

24 September 2008

ACT Labor to introduce further measures for the prevention of sex slavery

"A re-elected ACT Labor Government will make it compulsory for all brothels in the ACT to have multilingual signs on display in prominent places, clearly stating that slavery is a serious crime, and will also investigate further measures to prevent sex slavery from occurring in the ACT," Attorney General Simon Corbell announced today.

"Melbourne author Kathleen Maltzahn has written to the ACT Labor Government asking us to commit to this initiative and ACT Labor believes it's an important step in further improving the regulations controlling the industry.

"The signs would also state that the use of 'contracts' to force women and girls into prostitution may be a form of slavery and that help is available by calling the Australian Federal Police.

"If re-elected, the ACT Labor Government will investigate possible new laws - and all other options that are available to the Government - to prevent sex slavery in the ACT.

"While there have been no prosecutions in the ACT for the crime of sex slavery the Government will continue to be pro-active in its approach to this abhorrent practice that has occurred in other parts of Australia.

"I encourage the ACT Liberal Party to work with ACT Labor and ensure a bipartisan approach is taken to preventing sex slavery from ever occurring in the ACT.

"ACT Labor firmly believes that slavery is an abhorrent breach of human rights principles, and we will do everything in our power to protect trafficked women and prevent trafficking and slavery." Mr Corbell said.

Ms Maltzahn has extensive experience working with enslaved and trafficked women in Australia and overseas, and was in Canberra yesterday to launch her new book 'Trafficked' which examines the trafficking of women and girls into Australia for prostitution.

Statement Ends

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