



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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NEWS REPORT

Headline	Brothels to spell out illegal slavery
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Brothels in Melbourne would be made to install signs explaining sex slavery is illegal, under new laws being considered by several councils. In an effort to reach women brought to Australia illegally and forced to have sex, the signs would offer phone numbers to seek help and information on Australian law. The move comes amid claims from the Federal Police and brothel owners that sex traffickers are using Melbourne's legal brothels as a front for their illegal trade.

A Melbourne brothel owner has told *The Age* of several approaches made to her to buy women. "Over the past three years I would have had at least four to five people approach me with the offer of girls," said the owner of Collingwood brothel Le Boudoir, who asked not to be named. "They said the same thing. They had girls available, 'Would you be interested? They'll make you a lot of money.'"

William Albon, of the Australian Adult Entertainment Industry, said his organisation was opposed to servitude and trafficking. "We find it a heinous and dreadful crime," he said.

Jennifer Cullen, from the Federal Police, said Melbourne was a "major destination" for sex trafficking and most trafficked women were found in legal brothels.

The City of Melbourne Anti Slavery and Sexual Servitude Local Law 2009, is now on public display. Other councils, including Yarra and Moreland, began the process of introducing a similar law last year

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