



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Trish
Dear Senator Crossin

I am writing in reply to your letter to the ACT Chief Minister dated 27 June 2012 in which you invited the ACT to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Commonwealth Government's *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slave-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012*.

The ACT Government supports the reforms proposed by the Bill and does not have any substantive comments for your Inquiry.

I note that there is an internationally recognised link between the sex industry and labour trafficking involving the unlawful exploitation of people, in particular women and children. Such exploitation of people against their will is a serious breach of human rights and must be addressed be all levels of Government.

The ACT Government is committed to the protection of human rights, and in recognition of this commitment, in 2004 the ACT's Human Rights Act commenced. Section 26 of the ACT's *Human Rights Act 2004* recognises the right to freedom from forced work. This right recognises that no-one may be held in slavery or servitude or be forced to perform compulsory labour.

In addition, for over 20 years, the ACT Government has supported a regulated and legal sex industry, because we believe that it is the most progressive and socially responsible course of action to address the issues that may arise with the provision of commercial sexual services.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney-General

9.7.12

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY