



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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## NEWS REPORT

<b>Headline</b>	Illegal brothel raids, Sunshine Coast
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Four people will face court following a four-month operation conducted by members of the Prostitution Enforcement Task Force targeting illegal prostitution activities on the Sunshine Coast.

Police carried out raids yesterday on addresses from Noosa Heads to Caloundra as part of Operation Hotel Alert which involved officers from State Crime Operations Command and North Coast Region. Assistance was also provided by personnel from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

The operation specifically targeted a highly organised network providing illegal prostitution in the Sunshine Coast area and culminated yesterday with the execution of search warrants at apartments and residential premises located at Caloundra, Maroochydore and Mooloolaba. During these searches police seized more than \$7000 in cash, five mobile telephones and a laptop computer.

This investigation has resulted in four people; a 30-year-old man, a 36-year-old woman, a 37-year-old woman and a 31-year-old woman, being charged with 11 prostitution related offences. They will appear in the Maroochydore Magistrates Court today.

Detective Superintendent Brian Wilkins of the State Crime Operations Command said this operation was just one of the strategies used by the Command to combat organised illegal prostitution activities in Queensland.

“This operation was a great success and shows that we are, and will continue to be, committed to tracking down those people who profit from illegal prostitution,” Detective Superintendent Wilkins said.

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