
To the committee,

the cost of living pressures facing Australians;

Child prostitutes need to work harder more often for less money. I can't justify this claim merely point to an escalation of the severity of the social and financial conditions that lead to child prostitution. There is a lack of high quality studies quantifying child prostitution in Australia. Ever wonder why we have youth rates of welfare payments? The bank of Mum and Dad? It's a feature not a bug. The Neave Inquiry into prostitution in Victoria is almost 40 years old this year. In the absence of any studies on the matter it's impossible to determine whether or not services are appropriately funded nor to gauge the efficacy of any social work interventions.

There was some buzz surrounding the authorship of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography back around 2000. Australia participated in the now defunct Manila Process. There has been very little quality research published on this topic regarding the Australian cohort but many studies published reviewing and acknowledging the lack of quality research. This is brain-dead public policy but confirms that it is a feature not a bug.

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ways to ease cost of living pressures through the tax and transfer system & measures to ease the cost of living through the provision of Government services & the Government's fiscal policy response to the cost of living:

Ensuring adequate housing and food for child prostitutes so that they need never engage in sex for survival. Quantify and publish the need for such supports so that deficiencies in support become the subject of public scrutiny. You need not X-marks-the-spot for hotspots for children engaged in the "worst forms" of child labor. Compare city, rural and remote vulnerabilities and resource allocation.

Robert Heron