



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking

NEWS REPORT

Headline	Business booms for city brothel
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TOOWOOMBA'S brothel was so popular in its first week customers were lining up out the door.

Deviations, which opened on September 12, has so far been free from trouble, according to owner Jim Welch.

Mr Welch estimated more than 100 clients passed through the doors of Deviations in its first week of business.

"We've had no trouble with any of the customers," he said.

"It has been busier than we expected, so I'm really happy."

One Toowoomba taxi driver said he had seen customers lining up outside the door on more than one occasion.

Mr Welch confirmed this had happened, saying "I guess it's a good sign".

"Any feedback we've had has only been positive," he said.

"The service providers have been really happy with the behaviour (of the clients)."

There had even been a stream of curious visitors walking through Deviations "just to see how it operates," according to Mr Welch.

"The managers have said people of all ages have been coming in," he said.

"It's just business as usual."

Mr Welch said there had been a few calls for male prostitutes, but management "had not gone to that area yet".

Meanwhile, new research shows that, 10 years after brothels became legal in Queensland, 90 per cent of prostitution in the state still occurs outside the law.

The University of Queensland's Human Trafficking Working Group said Queensland's attempts to regulate prostitution had clearly failed.

Associate professor Andreas Schloenhardt said current legislation was very restricted. It is limited to legal brothels and to services offered by sole operators outside public spaces.

"This accounts for only 10% of Queensland's prostitution industry and does not include escort agencies, street prostitution or unlicensed brothels," Prof Schloenhardt said.

"These activities — some 90% of the prostitution industry — remain either unregulated or illegal."

He said legalising some parts of the industry had not eliminated the demand for illegal sex services.

The managers have said people of all ages have been coming in. It's just business as usual.

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