

Dear news editor

Identifying the substantial powers that councils have to close down a sex services premises (SSP) was given significant weight in a recent Land & Environment Court case (LEC) where the appeal was upheld. Also of interest in this case is the refusal by the Commissioner of the Court to accept the evidence of serial offender of sex worker human and legal rights, one Nicholas Mamouzelos. Mr. Mamouzelos is the former cop and ICAC investigator who was employed by Parramatta Council after a council officer was found by the ICAC to have had his fingers in the cookie jar of corruption and elsewhere. Mr. Mamouzelos has set himself up as an expert but luckily the court at least is seeing through his scurrilous and unsubstantiated accusations that the industry is intrinsically tied with criminality. He is no longer in the employ of Parramatta Council but the damage he did – sending in truck loads of cops and other authorities largely on private workers, continues to perpetuate the view that SSP are dangerous places and they need a 50 page compliance flow chart (and the truck load of cops) to guide them on their abusive intrusions into the lives of law abiding people.

As for Chris Seage, another self-serving 'expert', he has his own financial barrow or I should say brothel business to push. He represents a minority group of brothel owners and can't stand the competition particularly from private workers who of recent times have left the large scale commercial sector in droves to work for themselves. One can only speculate why..

If there are 152 local government areas in NSW and around 271 approved SSP that makes a little less than 2 per local government area. Of course some LGA have more SSP because they have a greater population base and demand by locals/rate payers for a commercial sexual service including private workers. A motion put at the recent Local government and Shires Association meeting in an attempt by some Councillors intent on re-election and who think it is their business to make judgments on the sex lives of others was lost.. The majority thinking the State or local government at least, has no business in the bedrooms of consenting adults whether it is a commercial transaction or done for the love or lust of it.... The truth is regulation in the hands of some local government councillors is failing to meet the intent of the 1995 reforms which was to improve the health and safety of sex workers and minimise opportunities for corruption as we have seen recently at Parramatta Council.

Regards  
Julie Bates