

# Street Stress

March 26, 2013



A regular newsletter authorised by the Chairs of Otago-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Manurewa Local Boards of Auckland Council. All people interviewed in this newsletter have approved content as a fair reflection of their views and experiences.

## 13 year old earning \$500 - \$600 a night in new operating zone

An outbreak of under-age street prostitutes operating in Otago has shocked Tina Herewini, who has seen everything in 27 years as a Maori Warden.



Tina is a lifetime resident of Otago and is well known locally.

She patrols the town centre, parks, reserves and waterways regularly into the early hours of the morning alongside Andrew from Ru's security also a well known security guard.

From Thursday to Saturday nights and sometimes Sunday, there can be as many as 20 to 30 "young girls" lingering at the corner of Bairds Road and Kew Lane in front of the Otago Shopping Centre.

"I don't know which ones are prostitutes but there is also a line of cars leading up the lane into the carpark. You see the girls talk with the drivers and then hop in the cars and drive a few more metres into the carpark where they do the business," said Tina.

She said the pattern of young and under-age prostitutes learning from older prostitutes is now starting to show up.

Tina is so alarmed by the speed with which street prostitution has grown that she is due to take local Member of Parliament, Asenati Lole Taylor on a midnight walkabout to see for herself.

Ms Lole Taylor said it is time for Parliament to address street prostitution.

"It cannot be allowed to operate free of accountability in our society," she said.

"They tell me they are doing it because they can. It's legal, said Tina.

"They learn from the older prostitutes, what to say to customers and what areas to go to for business.

"Some I talk to usually say that their mum or dad are drunk and they are just hanging out. They're not actually crackin' it (term for street soliciting). But many of them are."

"I spoke to one 13 year-old girl who said because she was young she was making as much as \$600 a night. She even told me the prices she charges for the different sexual services.

"They are now using dial-up as a link with regular customers.

"I have some Parents who ask me to send their kids home if I spot them around this area because they don't want the Police to get involved.

"This is happening because the Government has allowed it to happen," said Tina.

"The Police are doing their best and so are we. But we need regulations. Maybe some specific clean areas where the workers can meet customers and we can identify the young ones and take them out of there."

John McCracken, Chair of Otago-Papatoetoe Local Board of Auckland Council said the Otago outbreak represents a fourth area of South Auckland where the street sex industry has established itself.

### Find out more

For more information on any aspects of this Bill, please contact us:

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