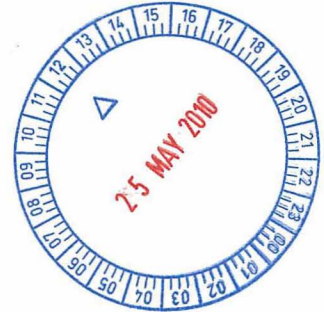




PUBLIC

Attorney General; Minister for Corrective Services

Our Ref: 35-08989



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter dated 22 April 2010 regarding Petition No. 60 – Prostitution Amendment Act 2008 (WA) Repeal.

With regard to the terms of the petition I would make the following comments:

1. Questions regarding the level of resourcing available to Police should be referred to the Minister for Police as should any questions about the laying of charges under the current legislation. For your information, the current legislation is the *Prostitution Act 2000*; this legislation has not been overtaken by the *Prostitution Amendment Act 2008* as that Act has not been proclaimed and therefore has not come into operation.
2. The Liberal–National Government made a commitment at the last election to repeal the *Prostitution Amendment Act 2008* and introduce legislation which imposed controls on the spread of sexual service businesses, minimised the exploitation of people working in this industry and designated areas where a regulated system would be tolerated.

The *Prostitution Amendment Act 2008* will be repealed during the current term of government. This will occur in conjunction with the commencement of the legislation promised above.

3. The new legislation will include penalties for advertising an illegal sexual service business; illegal sexual service business will include any such businesses operating in a residential area.
4. The new legislation will expand the provisions against seeking to induce a person to act as a sex worker, it will also retain the existing offence of promoting employment in the prostitution industry.

With regard to the submission from the principal petitioner, Ms Gail Gifford, I note that she identifies that the petition is primarily intended to highlight that current WA laws prohibiting operating a sexual service business and the publishing of statements and advertisements intended to induce persons to seek work in the sex industry are not being enforced by WA Police; and that she seeks legislative reform which increases limits on sexual service businesses operating in residential areas.

As stated previously, any comment on the enforcement of the *Prostitution Act 2000* should be referred to the Minister for Police.

I can confirm that the new legislation will make it illegal to operate a sexual service business in residential areas.

Yours sincerely



C. Christian Porter MLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

21 MAY 2010