



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 22 August 2002

PROSTITUTION ACT

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (7.07 p.m.): I wish to raise a blatant breach of the Prostitution Act 1999 and to flag in this parliament that I will be writing to the Police Minister and the Prostitution Licensing Authority to ask whether the law will be enforced. I refer to section 94 of Prostitution Act 1999 which states—

A person must not publish a statement intended or likely to induce a person to seek employment as a prostitute.

The maximum penalty for that is 100 penalty units. I also refer to section 94 of the act, which states—

Evidence that an advertisement or statement has been published in relation to a licensed brothel is evidence that the brothel's licensee published the advertisement or statement.

I now refer to a *Sunshine Coast Daily* article of 11 August 2002, which was subtitled 'Owner seeks 100 sex workers for Coast first' and then goes on to state how much they will pay the prostitutes and lists a phone number for 'employment inquiries'. If this is not a breach of the act, what is? If this section of the act is not enforced and the appropriate inquiries are not taken by the enforcement agencies, I have to ask what other standards a blind eye will be turned to in regard to the Prostitution Act.

My office contacted the Prostitution Licensing Authority to ask about the application of the law. I understand that my office was advised that there had been some 400 complaints concerning advertising breaches or concerns about advertising in relation to the Prostitution Act. The government said that the law would be tough. This is the government's act. I want to know, if these standards are allowed to slip, what other law—L-A-W—within the Prostitution Act will be ignored.

I will certainly be watching this. The article is quite blatant. It actually states the number where employment inquiries can be made. This article appeared in the news pages of the *Sunshine Coast Daily*. Ignorance of the law is not a defence. The fact is that this is supposed to be a licensed premise under the government's act. I am most concerned about whether the enforcement agency is enforcing the act and whether there are the appropriate budgets to enforce the act.

I will also be asking the minister that question, because my office was advised that the authority did not have the adequate budget in that regard to address such breaches. I certainly will be following those issues up because these communities have not had the opportunity to choose where these brothels go and the laws were supposed to be protecting the community. If the government is going to ignore the laws that it puts through the parliament, the community will be most disturbed.

Time expired.