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NEWS REPORT

Headline	Sex slave pimp appeals jail term
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Related reports	October 21, 2008 – Thais prostituted to pay off debt December 2, 2008 – People trafficking case bail denied December 19, 2008 – Hairdresser in sex plea tangle December 24, 2008 – Thai sex slaves trafficker jailed

The first person jailed in Australia under new slavery laws yesterday appealed against his five years' jail term. Keith William Dobie forced two Thai women into sexual slavery after luring them to Australia with promises of riches.

Dobie lodged an application to the Court of Appeal yesterday alleging his sentence was manifestly excessive. In a hand written application, Dobie alleged the prosecutor had used precedent cases in his sentence which did not relate to his offence. He also complained about some comments made by the judge.

Dobie, 48, was the first person in Australia charged with people trafficking under new laws brought to repel the world-wide trend in international sex slavery. In the District Court last month Dobie was jailed for five years with a recommendation for parole after 22 months. He pleaded guilty to two counts of people trafficking, handling the proceeds of crime and four counts of presenting false documents.

The court heard the women knew they were coming to Australia to work as prostitutes but Dobie lured them with promises of easy money. Instead he was an abusive and demanding pimp who forced the women to work long hours for virtually no return. He got visas for the women using false immigration documents. The court heard Dobie, a gambling addict, was desperate to repay Gold Coast loan sharks. Dobie earned up to \$1000 a day from the women but only gave them the use of a room and \$20 a day for food and expenses. He also sent only about \$600 in total to each of the women's families. During their stay in the Australia, Dobie was verbally and physically abusive to the women.

Judge Leanne Clare SC told Dobie his treatment of the women had been "particularly demeaning and callous".

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