel framework**

| <b>Local authority</b> | <b>Approved</b> | <b>Refused</b> | <b>Withdrawn/<br/>lapsed</b> | <b>Pending</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Brisbane               | 12              | 4              | 2                            | 1              | <b>19</b>    |
| Gold Coast             | 7               | 2              | 3                            | -              | <b>12</b>    |
| Townsville             | 3               | -              | 1                            | -              | <b>4</b>     |
| Cairns                 | 3               | 1              | 3                            | -              | <b>7</b>     |
| Logan                  | 2               | -              | 1                            | -              | <b>3</b>     |
| Sunshine Coast         | 2               | -              | 1                            | -              | <b>3</b>     |
| Redland                | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| Toowoomba              | 1               | 2              | -                            | -              | <b>3</b>     |
| Moreton Bay            | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| Rockhampton            | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| Mackay                 | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| Gladstone              | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| Mount Isa              | 1               | -              | -                            | -              | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>36</b>       | <b>9</b>       | <b>11</b>                    | <b>1</b>       | <b>57</b>    |

**Table 7: Council approved premises on which there is not an operational brothel and for which the PLA did not receive a brothel licence application in 2013-14**

| <b>Local authority</b> | <b>Address</b>   |
|------------------------|--|
| Brisbane               | 1/9 Alton St, Coopers Plains<br>1090 – 1110 Kingsford Smith Dr, Eagle Farm |
| Cairns                 | 5 Southgate Cl, Woree  |
| Gladstone              | 48 Callemondah Dr, Gladstone   |
| Gold Coast             | 5/47 Newheath Dr, Arundel  |
| Logan                  | 3509 Pacific Hwy, Slacks Creek   |
| Redland                | 10/68 Redland Bay Rd, Capalaba   |
| Rockhampton            | 17 Bush Cres, Parkhurst  |
| Townsville             | 28 Leyland St, Garbutt   |