

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on the
Australian Crime Commission**

**Inquiry into trafficking in women for
sexual servitude**

Submission No:2

Received 9 September 2003

Mr R Atkinson

Commissioner

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- 9 SEP 2003

Ms Maureen Weeks
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Weeks

I refer to your letter dated 1 August 2003 inviting submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission inquiry into trafficking in women for sexual servitude.

In Queensland, the State Crime Operations Command has a statewide responsibility for identifying, investigating and suppressing criminal activity and criminal networks. Generally, offences involving people trafficking for the purposes of sexual servitude is likely to occur within the illegal prostitution industry involving women from the Asiatic region. The Command's Prostitution Enforcement Task Force is tasked with investigating illegal prostitution.

Past operations conducted by the Prostitution Enforcement Task Force, often in conjunction with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, have found little evidence of sexual servitude having occurred in Queensland. In the majority of cases, Asian women engaged as sex-workers encountered in Queensland have been working in the industry in Sydney before moving to Queensland and travel to Queensland of their own accord, albeit some having had their airfares paid for and been met at the airport by employers upon their arrival. There have been no instances of sex workers having been held in premises against their will and the profile indicates they are generally left unsupervised at their work or home addresses.

The multi-agency approach widely adopted by law enforcement agencies when investigating serious and organised crime, fosters an excellent working relationship with all Commonwealth and State government agencies having jurisdiction of the matter. Should trends and changes in criminal activity, practices and methods in respect of illegal prostitution in Queensland come to

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involve trafficking in women for sexual servitude; a special Australian Crime Commission investigation is likely to be pursued.

The current Commonwealth and State legislative framework is mutually supportive and adequate in providing for the prosecution of offenders involved in this type of offence.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



R ATKINSON
COMMISSIONER