



Issue 21 – December 2007

Welcome to the Christmas and New Year edition of *In Touch* – our 21st issue!

In Touch aims to present participants in the Queensland sex industry with information that we hope will assist them to better understand their rights and responsibilities within the legal sex industry, and to give them some information about the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) and its role.

We welcome your comments and stories. Please feel free to drop us a line if you have any queries or concerns. We are always happy to assist.

Write or email, “The Editor”, at the contact details below:

In Touch
PO Box 3196
BRISBANE QLD 4001

OR

In Touch
plaadmin@iprimus.com.au

Please note that we reserve the right to select letters for printing in this publication. Should you request, your contribution will be treated anonymously.

In this edition:

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- A Prostitution themed Crossword;
- Keeping you informed: a health column by Dr Diane Rowling;
- Are you aware of the changes that were recently made to the Act and regulations?
- Closure of the PLA over the Christmas and New Year period;
- Merry Christmas from all of us at the PLA; and
- Licensed Brothels in Queensland.



Executive Director's 2007 Wrap Up

I can't believe another year has gone by... 2007 seems to have flown past us at an even greater speed than previous years! It has been an interesting time getting to know the new members of the Authority, our new licensees and certified managers.

Our commitment to the licensed sex industry has continued to be a major driving force for 2007.

A new Compliance Officer started with the PLA last month, Laurie Cole, who will be working with Heather Reynolds. Some of you will no doubt get to meet Laurie during the various audits and inspections that will be conducted next year. Bob Wallace also started work with us as the PLA's principal policy officer.

The office will be closed from 21st December 2007 to 1st January 2008 inclusive. Please keep this in mind if you are considering any new advertisements during this time.

On behalf of all of us here at the PLA may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those of you working over the holiday break, stay safe and don't forget to take some 'personal' time.

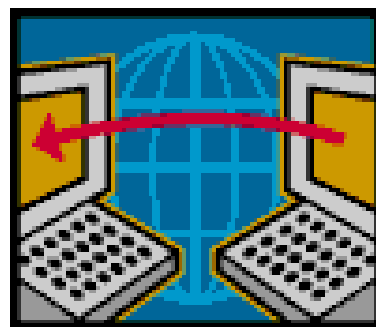
My thanks to those of you who have contacted the office to give your personal thanks and best wishes. We look forward to seeing/speaking with you again in 2008.

Kind regards.

Margaret

PLA WEBSITE

www.pla.qld.gov.au



Visit the website. The PLA welcomes any comments you may have on its website or ideas to improve the information provided. Contact the PLA on plaadmin@iprimus.com.au or telephone number (07) 3858 9500.

Vacancies for Approved Managers'



Vacancy – Scarlet Harem

Looking to move to the Sunshine Coast??
Scarlet Harem seeks Certified Duty Manager to join its Fun Team
Immediate Start, Casual 24/7 Rosters
Great Incentives & \$ for Right Persons.
Ph Scarlet Harem 54765044
(All Managers are not required to do sexual service health checks)

Vacancy – Paradise Penthouse

An opportunity exists for a Certified Manager to join the team at Paradise Penthouse on the Gold Coast.
To register your interest please email admin@paradisepenthouse.com.au or phone 0400 589 272.

Vacancy – Oasis at Sumner Park

Certified managers/receptionists required. Immediate start and excellent conditions.
Please phone Nick on 07 37155155.
Interviews will be held confidentially.

Note: Copies of this publication are circulated state wide so if you would like to advertise for approved

managers please let us know by contacting the PLA office on (07) 3858 9500 or by emailing

plaadmin@iprimus.com.au

**Deadline for the next issue:
Thursday 21 February 2008**



Some Christmas Jokes

Remember those lame jokes you get each year in your Christmas cracker? Well, in that spirit ...

Why are Christmas trees like people who can't knit?

A: They both drop their needles.

What is red and white and goes up and down and up and down?

A: Santa Claus stuck in a lift.

What goes, "ho, ho ... swoosh ... ho, ho ... swoosh?"

