

Issue 121 – July 2017

Prostitution Licensing Authority fees increase

Consistent with Government policy, PLA fees have increased by 3.5%, effective 1 July 2017.

For a five-room brothel with a single licensee, the total cost of a new and renewal brothel licence is now \$36,490 and the total cost of an annual return is now \$33,790. The total cost of a new and renewal approved manager's certificate is now \$1,076 and for an annual return the cost is now \$805.

New version of *Guidelines about the approved form for advertisements for prostitution*

The PLA has issued a new version of the *Guidelines about the approved form for advertisements for prostitution* which commenced on 28 June 2017.

Advertisements for prostitution published in Queensland must be in the approved form and an advertisement that complies with the guidelines will be in the approved form. It continues to be the case that the following are prohibited:

- advertisements for prostitution published through radio or television or by film and video recording
- advertisements that describe the services offered
- advertisements which hold out or include a statement intended or likely to induce a person to seek employment as a prostitute
- advertisements that state directly or indirectly that the person's business is connected with or provides massage services
- sole operator sex worker advertisements which state or imply that more than one sex worker is available
- images of the sexual organs or anus of a person or frontal nudity of the genital region and mons veneris/mons pubis region or of a sexual act or a simulated sexual act.

It also continues to be the case that all advertisements for prostitution must be self-assessed under the guidelines, unless the guidelines specifically require an advertisement to be submitted for approval of the PLA.

The guidelines can be accessed from the PLA website at: www.pla.qld.gov.au/advertising/.

35 hours' community service for defrauding a sex worker

A man in Tasmania has pleaded guilty to unlawfully inducing a person to provide sexual services in a sexual services business after defrauding a sex worker. He basically tricked a sex worker into providing him with sexual services after agreeing to pay her \$500. He initially told the woman that his wallet had been left in his car which had been taken by his friend but he would be back soon. The woman went ahead and provided the service but the man did not pay, later claiming to the worker that his wallet had never been returned. The man was sentenced to 35 hours of community service.

It is strongly suggested that situations such as this can be avoided if sex workers only provide a sexual service after receiving payment (and checking it) from the client.

Decriminalisation of prostitution in South Australia?

Last month's *In Touch* included a piece on the latest prostitution law reform initiative in South Australia, which if successful would result in the decriminalisation of prostitution in that state.

Since then the *Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill 2015* has passed the Legislative Council of the Parliament of South Australia by a margin of 13 to eight. The Bill will now proceed to the Legislative Assembly. Parliamentarians have been given a conscience vote and the fate of the legislation in the lower house remains to be seen.

Sex worker autonomy

Individual autonomy and freedom of choice are central to sex work. You must have freely chosen to engage in prostitution, without the application of duress or coercion. It is illegal to force a person to provide prostitution, such as by threatening, intimidating or harassing them or anyone else. It is up to you to choose whether or not to see a particular client. You must never be pressured or forced to see a client against your will. The particular services that are provided are a matter for negotiation between you and clients. If there is something that you feel uncomfortable doing, do not be afraid to say, "no". Remember, just like anyone else in the community, sex workers are entitled to withdraw consent at any time. Non-consensual sex is a crime.

For sex workers in licensed brothels, brothel licensees and approved managers are required to comply with a range of brothel licence conditions, including that:

- you must be able to freely choose whether to perform introductions, the clients that you see and the services that you provide

- your rights as an independent party must be observed so that you must not be coerced, directed, bullied, threatened or unfairly penalised.

If someone is forcing you to provide prostitution against your will you can complain to the police or to the PLA. If you are concerned about the actions of a licensee or approved manager at a brothel, you should contact the PLA.

No registration of sex workers in Queensland

The PLA occasionally receives queries about whether there is any licensing or registration requirements for sex workers in Queensland.

There is no legal requirement for sex workers to be either licensed or registered in the state. This means that neither the PLA nor any other government body (such as the Queensland Police Service) registers sex workers.

Personal supervision of brothels

Section 80 of the *Prostitution Act 1999* requires that licensed brothels must be personally supervised by the licensee or an approved manager during all times they are open for business. The person responsible for supervising the brothel must be identified in the sign-in register for each shift. In the absence of the licensee, the approved manager on duty is responsible for ensuring

that the brothel is managed in accordance with all relevant obligations.

2017 PLA meeting dates

To be advised.

Vacancies for approved manager positions

Asian Star: A part-time casual manager is required to join our team. We are located at Coopers Plains area. We seek an honest, patient, reliable, friendly manager with an easy going personality. Work experience preferred and must hold an approved manager's certificate. Good pay rate and bonus system. Please call Carly on 0422023351 for interview.

Lush: Marcoola, Sunshine Coast brothel looking for an approved manager to join our friendly management team to start immediately. Must be flexible with hours, enthusiastic, skilled at multitasking, with a natural flair for customer service. To express your interest please email us at lush@lushmarcoola.com.au.

Club 26: Seeking an approved part-time casual manager to join our team. We are seeking someone experienced, honest and friendly, who can work on a rotating roster over 7 days (mainly night shifts.) Please email your application and resume along with references to club26pinkpop@gmail.com.

Please note that approved manager advertisements may be submitted at any time for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter. They should be emailed to pladmin@iprimus.com.au.