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NEWS REPORT

Headline	Brothel open day attracts big crowd
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OPEN day at Toowoomba's first legal brothel was a surprisingly laid back, almost family occasion.

Husbands, wives, friends and grown children stopped in at Deviations on Saturday to satisfy their curiosity, many impressed with the quality of the establishment and its discreet street frontage.

Despite huge public interest and strong objections to the brothel's opening, protesters were absent from the occasion.

Police confirmed they were on the standby in case protesters attended, but there were no problems.

Developer Jim Welch said the open day went well, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. By the end of the day about 1000 people had passed through the door.

"I've just spoken to security and not one person has had anything negative to say about it," Mr Welch said.

"I will run it exactly like the one I managed in Mackay and in seven years there has not been any incident there."

Mr Welch said the opening of Mackay's first brothel attracted heavier protest than Deviations here in Toowoomba, but within a month of opening interest died down.

"It's just become an accepted part of the landscape there and I think in a month's time no-one here will care."

Brian Karl and his grown daughter Codie heard about the open day and thought it would be interesting to see the inside of a brothel.

Mr Karl was impressed by the decor and labelled the establishment as "quite classy."

"I've never been in a brothel before and we heard this is the only chance to see it without being a client," Mr Karl said.

"I reckon it can't be a bad thing considering what goes on in illegal places. It might as well be above board."

Mr Welch said the first night of Deviations operating from 6pm had run smoothly.

"We have had some very nice customers and now it's on to business as usual," he said.

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