

BROTHELS — POLICE DATABASE

8757. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Police

- (1) How many brothels are in operation, according to police records and intelligence;
 - (a) in the metropolitan area; and
 - (b) in regional areas?
- (2) Do the police keep records of who owns and manages each brothel?
- (3) Do these brothels operate contrary to the Criminal Code or the *Prostitution Act 2000*; and
 - (a) if so, why do the police allow them to operate?
- (4) When was the 'containment policy' abandoned?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1) (a)–(b) WA Police does not have a specific database for information relating to sex workers and/or brothels. Police officers access a generic database that encompasses all crime types and contains discrete pieces of intelligence. Some of this intelligence may contain information pertaining to sex workers and/or brothels.
- (2) No. Please refer to response to Question 1.
- (3) Yes.
 - (a) Failed prosecution attempts in the past, emanating from the discontinued Kenworthy prosecution in January 2004 led the then Commissioner of Police, Mr Barry Matthews to determine that WA Police would not continue to police brothels under the provisions of either the Criminal Code or the Prostitution Act 2000. The Director of Public Prosecution has also raised doubts about the viability of prosecuting existing private place prostitution laws on the grounds of public interest, and prosecutions have not occurred in the absence of a clear legislative framework.

Police do become involved where there are other elements of criminality such as organised crime, drugs, juveniles and sexual servitude in the sex industry.
- (4) The Containment Policy was abolished in August 2000.