



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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### NEWS REPORT

<b>Headline</b>	Laws 'will aid illegal sex work'
<b>Reported in</b>	<i>Courier Mail</i>
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ILLEGAL prostitution will flourish even more under new laws before State Parliament, a Brisbane brothel owner has told *The Courier-Mail*.

Lyn Black, owner of Cleo's On Nile at Woolloongabba, says illegal prostitution rings are already rampant in Queensland.

Proposed changes allowing sole operators to be accompanied on outcalls by licensed security guard drivers would make it even easier for them to operate.

"If this Bill is passed, it's going to make it even more difficult for police to identify who's operating legally and who's not," Ms Black said.

"They can't police the industry at the moment and now they're going to make it even harder. This will open the floodgates."

Last month *The Courier-Mail* revealed research by the University of Queensland's Human Trafficking Working Group had found illegal brothels and sex worker rings were thriving outside the state's prostitution regulatory regime.

The group said only 10 per cent of Queensland's prostitution industry was being effectively regulated by the 1999 Prostitution Act.

It said the state's 25 legal brothels were "highly and well controlled", but most prostitution operated outside that system – sole operators who, though outside the regulatory regime, were not illegal, and pooled sole operators, who were illegal.

Ms Black said it was widely known in the industry that prostitution rings were being operated by pimps who ran multiple advertisements featuring different phone numbers.

Not only did the illegal rings avoid the high overheads of running a licensed brothel, the annual licensing fee for which was \$25,000 alone, but there was a likelihood the prostitutes involved did not practise safe sex.

She said the Government should move to license all prostitutes and increase resources to the police prostitution enforcement taskforce.

But a spokesman for Police Minister Neil Roberts said the Government had no plans to license sole operators.

He said the proposed changes to the Prostitution Act and the Criminal Code introduced to Parliament last month were to enhance the safety of sole operators.

Last week, after police raids on several Brisbane premises, four women and six men were charged with 22 offences including prostitution and money laundering.

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