



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP
Dr Andreas Schloenhardt (Coordinator)

The University of Queensland
TC Beirne School of Law

www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking

NEWS REPORT

Headline	Qld: Sex slave hairdresser wants to appeal conviction
Reported in	<i>Australian Associated Press General News</i>
Date of publication	September 23, 2009
Author	David Barbeler
Copyright	© 2009 Australian Associated Press Pty Ltd.

A Gold Coast hairdresser who forced two Thai women to work as prostitutes wants to appeal his conviction on the grounds his legal counsel wrongly instructed him to plead guilty.

Keith William Dobie, 49, was jailed for five years in December for luring two women to Queensland from Thailand using fake immigration documents and then forcing them to have sex with up to five men a day.

Instead of the lucrative wages and luxury living conditions the women were promised, he paid them just \$20 a day.

However, the Court of Appeal in Brisbane on Wednesday was told Dobie sought leave to appeal against his conviction and sentence on the basis he was pressured into pleading guilty.

Dobie's barrister Sam Di Carlo told the court his client had a lack of understanding of what the plea of guilty meant for himself and there was an absence of instructions from his lawyers at the time.

However, Justice Hugh Fraser said pursuing this avenue of appeal might result in Dobie having to waive his lawyer and client privilege rights.

Dobie was the first person in Australia charged with people-trafficking under new laws brought in two years ago designed to crack down on international sex slavery.

The court has previously heard Dobie used money paid by men for the women's sexual services to help repay \$50,000 to loan sharks who helped him fund repairs to his Currumbin hairdressing salon after it was damaged by floods and a fire in 2005.

The matter has been adjourned until September 30.

An electronic copy of this document is available at www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking.