



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 9 November 1999

PROSTITUTION LAWS

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.22 a.m.): Earlier this year, the Liberal Party offered bipartisan support for tough new prostitution laws to drive the sex industry out of our suburbs. To that end, we accepted the need to establish brothels in non-residential areas. However, the Premier has reneged on his commitment to enhance the quality of life in our local communities. He has become the Premier for suburban prostitutes and pimps.

The Beattie Government's proposed relaxation of prostitution laws has given the green light to red lights across the State. These changes do not make prostitution harder, they make it easier. They do not encourage prostitutes to leave our suburbs; they encourage them to proliferate. This is not law reform; it is social vandalism.

The Premier would have us believe that prostitution will be banned within 200 metres of homes, schools and churches. However, that restriction will apply only to registered brothels. It will not apply to the sole operator mini brothels in the house next door. It will not apply to the bodyguards who will be employed by suburban prostitutes. Many of those bodyguards will double as pimps. Every time business gets quiet, they will head down to the local pub or club to tout for clients, otherwise they will not get paid. That is the commercial reality.

The Beattie model will inevitably undermine family relationships and community values. Pimps do not care about wrecking marriages and destroying homes; they are just after a few quick bucks to earn their keep. It will be open slather on husbands, boyfriends and anyone else who has more money than sense. This policy is a recipe for family breakdown and human misery. The Premier promised to fix the problem created by the former Goss Labor Government, but his cure is worse than the disease.
