



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 2 December 1999

PROSTITUTION BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (12.04 p.m.): In speaking to the Prostitution Bill, I acknowledge that, before it introduced this Bill into the Parliament, the Government continued the review of the State prostitution laws commenced by the previous coalition Government. I am pleased that this Government has legislated expressly to ensure that there can be no doubt that street soliciting will remain illegal in this State. Notwithstanding that and other initiatives in the Bill, I am unable to support it.

I believe one of the outcomes of this Bill, if it is adopted in its current form, is that it will expand the prostitution industry in this State by enabling new operators to become involved in the industry while current illegal operators who are unable to meet the approval requirements under the Bill and who wish to stay in the industry will just vary their methods of operation in light of the changes to police enforcement practices. I believe that, instead of legislating and giving credibility to prostitution, we should be providing options for women who, for whatever reason, find themselves in this sordid and squalid industry and we should be giving the police and the courts real powers and resources so they can wipe out the pimps, parasites and criminals feeding off this industry.

In light of all of the issues that have been canvassed by honourable members on both sides of the House, I do not propose to prolong the debate on the Bill. However, I urge the Minister and the Government to defer voting on this Bill and reconsider its contents in the light of the matters raised in this debate both yesterday and today.
