

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

In accordance with the Sessional Orders for Petitions, please find enclosed an electronic copy of my response to the Principal Petitioner (Mr Horst Jaksch) for tabled petition number 5784 relating to street-based prostitutes in the Brunswick Street area in New Farm and Fortitude Valley.

Yours sincerely

TONY McGRADY
Minister for Police and Corrective Services
and Minister Assisting the Premier on the
Carpentaria Minerals Province

Ref: 3269 F1A JS
P/03/05151

Enc

Mr Horst Jaksch
542 Brunswick Street
NEW FARM QLD 4005

Dear Mr Jaksch

I refer to the petition to members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, signed by you and a number of other citizens, regarding concerns about street-based prostitutes in the Brunswick Street area in New Farm and Fortitude Valley.

I have requested information from the police in relation to the issues raised in the petition. I am advised that the Prostitution Unit, which is within the Brisbane Central District's Tactical Crime Squad, has been very active in policing street-based prostitution in New Farm and Fortitude Valley.

Queensland Police Service Statistical Reviews for the past two financial years reveal that the detection rate for Public Soliciting offences in the Brisbane Central Police District increased from 445 offences recorded in 2001-02 to 810 offences recorded in 2002-03, which is an increase of 82 percent.

I am further advised that over the past 12 months the Prostitution Unit has also targeted drug-related offences associated with street-based prostitutes, and that this has resulted in 82 prosecutions for supplying dangerous drugs and 5 prosecutions for trafficking in dangerous drugs.

With regard to recent enforcement activities, I am informed that during September and October 2003 more than 120 proceedings were instituted for prostitution-related offences in the Fortitude Valley Police Division.

I understand that this concerted policing effort has caused a substantial reduction in the incidence of street-based prostitution and associated community problems. Police inform me that anecdotal information from street workers in the Brunswick Street area indicates that their ability to operate has been significantly hindered by the excellent police work.

The Beattie Government has taken a tough stance against street-based prostitution and I can assure you and your fellow petitioners that the Queensland Police Service will continue to vigorously target prostitution-related offences in New Farm and Fortitude Valley.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

TONY McGRADY
Minister for Police and Corrective Services
and Minister Assisting the Premier on the
Carpentaria Minerals Province

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