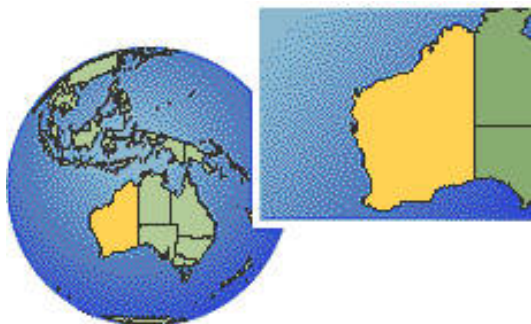
A: Santa caught in a revolving door.

Why does Santa have three gardens?

A: So he can hoe, hoe, hoe.

What Christmas Carol is a favourite of parents?

A: Silent Night.



WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSTITUTION LAW REFORMS

Sex workers are a transient group, often moving between states. The laws relating to prostitution vary around the country, and it is useful for those within the prostitution industry to have some basic knowledge of them. With this in mind, you may be interested in moves currently afoot to reform the manner in which prostitution is treated in Western Australia.

As the law currently applies in Western Australia, prostitution is not prohibited, but it is illegal to manage a brothel and live off the earnings of prostitution. Despite this, it is estimated that there are around 30 brothels operating in the Perth metropolitan area. Proposed new legislation will have the effect of decriminalising brothels so that they can be regulated in the interests of protecting the health and safety of sex workers and their clients, ensuring that children are not involved in the industry, to prevent the participation of organised crime, and to minimise opportunities for police corruption.

The legislation follows from recommendations made by the Prostitution Law Reform Working Group in January 2007, and is based on a model adopted in New Zealand.

Under the proposed new laws:

- it will no longer be an offence to manage a brothel or to live off the earnings of prostitution;
- operators and managers of sexual services businesses will be required to obtain a certificate. There are various restrictions on who may be granted a certificate, including that they not have any serious convictions or charges pending related to sexual crimes, organised crime, drugs or violence, and more generally that they are of good character and a fit and proper person. Police will be involved in vetting the suitability of applicants. Certificates will be subject to annual renewal;
- an operator or manager must be present at all times that a business is operating;
- sex workers who operate a business on their own, or together with one other sex worker, will not be required to obtain a certificate, but will remain subject to ordinary planning laws;
- planning approval for the use of premises for sexual service businesses will be subject to ordinary planning processes;
- operators will be required to ensure that children are not employed as sex workers, and are not present at a sexual service business;

- minimum health standards must be maintained by operators, sex workers and clients. Prophylactics must be used and provided free of charge and there are restrictions on engaging in sex if a person has a prescribed infection or virus;
- the right of sex workers to refuse to take part in, or to continue to take part in, a sexual act is expressly confirmed; and
- the advertising of commercial sexual services is restricted to the classified sections of newspapers and periodicals and the internet, in a manner that may be prescribed.

Streetwalking and kerb crawling are currently offences in Western Australia and will remain so under the new laws.

Prostitution is always a morally and ethically contentious issue, and as expected the reforms have generated significant interest amongst family and religious groups, and the community in general. Perth's Catholic Archbishop, for example, has called for Members of Parliament to reject the Bill.



Moreover, the legislation does not have bipartisan support. The Western Australian Liberal Party has said that it will oppose it, arguing that it legitimises prostitution, will legalise the exploitation of women, increase prostitution, and more generally “erode the community’s moral standards”.

Prostitution is commonly referred to as the “world’s oldest profession” and its regulation ultimately represents an acknowledgement of its existence. It is a truism that whilst ever there is a demand for sex, there will always be people willing to service that demand for commercial reward. Reconciling and safeguarding the interests of sex workers, their clients, and the general public is a very fine balancing act, and one which will continue to generate debate within the wider community.

