



NO MORE GREEN LIGHTS TO THE RED LIGHT INDUSTRY!

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PETITION



Author records fall from grace

JUNE 29: A few bad choices during her time at university saw Bronwen Healy's life spiral out of control.

The 30-year-old is now determined other women, including her own three daughters, will never tread the same path.

Former prostitute Bronwen has added her weight to the Community Minded Councillors Committee's attempt to tighten restrictions in the sex industry.

The former Brisbane Girls' Grammar School and Indooroopilly State School student was a promising arts student at Griffith University in the early 1990s when she began experimenting with heroin.

Addiction quickly followed and Bronwen succumbed to prostitution three years later to feed her habit.

For 12 months she sold her body to more than 2000 men on Brisbane streets. Most nights she would have six clients. On busy nights "like public holidays or State-of-Origin" she could see up to 12.

"I needed to find a job that would pay for the drugs and it was physically the easiest to get into; I saw the job advertised and rang up and started work that night," she said.

"There was no interview, no health screening, nothing. They only had to look at me to see I was a junkie but it didn't matter to them.

"After the first client I just stood under the shower and tried to wash it away. At the end of the night I got my \$380 and used it to feed my habit and try to forget what I was doing. Emotionally and mentally it was terribly scarring."

Bronwen earned up to \$900 a night on the streets and spent it all on her habit.

She only got out when her mother confronted her at her workplace and told her how "pathetic" she had become.

"It took me another month to walk away because I was still trapped in the cycle," Bronwen said.

But the road to recovery was not easy. After spending time in detox, Bronwen attempted suicide as she struggled to deal with the guilt and shame of her prostitution. She became a Christian six years ago and is now happily married with three daughters under the age of five.

"I don't ever want prostitution normalised; I don't want any females growing up and seeing (prostitution) jobs advertised alongside McDonald's and Hungry Jacks," Bronwen said. ."

Bronwen's self-published book, Trophy of Grace, is available at www.trophyofgrace.com