

## 10. PROSTITUTION ISSUES – FEEDBACK ON CONSULTATION

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the public consultation process currently underway on the Council's prostitution issues questionnaire.

### OVERVIEW

The prostitution issues questionnaire was released for public consultation on 8 October 2003 and has been distributed extensively across the city through City Scene, the Council's "Have Your Say" website, and newspaper advertisements. The consultation period runs through to 13 November 2003.

In the first week of the consultation period the Council has received 471 submissions, with 25 submitters (5%) seeking to be heard. The Prostitution Reform Act Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on 1 and 2 December 2003 to consider all submissions and hear submitters.

A random sample of 73 (15%) of the submissions returned to date has been analysed. This provides a preliminary "snapshot" of the general responses and issues that are being raised in the submissions. A more detailed picture is likely to emerge as further analysis is undertaken in the subsequent weeks.

### ANALYSIS

The following table summarises responses from the sample submissions as follows:

Questions	Sample Response	
<b>Should brothels be allowed only in a certain part or parts of Christchurch?</b> <b>If so, which part or parts of Christchurch do you suggest?</b>	Central Business District/4 Avenues	65%
	Other industrial or Commercial Zones (not residential)	20%
	Nowhere	6%
	Anywhere	4%
	Outer or outside city e.g. McLeans Is, Lyttelton.	2%
	Other	3%
<b>TOTAL (n = 71 responses)</b>		100%
<b>What advertising/signage would you find acceptable outside a brothel in the CBD?</b>	Very discreet/discreet signage only (not explicit pictures or words, or name only)	54%
	Same as current signage (status quo)	21%
	No advertising/signage	18%
	Same as any other business	4%
	Don't know	3%
<b>TOTAL (n = 72 responses)</b>		100%
<b>What advertising/signage would you find acceptable outside a suburban brothel?</b>	None	71%
	Very discreet/discreet (not explicit, not large or neon, no graphic or pictures)	23%
	Same as any other business	3%
	Business name only	3%
<b>TOTAL (n = 70 responses)</b>		100%
<b>Are there other forms of signage, relating to prostitution, that would raise concern?</b>	Sexually explicit, nudity, demeaning to women or men, bad taste, prominent, graphic pictures, neon signs	75%
	Any signage	19%
	No concerns	6%
<b>TOTAL (n = 63 responses)</b>		100%

Questions	Sample Response	
Should owners of home occupation brothels be allowed to have advertising outside their premises? If so, should there be restrictions on the content of the advertising?	No advertising at all.	83%
	Yes, very discreet	14%
	Yes	3%
<b>TOTAL (n = 72 responses)</b>		100%

#### ADDITIONAL THEMES

The following reoccurring themes appeared in the sample analysed:

- About 30% of the sample submissions raised concerns about the exposure of children to explicit advertising and signage, especially in residential areas or near schools.
- About 15% of the sample highlighted the need or desirability of prohibiting any form of signage that displays explicit images, pictures or graphics, including within the CDB area.
- About 5% of the submitters sampled have raised the issue of restrictions on the number of brothels in the city.

#### CITY-WIDE RESPONSES

Submitters in the sample resided in the following communities:.

Burwood/Pegasus	24%
Fendalton/Waimairi	23%
Riccarton/Wigram	23%
Hagley/Ferryroad	11%
Spreydon/Heathcote	11%
Shirley/Papanui	6%
Outside the City	2%
	<u>100%</u>

As the sample size increases it is likely the percentage figures across the wards may tend to even out. The general trend suggests that submissions are being received from across a wide sector of the city

#### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.