PLA Board Meeting Dates for 2008

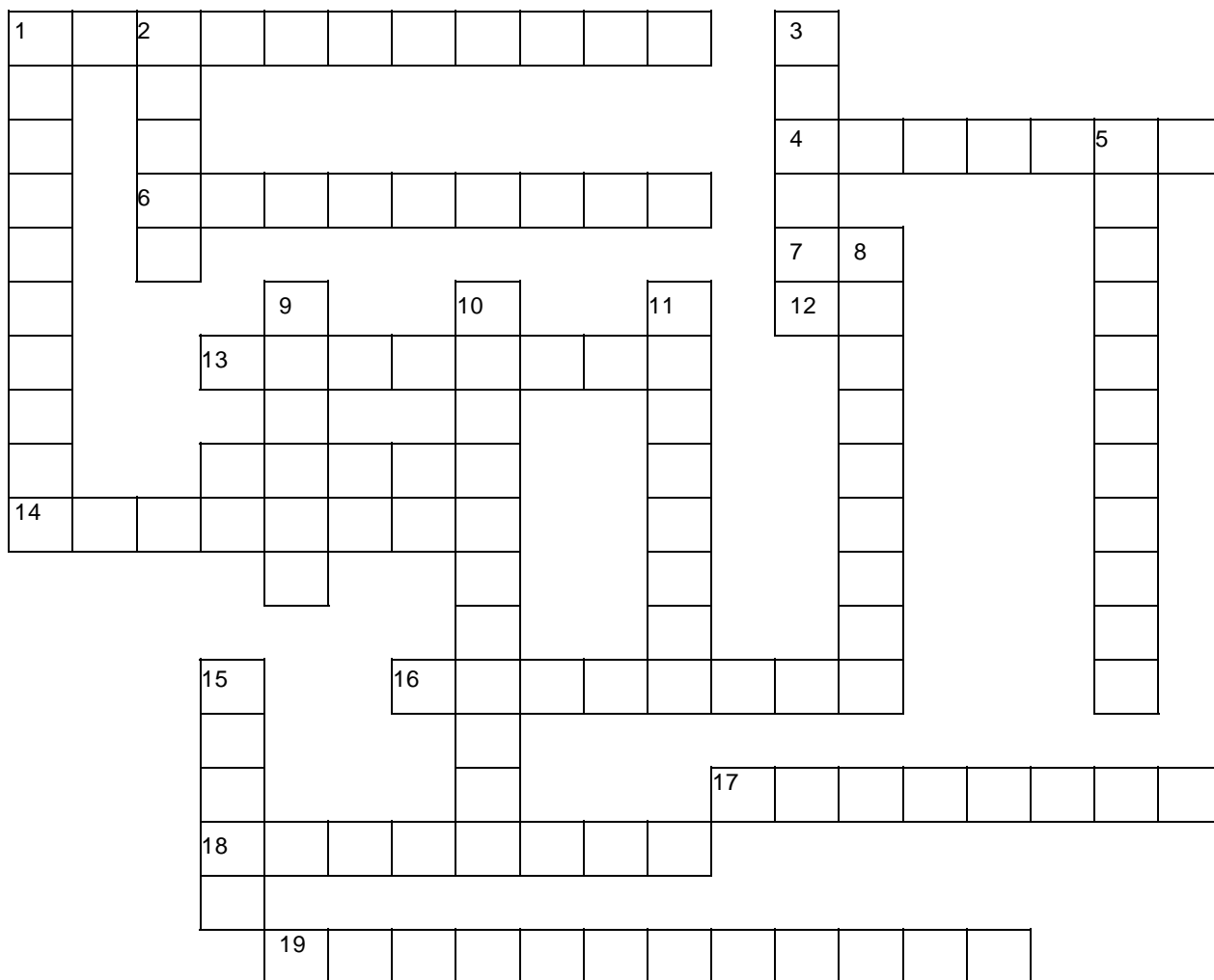
In 2008, the PLA Board will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month (except for January).

The following dates have been set:

- 4 February 2008
- 3 March 2008
- 7 April 2008
- May 2008 date to be advised
- 2 June 2008
- 7 July 2008
- 4 August 2008
- 1 September 2008
- 6 October 2008
- 3 November 2008
- 1 December 2008

These dates are tentative and subject to change without notice. They are current at the time of printing.

A PROSTITUTION THEMED CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. A manager is required to have one.
4. To legally operate a brothel I need one.
6. Minimum rank of a police officer who may authorise another police officer to enter a brothel.
13. A substance not permitted at brothels.
14. An advertisement must be in the _____ form.
16. Minimum age of persons who may enter a brothel.
17. The only place a licensee may operate a brothel.
18. The PLA maintains one.
19. Must be used during sexual intercourse or oral sex.

