



**Committee Secretariat  
Local Government and Environment Select Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON**

**Manukau City Council (Regulation of Prostitution in Specified Places) Bill  
SUBMISSION**

**November 2010**

- 1.1 This submission is being made by **Family First NZ**, a charitable organisation that researches and advocates on family issues in the public domain.
- 1.2 Family First NZ **SUPPORTS** the Bill
- 1.3 When introducing the provisions to give control of the placement of brothels to local councils, the Minister of Justice, the Hon Phil Goff said: *"..I believe that although most New Zealanders would agree that criminalisation of prostitution is futile and probably counterproductive, most would also clearly desire, in the event of decriminalisation, some controls to prevent the establishment of places of prostitution where they are offensive or inappropriate. Most of us would not want to see brothels established in residential areas or adjacent to preschools or schools. My amendment would allow the local territorial authorities, the councils, to prohibit the establishment of, or order the removal of, a brothel in an area where it would cause a nuisance or serious offence to ordinary members of the public."*

- 1.4 The overriding principle is that the general public should be protected from the sex industry and families should have the ability to avoid 'red light' districts.
- 1.5 This has not been the case for families in Hunters Corner and Manurewa. Any time of the day, a family can be confronted by a prostitute soliciting for business. We speak from personal experience.
- 1.6 Local communities do not want prostitution and the sex industry in public shopping areas and areas frequented by families. Some families would even choose to avoid shopping in those areas.
- 1.7 Discrete locations are for both the benefit of the general public to avoid unnecessary exposure to activities that they may find offensive, and is also preferred by those in the industry according to the Prostitutes Collective.
- 1.8 Along with an increase in street prostitution, brothels operating in residential areas, the association of brothels and prostitutes with drugs, alcohol, gangs, and used condoms littering the area, some areas of NZ now have increased teenage prostitution (involving girls reportedly as young as 11 in some areas), and worse still, a recent report of a parent making financial gain from 'selling' their daughter
- 1.9 A 2009 Ministry of Justice report on street soliciting in South Auckland highlighted concerns about the presence of street-based prostitution in these areas, including 'noise, antisocial behaviour (including sexual acts occurring in public places) and litter (including used condoms, syringes, bottles and food wrappers and human waste)'.

- 1.10 Disappointingly, this report placed the onus on the local businesses and residents to provide rubbish bins for condom and syringe disposal, improve the cleaning of private car parking facilities, and have 24-hour toilets. It also called on the Council to enforce liquor bans and for the Police to provide foot patrols, but seemed to stumble on the concept of supporting the wishes of the local community and Council, and banning street prostitution in these areas. Ironically the report highlighted the success of the *Ipswich (UK) Street Prostitution Strategy*, but this strategy was to ‘deter and prevent street prostitution’, and assist prostitutes ‘to exit the industry’,”
- 1.11 A police sting in South Auckland (January 2008) found that 16 teenagers aged between 13 and 16 have been prostituting themselves on the street in South Auckland. There are similar concerns with this type of activity in Christchurch.
- 1.12 A recent review (June 2010) by the Auckland police found that underage prostitution is also on the increase in the central city. This latest review found girls as young as 12 prostituting themselves in central Auckland.
- 1.13 The recent opposition to residential brothels in Greenlane, Albany, Mt Victoria in Wellington, concerns about a sex parlour to operate in the same building as a preschool in Wellington, attempts by Manukau City Council to tackle the problems of street prostitution, and opposition to the brothel in the main street of Dannevirke – just a few examples of many - show that communities are simply not accepting the liberalised and harmful laws.
- 1.13 There is a strong association between prostitution and gang involvement, drug and alcohol abuse, used condoms littered about, and general nuisance. This is unacceptable in both residential, public and family street areas.

1.14 Prostitution is harmful to workers and communities and the association of prostitution with gang and criminal behaviour, alcohol and drug abuse, and sexual abuse and violence means that we are sentencing more and more vulnerable people to an unacceptable situation.

**Other Recommendations**

1.15 We agree with the concern that this legislation would apply to a specific area of NZ only. Our recommendation is that the Bill be adopted and that it be extended to cover not only the Auckland Super City, but the whole of the country.

1.16 Central government needs to amend the Prostitution Reform Act as, in its current form, it is creating uncertainty for local councils and exposing them to potential litigation when simply reflecting the wishes of their local ratepayers.

**1.17 We wish to appear before the committee**

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