

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

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

Submission No:15

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MINISTER for POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY



15 SEP 2003

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

Dear Ms Weeks

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR SEXUAL SERVITUDE

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2003 providing me with an opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (PJC) inquiry into trafficking in women for sexual servitude.

At the APMC meeting of 2 July 2003, Agenda Item 14 dealt with the subject of people trafficking. APMC identified that trafficking in people is a significant problem in some parts of the world and recent incidents indicate that Australia may be a country of destination for trafficking in persons, and in particular, for women to be used in the sex industry.

The resolution passed at the 2 July APMC meeting in relation to this item was:

APMC acknowledges that trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual servitude is a serious crime that jurisdictions should address and agrees that:

- I. all jurisdictions will review their laws on sexual servitude, slavery, deceptive recruiting, debt bondage and related offences and consider areas where improvements can be made;*
- II. all jurisdictions will consider ways to enhance intelligence and information sharing between the States and Territories, and among State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies on activities which may be associated with trafficking in persons;*

- III. *all jurisdictions will review their operational arrangements with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, in consultation with the Department, to ensure victims of trafficking and sexual servitude are identified and dealt with as victims of crime;*
- IV. *the ACCF led by the Commonwealth will finalise the questionnaire included in the agenda paper, and report back to APMC in November 2003 on the matters covered in the questionnaire with proposals for a national action plan on trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual servitude; and*
- V. *the issue be referred to the ACC Board for determination.*

I am advised by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Richard McCreadie, that he has tasked his staff with examining legislative areas within this jurisdiction that could be addressed in order to combat potential problems in the future..

I have no further submission to make to the PJC's inquiry at this time.

Yours sincerely



David Llewellyn
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY