

P A APPROVED MANAGERS

What is an approved manager?

In the absence of a brothel licensee, an approved manager is a person responsible for the supervision of a licensed brothel and for ensuring that the brothel business is conducted in accordance with the *Prostitution Act 1999*, the *Prostitution Regulation 2000*, the conditions of brothel licence, and any other relevant legislative requirements.

To be an approved manager, a person must first be granted by the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) an approved manager's certificate referred to in s. 44 of the Prostitution Act. A certificate is given for three years, provided that it is not surrendered, suspended or cancelled. The manager's certificate authorises the holder to work at the brothel stated on the certificate. An approved manager may be employed at more than one brothel at the same time, as long as all the brothels are stated on the certificate provided by the PLA.

What does an approved manager do?

The functions of the manager may vary at each brothel. Regardless, an approved manager is responsible with a licensee or, in their absence, for the efficient and lawful operation of the brothel.

Requirements that must be met include:

- ensuring that the management and operation of the brothel is compliant with all legislative and other requirements
- personally supervising the brothel when it is open for business and they are on duty
- recording particular details of brothel operations
- ensuring safety and security of sex workers and staff

- ensuring that only safer sexual practises occur at the brothel
- maintaining financial records
- managing complaints
- applying infection control measures
- general professional management of the brothel systems, facilities and workplace.

An approved manager has responsibilities under the Prostitution Act, Prostitution Regulation, the conditions of their certificate, and the conditions of the brothel licence. They need to be familiar with all of these. The Prostitution Act and Prostitution Regulation can be downloaded from: www.legislation.qld.gov.au. To assist awareness of their responsibilities, the PLA has published a *Manual for approved managers*.

Who can apply to become an approved manager?

An approved manager's certificate will only be granted to an individual who meets the criteria under the Prostitution Act. A person is ineligible to apply for a certificate if they:

- are a corporation
- are a minor
- are an insolvent under administration
- hold a licence or permit under the *Liquor Act 1992*
- have been convicted of a disqualifying offence
- have had a licence or certificate or other authority under the Prostitution Act or a corresponding law cancelled in the last three years
- are subject to an order of the PLA declaring the person to be ineligible to apply for a certificate.

There are a range of matters the PLA is required to consider in deciding whether an applicant is a suitable person to be an approved manager. These are set out in s. 42 of the Act.

How does a person become an approved manager?

To become an approved manager a person must first make an application to the PLA for an approved manager's certificate and meet all of the relevant requirements for the PLA to decide to grant them a certificate.

An applicant does not require sponsorship from a brothel licensee. However, a successful applicant not attached to a brothel will be granted but not given a certificate until such time as they have accepted an offer of employment as a brothel manager and have advised the PLA of the relevant details of the brothel premises. It is in such an applicant's best interests to ensure they have a reasonable prospect of securing employment within the industry.

Once a brothel agrees to employ a person as a manager, if they have not already been granted a certificate, they should immediately apply to the PLA for an approved manager's certificate. They will not be able to commence work as a

manager until they have been given a certificate by the PLA.

Licensed brothels have several ways of obtaining staff to act as approved managers, including:

- advertising in the newspaper (compliant with the *Guidelines about the Approved Form for Advertisements for Prostitution*)
- advertising in the PLA *In Touch* newsletter
- receiving direct enquiries from people wishing to work in their business.

How does a person apply?

They should contact the PLA office and ask for the application forms. They will also need to provide the PLA with a current Senior First Aid Certificate. The PLA will only accept certification from accredited organisations that provide practical training. The application must be submitted together with the required fees in Schedule 2 of the Prostitution Regulation. Details of the fees can also be found on the PLA website. Although a certificate is granted for three years, fees are payable annually.

When a person decides to permanently cease being an approved manager, they should advise the PLA in writing and surrender their certificate.

PLA contact details

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