DOWN

1. A sexually transmitted infection.
2. A medium which may not be used for prostitution advertising.
3. Suburb at which the PLA is located.
5. A brothel must be personally _____ at all times when open for business.
8. Maximum number of staff that can be at a brothel at any one time.
9. A person who must not engage in prostitution.
10. These are attached to a manager's certificate.
11. It is an offence to publicly _____ for prostitution.
15. Each room in the brothel must have one.

HOW DID YOU GO?

You will find the answers on p. 9.



Keeping you Informed

In line with our aim of providing information relevant to the industry we continue to provide information relating to sexual health.

Dr Diane Rowling, PLA Board Member and community physician working in sexual health, continues her regular column. If there is a particular topic that you would like Diane to address in a future edition of *In Touch* please let us know by contacting the editor.

In this edition, Diane takes a slightly different bent to her usual column.

How to cope with the stress of Christmas

Christmas is traditionally the time to eat, drink and be merry (all safely of course). For some of us the festive season might bring with it stresses that can take the enjoyment out of this happy time. Thanks to my psychologist colleagues, Helen and Caroline, who have provided the following valuable information.

Although Christmas is a time of year to celebrate and be 'merry', many people find this time of year stressful. Just the expectation that one should be 'merry' or 'jolly' is enough for a person to feel stressed and overwhelmed.

There are a number of reasons why people become stressed over this period. Some common examples are:

- Feeling like you 'should' be happy and stress-free, when you are not.
- Not being able to attend Christmas related social events:
 - Because of lack of work;
 - Having to work extra hours; or
 - Having minimal money to spend.

- Not being able to be with people you care about.
- Feeling pressure to make a change/have a new year's resolution.
- Grieving the recent loss of someone you care about.
- The anniversary of the death of a loved one occurring near Christmas.

If you experience one or more of the above stressors it is likely that you may identify with some of the emotions listed below. Keep in mind that these emotions are completely normal, and commonly occur during this time of the year.

- Anxiety/ "nervous"
- Down/depressed/flat
- Lonely
- Isolated
- Feeling like everything is too much
- Irritable/angry/hostile

Physically, you may also notice that you eat more, drink more alcohol, smoke more, and increase the amount or times you take drugs. These behaviours may make you feel better at the time, but they work only for a short

period. As a result, you may notice that you actually feel worse than you did after 'overdoing' it with one of those behaviours.

The following are some tips to help you get through the Christmas period.

- Have someone you can call:
 - to talk to about things other than the issue(s) worrying you; or
 - to actually talk through the issue(s) you are feeling.
- Write down your feelings on paper as this can help you to feel less weighed down.
- Call a 24-hour service if you are feeling highly distressed. For example, Lifeline: 13 11 14 (it is a free call and a 24-hour service).
- Accept invitations – you *will* feel better than staying at home and focusing on your problems.
- Continue any hobbies/exercise that you usually do.

- Contact the Relaxation Centre of Queensland on 3854 1986 before the Christmas period to get some ideas/strategies to help you physically feel less stressed.
- At times of stress, take a step back and take 4 deep, slow breaths before you respond.

If feelings persist after the Christmas period it may be worth seeing someone who can help you learn ways to cope better with the stressors.

- Visit your GP.
- Access a psychologist (your GP can help you with this).
- Visit the following websites:
 - www.beyondblue.org.au
 - www.depression.net.au



Christmas Humour

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the sales assistant, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The sales assistant says, "What denomination?"

The woman says, "Heaven help us! Has it come to this? Give me 6 Roman Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."



The Four Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

Are you aware of the changes that were recently made to the Act and Regulations?



The Act and Regulations were amended in August 2007. The main effect of these amendments is that:

1. Licensees will now receive a three year licence, if they pass probity.

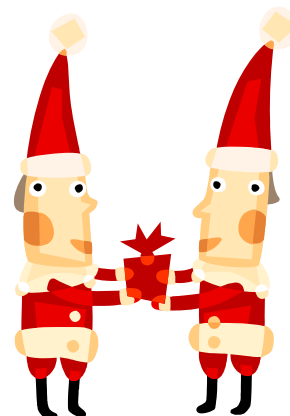
2. Licensees must pay an annual licence fee and the annual licence return fee as prescribed at least three months before the anniversary day (the date in each year that is the anniversary of the grant of the licensee's licence).

