



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP**

Dr Andreas Schloenhardt (Coordinator)

The University of Queensland  
TC Beirne School of Law

The University of British Columbia  
Centre of International Relations

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**NEWS REPORT**

<b>Headline</b>	<b>Record numbers flock to brothels, stripping</b>
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<b>Author</b>	John McCarthy
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Women are flooding strip joints and brothels for work in the wake of increasing unemployment. But even those doing the hiring are saying the jobs come with a lot of guilt and “can do your head in”.

With the chance to earn between \$1500 and \$8000 a week, Rachel Love (yes, it's her real name) from the Gold Coast's Pentagon Grand brothel said she had never seen such an influx.

In Brisbane, the B Confidential gentlemen's bar is getting 10 to 15 applications a week for women prepared to do lap dances, pole dancing, stage and private shows. Normally they would get one or two inquiries. But the job isn't just dancing and taking your clothes off, owner-manager Lisa says. “Our VIP room is interesting because very rarely do the girls even get their top off. The guys go in there and play Twister, they play the Wii game and Playstation. Our most popular game is Singstar.”

But it's not a job for everyone, even with wages and tips taking the pay from \$200 to about \$1000 a shift, with no experience necessary. “Our industry is not easy on the person. It can do your head in,” Lisa said. The women have to listen to men who have lost their jobs, or who are lonely or need to unburden themselves.

Ms Love said she had received about 30 applications in recent weeks, many more than she had seen in her five years in the job. Many were university students needing to pay their way, or women saving for a car or house deposit. The women earn about \$1500 to \$8000 a week, depending on tips.

“Elixir”, 19, was an ice addict in Melbourne before moving to the Gold Coast where she is a star recruit, off all drugs and determined to save \$50,000 for a car and a deposit on a house. But for her, the job is a long-term one because the money is so good. “It's just something I enjoy,” she said.

Rose, 20, says her burlesque dancer job at B Confidential helps pay her way through her university journalism studies. “I love it, I don't find it hard to cope with at all,” Rose said.

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