

**PROSTITUTION CONTROL BILL 2003**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 6 May.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON** (Hillarys) [3.55 pm]: I might have great difficulty in getting all that I want to say into five minutes, because obviously at four o'clock my speech will be interrupted for private members' business. However, I will start my speech and finish it at a later date.

This Bill is another example of the Gallop Labor Government being prepared to legalise illegal acts. We have dealt with three Bills of this nature, and this is the fourth. The first was the Labour Relations Reform Bill which the Government rammed through because it wanted to legalise acts on building sites which were previously illegal because they involved thuggery and standover tactics. The heavyweight union mates of the Labor Party can now go onto building sites and basically do what they like. The second illegal was the Acts Amendment (Gay and Lesbian Law Reform) Bill. I always thought that reform was for good, not bad, matters. Acts which were illegal prior to the Bill passing through the Parliament have now become legal. The third Bill of the trifecta was the Cannabis Control Bill. Once again, reform should be for good, not bad, matters. Smoking, growing, cultivating and carrying around quite large amounts of cannabis was always illegal. Of course, it still is, but the Gallop Government wants to make it legal or at least issue a parking fine-type ticket for those activities.

This is the fourth Bill. I wonder how many more we will get before the next election. This Government wants to legalise matters which have been illegal for 100 years. I believe this will be part of the process of bringing this Government down at the next election. The Bill before us today is the Prostitution Control Bill. This Government wants to legalise brothels. Brothels have never been legal in Western Australia. A containment policy existed for many years, which worked quite a while. I accept that over the past 10 or maybe 15 years, the containment policy deteriorated. However, that is no reason for saying that because it is all getting too hard, we should legalise brothels. If this Bill goes through both Houses, as this Government wants it to, we will see brothels in every local government area throughout Western Australia. Under the containment policy, only a very small number of brothels were able to operate in Northbridge and Kalgoorlie, which were areas well known to be frequented by people who wished to avail themselves of the services of a prostitute. I do not condone those activities, because they are wrong and anti-family. However, I am not so naive that I do not understand them. This Government wants to proliferate the spread of brothels from Northbridge and Kalgoorlie into every local government area in Western Australia. Also in my electorate of Hillarys in the City of Joondalup we will see more brothels sprouting up because there is a lot of money in prostitution and that sort of illegal activity. It has never been illegal for a woman. For most of the time since man was created, it has been women who have been in the prostitution business. However, these days, with equal rights, there are some men in the prostitution business. Some men make themselves available as prostitutes not only to other males but also to some women, which seems a very strange thing to do, quite frankly. It does happen and I accept that it happens. However, generally it has been predominantly females who have allowed themselves to become prostitutes, very often through no fault of their own and not because they wanted to. I will continue my remarks at a later stage.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.