3. Licensees must give the PLA an annual return, in the approved form, about the information given for the application for the licence, at least three months before the anniversary day (the date in each year that is the anniversary of the grant of the licensee's licence).

The PLA has introduced two new licence conditions (numbers 37 and 38) which reflect the requirements of these amendments.

The PLA will be closed over the Christmas and New Year Period

Most of us enjoy spending time with our family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period, and the staff at the PLA are no different. Accordingly, please be advised that the office will shut down at the end of the day on Thursday 20 December and will reopen at the usual time on Wednesday 2 January 2008.



How did you go? Crossword answers

ACROSS

1. certificate
4. license
6. Inspector
13. liquor
14. approved
16. eighteen
17. building
18. register
19. prophylactic

DOWN

1. chlamydia
2. radio
3. Milton
5. supervised
8. thirteen
9. minor
10. conditions
11. solicit
15. alarm



Merry Christmas to all recipients of the PLA newsletter

English/Australian: Merry Christmas

New Zealand (Maori): Meri Kirihimete

Vietnamese: Cung Mung Giang Sinh

Chinese (Cantonese): Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun

Chinese (Mandarin): Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan

Japanese: Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto

Italian: Buone Feste Natalizie

Greek: Kala Christouyenna!

Korean: Sung Tan Chuk Ha

We apologise if we haven't translated "Merry Christmas" into your native tongue but the message is clear ... **the PLA wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.**

Licensed Brothels in Queensland

88 on Logan

88 Logan Road
Woolloongabba Q 4102
Ph: 3891 1198

Forbidden Apple

7 Owen Close
Portsmith, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 4041 3552

Scarlet Harem

14 Avian Street
Kunda Park Q 4556
Ph: 5476 5044

AABS180

180 Abbotsford Road
Bowen Hills Q 4006
Ph: 3852 2057

Intimate Encounters

22 Brewer Street
Clontarf Q 4019
Ph: 3283 6111

Silks on Upton

44 Upton Street
Bundall Q 4217
Ph: 5538 2088

Australian Maid

17 Hugh Ryan Drive
Garbutt Q 4814
Ph: 4725 5888

Intrigue of Marcoola

13 Cessna Street
Marcoola Q 4564
Ph: 5450 7577

The Oasis at Sumner Park

61 Spine Street
Sumner Park Q 4074
Ph: 3715 5166

Black Orchid

12 Greg Chappell Drive
Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Ph: 5522 1400

My Room

14 Trader's Way
Mt Isa Q 4825
3 January 2008 opening

The Viper Room

945 Fairfield Road
Yeerongpilly Q 4105
Ph: 3392 7070

Bluebirds on Carmel

15 Carmel Street
Garbutt Q 4814
Ph: 4779 9555

Northern Belle

11 Cava Close
Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 4033 5955

Sleepless Knights

120 Robinson Road East
Geebung Q 4034
Ph: 3865 6066

Cleos on Nile

12 Nile Street
Woolloongabba Q 4102
Ph: 3393 1678

Paradise Penthouse

29 Expansion Street
Ashmore Q 4214
Ph: 5564 5599

Utopia in Paradise

2/37 Upton Street
Bundall Q 4217
Ph: 5539 0224

Club 7 on Enterprise

39 Enterprise Street
Paget Q 4740
Ph: 4952 6767

Pentagon Grand

30 Jade Drive
Nerang Q 4211
Ph: 5597 0777

Whispers in Paradise

48 Callemondah Drive
Callemondah
Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 4978 1144

Club Tigerlily

1094 Kingsford Smith Drive
Eagle Farm Q 4009
Ph: 3868 4340

Purely Blue

175 Abbotsford Road
Bowen Hills Q 4006
Ph: 3854 0366

Yimi476

476 Boundary Road
Archerfield Q 4108
Ph: 3277 7318

Resort Two Six

26 Magnesium Drive
Crestmead Q 4132
Ph: 3803 1000

Would you like future issues of *In Touch* e-mailed to you?

Just send an e-mail to pladmin@iprimus.com.au requesting that you want to receive future editions of *In Touch* electronically.