



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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NEWS REPORT

Headline	Illegal prostitution racket cracked on Gold Coast
Reported in	<i>The Courier-Mail</i>
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AN ILLEGAL prostitution racket on the Gold Coast has been cracked in a series of police raids, resulting in 16 people being charged.

Police carried out the raids over four days, targeting organised illegal prostitution activities operating under the guise of legal massage services.

Five search warrants were executed at business and residential premises located in Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise, Mermaid Beach and Clear Island Waters.

Police seized cash and property totalling \$20,990, and charged 16 people on 38 prostitution-related offences.

Detective Superintendent Brian Wilkins said the operation was just one of the strategies used by the police service to combat organised illegal prostitution activities in Queensland.

"We are constantly working on ways to preserve community safety by preventing criminal elements providing illegal prostitution services in Queensland," he said.

The police service also worked with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to ensure the well-being of sex workers who were found working in illegal brothels, Det Supt Wilkins said.

"This operation was a great success and shows that in partnership with our commonwealth colleagues we will continue to be committed to tracking down those who profit from illegal prostitution and erode community standards," he said.

The five men and 11 women charged will appear in the Southport Magistrates Court on November 17.

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