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Submission to the Committee for legal affairs and Community safety Re Youth Justice (boot camp orders) and other legislation Amendment Bill 2012 by Peter Clooney

Youth Justice (Boot Camp Orders) & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 Submission 046

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Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

A submission in relation to proposed amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, introduced to Parliament in the Youth Justice (Boot Camp Orders) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

Thursday, 8 November 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a single white 55 year old male that has worked in the tourism industry in the liquor trade and now travels extensively throughout Australia and Queensland consulting with various industries regarding mining and property development in Queensland, both regional and metropolitan.

I have stayed single so as to devote all my free time and energy to my daughter who turned 14 this year as we are only young once and I want her to have the best possible start in life.

I have on occasion used the services of female escorts whilst I have been away and would like to think I will have the opportunity to again. The amendment of the anti-discrimination legislation put forward by the Attorney General the Hon Mr Bleijie MP will definitely make me think twice.

The wording of this amendment is very worrisome.

**'106C Accommodation for use in connection with work as sex worker**

'It is not unlawful for a person (an *accommodation provider*) to discriminate against another person (the *other person*) by—

(a) refusing to supply accommodation to the other person;

or

(b) evicting the other person from accommodation; or

(c) treating the other person unfavourably in any way in

connection with accommodation;

if the accommodation provider reasonably believes the other person is using, or intends to use, the accommodation in connection with that person's, or another person's, work as a sex worker.'

I normally don't wear a sign saying potential user of a female escort when checking into accommodation, so why would anyone make an assumption that a person would use the accommodation in connection with sex work?

On the occasions when I have engaged the services of a female escort she has always dressed discreetly and behaved accordingly. Whilst I am travelling for work I often conduct meetings in my accommodation with both male and female consultants for breakfast and dinner meetings as well as meetings throughout the day. I would hate for an accommodation provider to apply the wording REASONABLY believe that I was engaging in a sexual liaison, although I could imagine that it might look like that given the traffic during my stay. I would be horrified to be in a meeting with a female business associate and have an accommodation provider knock on my door and accuse me of having an escort in my room. I would be further horrified when the provider failed to believe me and asked us both to leave the premises. Unfortunately, the more protest I make the more insistent the provider could become and more UNFAVOURABLE the treatment would become. With no right of reply, we would have no choice but to vacate. The major issue would be that I would be noted as having had an escort attend to me at the premises and I may have notes of such placed against my name by over zealous staff who become drunk on the power afforded them by the amendment and has had no training and has his own idea of unfavourable treatment.

What would happen if I went to another accommodation venue in that town with my daughter for a holiday and was confronted with an accommodation provider denying me accommodation and told loudly that as I had previously hired sex workers in another venue I was not staying there either. Imagine my embarrassment in front of my daughter? How would you feel? I hope that for societies sake that you make a recommendation against this amendment in its current form. Worse still what if my daughter is accused of being a female escort whilst travelling with me?

Please remember with the power this legislation will grant to the accommodation providers also comes great responsibility. Who will ensure the safety and conduct of accommodation providers.

Thank you

Peter Clooney

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[REDACTED]

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