

## We The People

Program 124

A Happy Ending



Before Christmas I received a tip from a dedicated 4CRB listener. As with all leads I follow through and seek the facts and this particular exercise began in early December last year. It's been a complex path to follow and has produced some interesting and disturbing results, yet it has a happy ending. It's about the Gold Coast and the steamy world of prostitution, vice and thuggery, it's about women selling their bodies to men willing to pay. It's about the illicit **massage industry** and its clear to me that for all the Mayor says about Gold Coast nirvana, it's in many ways paradise lost. Behind the high rise and the aging resorts and behind the neat suburban cottages lies a seedy world eroding our society and Australia's good name. In these so called, massage parlors, the costs vary enormously along with the services provided. I believe most of the businesses do not have properly qualified massage staff by Australian standards. Further, most are not legitimate and many are supported by nefarious characters while some are simply structures to launder money. It also appears some employees are on Centerlink benefits and the Gold Coast massage industry is extensively corrupt where the only outcome is disease and unhappiness. This is a multi million dollar industry on the Gold Coast and in contrast we cannot judge the quality of life here simply by the number of cranes on the skyline as that is a simplistic, crass measure offered by some politicians.

Recently by design, a colleague went into some of the Coolangatta massage shop fronts. He mentioned he was on holiday and needed his injured knee worked on for pain relief. They all said they could fix it without examination and none of them asked for medical references. They emphasised the need to pay with **cash** so we can confidently assume they don't declare the income and so don't pay tax and in this regard they live off the public purse. Many of the workers are Chinese and Asian students who prostitute themselves to pay for University and Tafe fees and sleep on the floor in a back room of the premises. If there's trouble they scoot back to their Asian home and wait it out, only to return again. These poor women come from cultures very different to ours but bring the worst aspects of theirs here to the Gold Coast and I object to that. It's reliably reported that one location has young Asian women who actually recruit young boys from 12 to 15 straight off the footpath into their shifty shop for sex. Clearly their standards and activity are totally unacceptable and may well corrupt a young Australian life.

The latest foray was in the main street of Coolangatta which has about 12 so called massage establishments of which 8 are nothing more than brothels. The remaining is a mixed lot with unqualified staff while just two seem professional and legitimate. I have sympathy for the few honest operators who find it so very difficult to conduct business when people cannot differentiate between the real and the shabby operations. In this moral war the innocent get caught up and are unfairly pilloried along with the dubious operators. Part of the problem is the diluting of our culture because of mass immigration where there is not sufficient time for the country to incorporate new folk and the social jarring which results means some cultural change is most unsavory and unwanted but its thrust upon us. On the Gold Coast if the Council supported a recognised standard for massage clinics then the genuine businesses would not be disadvantaged by the illegal and debased operators. The people running legitimate massage clinics with properly qualified staff should be given a fair go and encouraged. The option is there if the Council wants to proactively address this issue and at very little cost. It would also help the Police in determining which are the houses of ill repute and which are not. Of course this tragic human trade runs from Coolangatta to Surfers Paradise and beyond. The main street of Coolangatta has been made morally and visually repugnant because of their presence and has lost its family appeal.

Now toward the end of a massage the masseuse asks if the client wants a "happy ending". This term is the code for paid sex. During the investigation it was easy to ask for a happy ending in advance and in all cases they agreed without hesitation. It's hard to believe it's so blatant and apparently so acceptable even after the recent Police raids. Believe me there are no happy endings with prostitution and its rife on the Gold Coast. Be on your guard and watch your children and family carefully. This is not a safe place anymore, wherever you live.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**