



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP**

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**NEWS REPORT**

<b>Headline</b>	Qld: Human trafficker appeals conviction
<b>Reported in</b>	<i>Australian Associated Press General News</i>
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A Gold Coast hairdresser jailed for human trafficking has appealed against his conviction and sentence.

Keith William Dobie, 49, received a five-year jail term in December last year after pleading guilty to two counts of people trafficking, one count of handling proceeds of crime and four counts of presenting false documents.

He was ordered to serve 22 months behind bars before being eligible for parole.

During the sentencing hearing before Brisbane District Court Judge Leanne Clare, the court was told Dobie had forced two Thai women to work as prostitutes so that he could use the money to pay off loan sharks.

He lured the women to the Gold Coast in 2005 and 2006 with the promise of lucrative wages and luxury living conditions.

However, he instead paid the women \$20 to have sex with up to five men a day.

Dobie used the rest of the money the women earned as prostitutes to pay off loan sharks from whom he had borrowed money to finance repairs to his hairdressing salon.

Dobie took his case to the Court of Appeal on Wednesday, where his barrister Sam Di Carlo argued the conviction was unsound because the human trafficking legislation had been interpreted incorrectly by the prosecution.

He also argued the sentence was manifestly excessive given the short period of offending, and the lack of sophistication involved in Dobie's scheme.

Mr Di Carlo said Dobie allowed the women to stay in fine hotels and keep their passports, and ultimately could not prevent them from leaving after just a few weeks.

The Court of Appeal has reserved its decision.

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